
Film Appreciation

Visual Literacy

Shot

- Basic building block or unit of film narrative
- A single, constant take made by a motion picture camera uninterrupted by editing, interruptions or cuts
- A length of film is exposed by turning the camera on, recording, and then turning the camera off

Scene

- A shot (or series of shots)
- A single, complete and unified dramatic event, action, unit, or element of film narration, or block (segment) of storytelling within a film
- Normally occurs in one location and deals with one action
- End often indicated by a change in time, action and / or location

Sequence

- One or more connected series of related scenes
- Edited together to comprise a single, unified event, setting, or story within a film's narrative
- Structurally fit together in the plot
- A longer segment of film than a scene
- Often grouped into acts

Kuleshov Effect & Montage

- The shot in film always has two values: the one it carries in itself as a photographic image of reality and the one it acquires when placed into juxtaposition with another shot.
- Two shots in a sequence are more impactful than a single shot by itself.
- Structuring a film by montage (the cutting and editing of film and the juxtaposing of the images)

Types of Film Shots

- Wide / Long
 - Subject fits the frame comfortably.
 - Person from head to toe
 - Character + Surroundings
- Extreme Wide / Extreme Long
 - Subject no longer / hardly visible
 - Character small / insignificant in surroundings

Types of Film Shots

- Medium / Mid Shot
 - Subject from the knees up. $\frac{3}{4}$ shot
 - Dialogues, small group of people
 - Facial Expression + Body Language
- Close-up
 - Subject fills the frame
 - Tight framing of a person or object
 - Major characters

Composition / Angles

- Single-shot
- Two-shot
- ...
- Point of View (PoV)
- Over the Shoulder (OTS)
- High Angle
- Low Angle
- Bird's Eye View
- ...

Mise-en-scène

- Everything that appears before the camera and its arrangement
- Composition, sets, props, actors, costumes, lighting...
- To create a meaningful image
- What's in the frame?
 - Set Design
 - Actor Blocking
- How does it look?
- What is the effect?

References

- <https://www.filmsite.org/filmterms17.html>
- <https://filmglossary.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/term/shot-scene-and-sequence/>
- <https://youtu.be/LEeytkbTi9Y>
- Kuleshov Effect
 - <https://youtu.be/Vy2Vhnqtu8I>
 - <https://youtu.be/hCAE0t6KwJY>

References

- Types of Shots
 - <https://www.nfi.edu/types-of-film-shots/>
- Mise-en-scene
 - <https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/mise-en-scene/>

Caspar David Friedrich

Wanderer above the sea of fog (1818)

