SCRIPTING & STORYBOARDING

script

- A script is a document that comprises setting, characters, dialogue, and stage directions for movies, TV shows, and stage plays. When directors stage such productions, they follow the instructions provided by the script. In live theatre, script writers are playwrights, and the scripts are also known as playscripts. In film and television, script writers are called screenwriters. A film script is called a screenplay, and a TV script is called a teleplay.

- The script starts the artistic process for a dramatic performance, but film, TV, and theatre are all inherently collaborative. Directors, actors, and designers interpret the script. Sometimes these professionals uncover new insight about the material that the original screenwriter may have never imagined during the scriptwriting process. While a great script forms the foundation of a great performance, it is not the only factor in the artistic process.

CASTING

▶ Casting is the selection of actors who will play various characters in the film. Some are written for specific actors, while others are not. The **casting director** can significantly impact a film's final success or failure. Casting is a **pre-production** process that selects actors, dancers, singers, or other roles required for the **script**, **screenplay**, or teleplay. The casting process becomes an integral part of filmmaking, documentaries, television programs and advertisements, **music videos**, etc., deciding the art's impact on the audience.

▶ Casting is one of the most critical factors of filmmaking since it influences how audiences and critics view a film. It is the process of identifying the actors who can most effectively and convincingly step into the role. After all, actors are the ones that bring the script and concept to life, but choosing the wrong actor might render some parts untrustworthy, negatively affecting movies.

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- **scene heading?**

- Before diving into the components of how to write a scene heading in a script let's first establish the difference between a slugline and scene heading. Both slug lines and scene headings are written in all capital letters.

- A <u>slug line</u> is a line within a screenplay written in all uppercase letters to draw attention to specific script information. Therefore, a scene heading is a type of slugline. This image gives a quick run-through of <u>proper screenplay formatting</u>.

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SCENE HEADING
One line description of the location and time of day

ACTION
The description of the actions in a scene

CHARACTER
Identifies the character who is speaking

DIALOGUE
The lines of speech your character says

INTERCUT
Instructions when cutting to multiple locations

SUBHEADER
Used when there are minor changes in a location

FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT   1

WE OPEN on a modern suburban home. The front window
illuminated by the lights inside. We see the silhouette of a
small human figure as it runs back and forth. We push in
closer as we slowly see a BOY running around the house.

                                                        CUT TO:

2   INT. SUBURBAN HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT   2

A GREEN BALL sits on a counter top. A young hand snatches it.
It belongs to FILBERT (9), wiry, lost in his own imaginary
world. Dressed as a Knight. A toy sword in his other hand.

                        FILBERT (V.O.)
              This is my castle. I am sworn to
              protect it. Anyone that stands in
              my way shall bear the wrath of the
              almighty--

Just then, the babysitter walks by. BECKY (23), trendy,
distracted. She is mid-phone call with Filbert's Mom, TRACY.

                        BECKY
                    (into phone)
              Oh yeah, he's being good. He's just
              fighting orcs or trolls.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

                        TRACY
              Oh that's perfectly normal.

Filbert lifts his sword into the air, lets out a big battle
cry, and sprints from the kitchen to --

HALLWAY

Filbert comes around the corner, distracted by his fantasy,
bumps into the wall. His favorite ball slips from his hand.
Everything slows down for Filbert.

FILBERT'S POV

IN SLOW MOTION - The ball tumbles down the stairs. WE HEAR
each bounce echo as the ball travels down the steps.

FADE IN
Marks the start of the screenplay.

SCENE NUMBER
Generally numbered only in the shooting script

TRANSITION
Used as transitional instructions for editing

EXTENSION
Clarifies where a character is when they can't be seen

PARENTHETICAL
Provides info on how the actor should say the line

SHOT
Indicates the camera angle or movement in a scene

▶ **WHAT IS A SYNOPSIS?** A synopsis is a write-up that describes the plot and world of your story. A script synopsis can be used to sell your idea. A synopsis can also be written when providing screenplay coverage or script analysis to agents, managers, and producers.

