

## ***The Truman Show: Elements of control***



A) Watch the rest of *The Truman Show* and focus on these two aspects:

- Elements and/or events which show us that the show is controlled.
- The relationship between Truman and Christof.

## Truman & Christof

*The control room crew stare in silence at the monitor – their very livelihood on the brink of vanishing. Christof opens a small panel on his desk, breaks a seal and speaks into the emergency P.A. system that is linked to the entire studio.*

CHRISTOF: Truman!

*Christof's voice booms over the now calm ocean. Truman drops the handle as if his hand has been burned. He looks up in the sky where the voice comes from.*

CHRISTOF: You can speak. I can hear you.

*Truman takes a moment to overcome his fear and astonishment.*

TRUMAN: Who are you?

CHRISTOF: I'm the creator of a television show that gives hope and joy and inspiration to millions.

TRUMAN: Then who am I?

CHRISTOF: You're the star.

*Truman struggles to take it all in.*

TRUMAN: Was nothing real?

CHRISTOF: YOU were real. That's what made you so good to watch.

*Truman turns to leave.*

CHRISTOF: Listen to me, Truman.

There's no more truth out there than there is in the world I created for you. Same lies. The same deceit (= Betrug; Hinterlistigkeit). But in my world, you have nothing to fear. I know you better than you know yourself.

TRUMAN: You never had a camera in my head!

CHRISTOF: You're afraid. That's why you can't leave. It's okay, Truman. I understand. I have been watching you your whole life. I was watching when you were born. I was watching when you took your first step. I watched you on your first day of school. The episode when you lost your first tooth. You can't leave, Truman.

*Sylvia is watching television, hoping that Truman will leave.*

CHRISTOF: You belong here... with me. Talk to me. Say something. Well, say something, goddamnit! You're on television! You're live to the whole world!

*Different shots of people watching (Truman bar, bathtub, old ladies' living room, Sylvia's living room). Truman looks up to the "sky".*

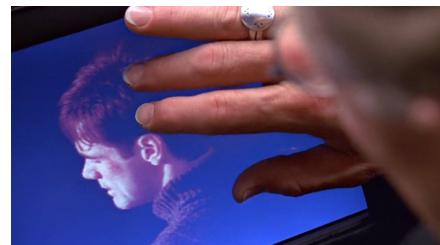
TRUMAN: In case I don't see ya', good afternoon, good evening and goodnight.

- Christof refers to himself as the “creator” and calls Truman his “star”. Explain both these roles within the context of the film. Use the script above and the pictures to help you.

Truman:



Christof:



## ***The Truman Show – Recap***

What do you think is the cruellest thing Christof has done? Have a look at the suggestions below and discuss how cruel you find each of them on a cruelty scale from 1 to 10 (1 being not cruel at all and 10 being very cruel). Which one do you find the worst?

Do all these actions make Christof some kind of super-villain?



"killing" Truman's father, thereby traumatizing young Truman



splitting up Truman from his true love Sylvia



"arranging" Truman and Meryl's wedding



dictating Marlon what to say (when they bring back Truman's father)



being ready to let Truman die



making a lot of money out of the show/Truman