

# 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

**“Living  
Photography”**



**Fiction, theatre  
for the masses**

**Very short films (<1 min)**

**“Theatrical”**

Stage-like  
backdrops

“scenes”

# Theatrical Cinema

Make Up

Static  
Camera



**A Trip to the Moon - Georges Méliès (1902)**



Shooting on  
location

Tracking  
shots

# (Neo-)Realistic Cinema

Subtler  
acting

Natural  
lighting



**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

# 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





**The Shining - Stanley Kubrick (1980)**

**What about this?**





Gives a  
sense of  
grandeur,  
being  
centre of  
the world

Blank Space - Taylor Swift (2014)



# High Angle



# Low Angle



(Trunk shot)



**The Shining - Stanley Kubrick (1980)**

# Camera Movement



**Zooming v/s Panning**

# Shaky Cam

Purposes: make scenes fast-paced,  
add to general confusion



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**Sound**

# 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>
4. Low Angle from The Shining, Stanley Kubrick - [https://youtu.be/pk\\_W4MZF2os](https://youtu.be/pk_W4MZF2os)
5. Panning v/s Zooming Example - [https://youtu.be/r988E\\_J14FM](https://youtu.be/r988E_J14FM)
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>