▶ As a writer, being able to write a movie synopsis (or one for your TV pilot) is a critical skill. Producers, execs, and agents will often want to read a synopsis before diving into the actual script. And frequently it's the brief synopsis that convinces them to read your script in the first place.

▶ **What Is a Cutaway Shot?**

▶ Cutaway shots are a common occurrence in films, TV shows, and even video games.

▶ They're often used to show the emotional state of a character or to highlight an important object.

▶ The term cutaway shot is usually applied when the camera switches from one scene and cuts away to another that has little relevance to the previous scene.

▶ Cutaways can be done as brief flashbacks into past events or they may include scenes with other characters who have not been included in the main storyline so far.

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- A cutaway shot is a camera technique that provides the audience with an important piece of information, often outside of the main action.

- Cutaway shots are a great way to show the audience what is happening elsewhere, or provide an alternate perspective.

- They can also be used as a transition between scenes. However, if you're not careful with your use of cutaways, they can disrupt the flow of your video.

- What are some considerations for when to best use them?

- The perfect time to use a cutaway shot is when the main subject of your video has nothing more to say, a cutaway can help keep viewers engaged in the video and provide a transition between scenes.

- Cutaways are also used with other types of media, such as still photography or live theater performances.

- In all cases, it's important to think about what you want the audience to take away from the scene that follows- after all, they don't know what will happen next!

- **Film rushes,** sometimes called daily rushes or just dailies, are the raw, unedited visual and sound footage files from the day's shoot. They represent one of the many moving parts that takes place during a busy shooting day. And they're incredibly important.

- At the end of the shoot day, rushes are prepared for easy viewing by the cast, and crew. Especially the director, editors and anyone particularly interested in seeing how the day's shoot panned out. And whether there are any shots that will require retakes.

- Preparing rushes generally involves converting the footage into DVD. Or similar format so that it can be easily reviewed. The sound and visual footage may also need to be synced before delivery back to the desired team members for review.

- Rushes are actually incredibly important. Because they provide near immediate insight into the productivity of the shoot day. Offering a glimpse into footage to help the Director determine whether or not retakes will be necessary. Why are they in such a rush?

- Because time is money on the set. And many of the cast and crew will only be scheduled to be on set for a day, or a couple of days. Determining the need for retakes quickly can help to ensure those required for the retake are still available on the set.

► **Satyajit Ray** (born May 2, 1921, Calcutta [now Kolkata], India—died April 23, 1992, Calcutta) Bengali motion-picture director, writer, and illustrator who brought the Indian cinema to world recognition with *Pather Panchali* (1955; *The Song of the Road*) and its two sequels, known as the Apu Trilogy. As a director, Ray was noted for his humanism, his versatility, and his detailed control over his films and their music. He was one of the greatest filmmakers of the 20th century.

- **What is a melodrama?**

- **Melodrama** is a dramatic work in which events, plot, and characters are sensationalized to elicit strong emotional reactions from the audience. In literature, theatre, and cinema, Melodramas are focused on exaggerated plots rather than characterization. Melodrama characters are often given stereotypical roles. Conflicts are often sensationalized for exaggerated character emotions and performances.

- The term "melodrama" originated from a combination of the Greek *melos* meaning "melody" or "song" and the French word *drame* meaning "drama." Melodramas were originally theatrical stage plays combining music and dialogue.

- They were especially popular during the Victorian Era. Since then, Melodramas in television, film, and theatre have steered away from music and focused on sensationalized, highly emotional stories.

- **Characteristics of a Melodrama:**

- Stereotypical characters

- Exaggerated conflicts

- Sensationalized plots

- Highly emotional

- **What is B-roll footage?**

- **B-roll footage, Broll or B roll** is any supplemental video that considered to be secondary to your primary footage. B-roll can be gathered with a separate unit, acquired from stock footage, or obtained from any source other than your principal photography.

- The term for A-roll vs B-roll originated in the earliest days of Hollywood moviemaking, when principal footage was termed A-roll. An identical roll of film, the B-roll, or B-reel, was used for filler and transitional cuts.

