Film Appreciation

Part 1: How to Read a Film

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Terminology and elements of a film
Content
What the film shows

Form
How the film shows it
Composition
Camera Movement
Sound
Editing
Film History
Very short films (<1 min) → “Theatrical”

“Living Photography” → Fiction, theatre for the masses
Theatrical Cinema

- Stage-like backdrops
- Make Up
- "scenes"
- Static Camera
(Neo-)Realistic Cinema

Shooting on location

Subtler acting

Natural lighting

Tracking shots
Weekend - Jean-Luc Godard (1967)
Composition

To look at composition, we start with a “shot”
**Long Shot**

Often uses wide angle lens

Purposes: Show vastness, place object in its surroundings

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**Close Up**

Both wide angle or telephoto

Purposes: Show small details, make the scene “intense”
The Grand Budapest Hotel - Wes Anderson (2014)

Notice camera distortion
Rule of Thirds
Reference points for good framing
What about this?

The Shining - Stanley Kubrick (1980)
Gives a sense of grandeur, being centre of the world
High Angle

Low Angle

(Trunk shot)
Camera Movement
Zooming v/s Panning
Shaky Cam

Purposes: make scenes fast-paced, add to general confusion
Diegetic Sound
Part of the story world

Non-Diegetic Sound
Outside the story world
Stranger Than Fiction - Marc Forster (2006)

Which is which?
Editing
Cuts and Takes

Piece of video shot at a time

Tracking shot example from Weekend is a *long take*

*Jump cuts*: Discontinuous shots placed after each other

(6.01 onwards)
Agent Vinod - Sriram Raghavan (2012)

How many cuts did you count?
Videos Used in the Presentation

1. A Trip to the Moon, George Méliès - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNLZntSdyKE
2. Tracking Shot from Weekend, Jean Luc Godard - https://youtu.be/BySdtZWDCwI
3. Symmetry from Blank Space, Taylor Swift - https://youtu.be/e-ORhEE9VVg
6. Shaky Cam shots from Hunger Games - https://youtu.be/bTz-DazShYw
7. Diegetic v/s Non-Diegetic Sound from Stranger Than Fiction, Marc Forster - https://youtu.be/6h6Mb7zrXx0
8. Interview with Alfred Hitchcock - https://youtu.be/NG0V7EVFZt4
9. Long Take from Agent Vinod, Sriram Raghavan - https://youtu.be/-d9nvq3402M