- **What is B-roll footage?**

- May be shot by second unit crews.

- May be pulled from stock footage libraries.

- May not require sound.

- Provides supporting imagery and cutaway shots.

- Can also be used for establishing shots.

What is storyboad

- A **storyboard** is a visual representation of a film sequence and breaks down the action into individual panels. It is a series of ordered drawings, with camera direction, dialogue, or other pertinent details. It sketches out how a video will unfold, shot by shot.

- It's is similar to a trial-run for your finished film, video, or commercial, laid out in a comic book-like form.

- Drawings, sketches, reference images or photographs to represent each frame.

- A description of the shot — any relevant information on the action, dialogue, or composition.

- Shot specs — shot size, lens length, two-shot, etc.

- Arrows to indicate camera and/or character movement or how each shot connects to the next.

▶ Storyboards help to bring a writer's work to life, providing an artistic visual reference for the cast and crew. They can be essential for capturing the essence of a scene and helping it to jump off the paper.

▶ **EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS**

▶ You probably already know that however, so let's explain ten reasons why educational videos are super effective for students. Numerous academic studies have been released on how video increases motivation and deeper learning, while also being able to specifically impact students' ability to facilitate discussions and identify problems.

- The magic of watching a great film lies in the characters portrayed by the actors. People often resonate with these characters because of the way they are written into the story. This connection is established through character development, which is an essential aspect of screenwriting. Understanding what character development is, and how it can be achieved, is critical for any aspiring screenwriter or film lover. In this blog, we'll take a closer look at the concept of character development in film and explore some of the techniques that professional screenwriters use to achieve successful character arcs.

- What is character development in film?

- Before diving into the techniques that professional screenwriters use, let's start by defining character development. Essentially, character development is how the writer builds a character's personality and values throughout a story. It refers to how a character changes throughout the narrative, often as a result of the conflicts they face and their reactions to them. An effective character arc will make an audience care about a character and their journey.

- Establishing a character's backstory

- One of the crucial components of character development is a character's backstory. Establishing a character's backstory allows us to understand why they act in specific ways and gives them depth. This could be as simple as where the character grew up, or it could be a more profound and complex exploration of their emotional history. Creating this backstory allows a character to have more authenticity and feel like a real person.

- Making a character relatable

- One of the most important things about character development is to make the characters relatable to the audience. Regardless of how fantastic a character's social position or situation might be, audiences relate more to human people. Reactions to events or conflicts that feel genuine to us make the characters believable and more likely to be rooted for.

- Using character actions to impact the plot

- Effective character development should impact the story's overall plot. When a character's actions, decisions, and personality change throughout the story, it should feed back into the narrative. In other words, a well-developed character creates a ripple effect that drives the story forward in new and engaging ways.

- Character development is crucial for creating compelling narratives on the big screen. To build characters that resonate with the audience, it's essential to create a backstory, craft believable dialogue, establish relatability, and impact the plot with character actions. A successful character arc takes the viewer on an emotional journey that increases their emotional investment in the story. When done well, character development in film can transform a film into something truly unforgettable.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

- Using Dialogue for character development

- One of the most effective techniques for character development is through dialogue. The things a character says and how they say them can reveal a lot about their personality, values, and beliefs. By paying attention to a character's words, a writer can establish crucial information about their backstory without explanation.

THREE ACT DRAMATIC STRUCTURE

► The three-act story structure is a narrative arc composed of three acts forming a beginning, middle, and end. The first act introduces the central characters and conflicts; the second act explores the way the central characters react to these conflicts; and the third act reveals the repercussions of these reactions and choices.

▶ **Qualities of a good scriptwriter**

▶ Scriptwriters can develop a variety of skills to produce and market their written content in the entertainment industry. Here are some qualities of effective scriptwriters:

- **Creativity:** Scriptwriters are typically creative individuals who use their imagination to develop characters, establish clear settings and tell engaging stories in their scripts. Their creativity can help them invent original content, portray complex issues through characters and storylines and tell dynamic stories that connect with their audiences. Creativity can be an important skill for scriptwriters to develop original ideas and write satisfying endings to their stories.

- **Professionalism:** Professionalism is an important quality for scriptwriters because the job often requires them to meet with network executives and producers. Having a professional demeanor can help scriptwriters make a good impression on these industry professionals. Some characteristics of professionalism include communicating politely with others, being punctual to meetings and showing respect to others in the industry.

- **Self-discipline:** Though professional writers have different processes, many make a daily habit of practicing their craft and setting regular goals to improve their writing and complete projects. They may also write within certain time constraints to meet important deadlines, so self-discipline is an important skill for scriptwriters.

- **Persistence:** It can take time, patience and persistence to become a successful scriptwriter, so it's important for new scriptwriters to continue to network, develop their craft and take opportunities to work with established industry professionals.

► **1. Learn the fundamentals of storytelling**

► Understanding how to tell stories is essential to writing a script that engages an audience. Some storytelling fundamentals include:

• Pacing your plotline

• Developing a narrative arc

• Establishing a clear voice

• Defining a story's setting

• Crafting memorable characters

• Introducing narrative tension

• Understanding genres, tropes and audiences

► **What is a Shooting Script?**

► A **shooting script** is a detailed document used during the actual production of a film. It is an evolved version of the screenplay that serves as a blueprint for the director, cinematographer, and the entire crew.

► This document contains precise instructions for each scene, including <u>camera angles</u>, blocking, lighting, and other technical details necessary to bring the script to life.

► The shooting script is an essential tool for everyone involved in the production. It helps the director and crew visualize the scenes and ensure consistent and cohesive execution. It acts as a guidebook, outlining the specific shots and sequences required to capture the story as envisioned by the director.

► The Purpose of a Shooting Script

► A shooting script plays a pivotal role in the actual production of a film. It provides detailed instructions for the cast and crew, including camera angles, shot compositions, and scene transitions.

► The primary purpose of a shooting script is to ensure that the director's vision is effectively translated onto the screen. By providing specific instructions, the shooting script serves as a guide during the filmmaking process, helping the crew visualize and execute each scene accurately.

► Elements of a Shooting Script

► A shooting script comprises several essential elements:

1. **Scene Headings:** These headings indicate the location and time of each scene, allowing for smooth transitions and logistical planning.

2. **Action:** Action lines describe the physical movements, gestures, and activities of the characters within a scene. They provide crucial visual cues for the director, actors, and production crew.

3. **Dialogue:** Dialogue in a shooting script includes the spoken lines of the characters, often accompanied by additional notes for delivery or emphasis.

4. **Camera Directions:** Camera directions dictate the specific shots and angles required for each scene, providing guidance for the cinematographer and camera operators.

▶ **What is a Screenplay?**

▶ A **screenplay**, on the other hand, is the foundation of a film. It is a narrative blueprint that outlines the story, characters, dialogue, and overall structure of the film.

▶ Screenplays are primarily written for pre-production purposes, serving as a tool to pitch the story, attract funding, and guide the creative process.

▶ Screenplays focus on storytelling, character development, and dialogue, allowing the reader to envision the film in their mind. They provide the framework for the narrative and serve as a basis for various creative decisions during the production phase.

▶ **Purpose of a Screenplay**

▶ The primary purposes of a screenplay include:

- **Storytelling and Creative Expression**: A screenplay allows the screenwriter to showcase their storytelling skills and creative vision. It presents the narrative in a compelling and engaging manner, capturing the reader's imagination.

- **Blueprint for a Film or TV Show**: A screenplay provides the foundation for the entire production process. It outlines the structure, scenes, characters, and dialogue, acting as a guide for the director, actors, and the entire creative team.

- **Presentation to Producers and Investors**: Screenplays are often used to pitch ideas and attract financing for film and TV projects. They serve as a persuasive tool to convince producers, investors, and production companies of the story's potential and marketability.

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