



# Basic Film Terms



# Frame

- **Dividing line between the edges of the screen image and the enclosing darkness of the theater**
- **Single photo of film**





# Types of Shots

- **Cinematic shots are defined by the amount of subject matter within the frame**
- **Shots can vary in duration**
  - **Shots vary in time from subliminal (a few frames) to quick (less than a second) to “average” (more than a second but less than a minute) to lengthy (more than a minute)**



# Establishing Shot (or Extreme Long Shot)

- Shot taken from a great distance, almost always an exterior shot, shows much of locale
- **ELS**



*Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom*



# Long Shot (LS)

- (A relative term) A shot taken from a sufficient distance to show a landscape, a building, or a large crowd



*Austin Powers and  
the Spy Who Shagged Me*



# Medium Shot (MS)

- (Also relative) a shot between a long shot and a close-up that might show two people in full figure or several people from the waist up



*The Talented Mr. Ripley*



# Close-Up (CU)

- A shot of a small object or face that fills the screen
- Adds importance to object photographed

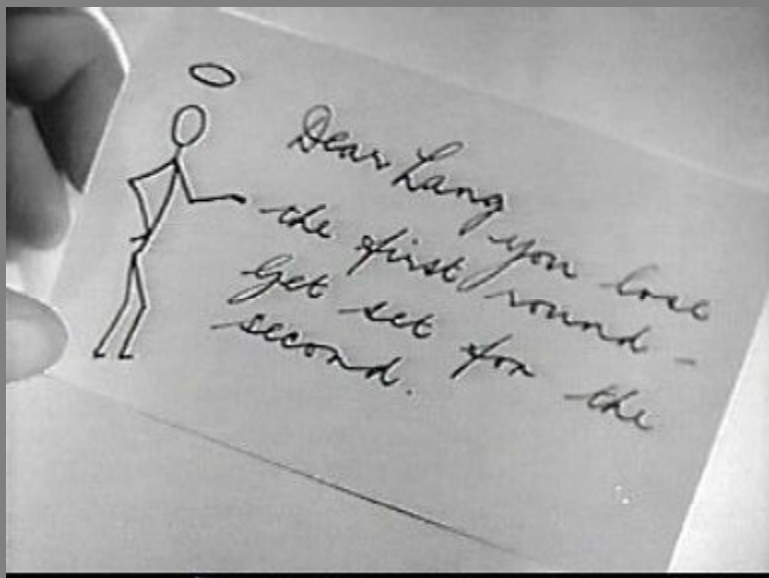


*Under Pressure*



# Extreme Close-Up (ECU)

- A shot of a small object or part of a face that fills the screen



*The Saint In London*



*Rocky Horror Picture Show*





# Over the Shoulder Shot

- Usually contains two figures, one with his/her back to the camera, and the other facing the camera



*Cast Away*



*Hollow Man*



# Types of Angles

- **The angle is determined by where the camera is placed not the subject matter**
  - **Angles can serve as commentary on the subject matter**



# Bird's Eye View

- Camera is placed directly overhead
- Extremely disorienting
- Viewer is godlike



*Beverly Hills Girl Scouts*



# High Angle (h/a)

- Camera looks down at what is being photographed
- Takes away power of subject, makes it insignificant
- Gives a general overview



*Without Limits*



# Low Angle (l/a)

- Camera is located below subject matter
- Increases height and power of subject



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*The Patriot*



# Oblique Angle

- Lateral tilt of the camera so that figures appear to be falling out of the frame
- Suggests tension and transition
- Sometimes used as the point of view of a drunk



*The Matrix*



# Point of View (POV)

- **A shot taken from the vantage point a particular character, or what a character sees**



# “Eye-Level”

- **Roughly 5 to 6 feet off the ground, the way an actual observer might view a scene**
  - **Most common**





# Camera Movement



# Pan

- **The camera moves horizontally on a fixed base.**



# Tilt

- **The camera points up or down from a fixed base**



# Tracking (dolly) shot

- The camera moves through space on a wheeled truck (or dolly), but stays in the same plane



# Boom

- **The camera moves up or down through space**



# Zoom

- **Not a camera movement, but a shift in the focal length of the camera lens to give the impression that the camera is getting closer to or farther from an object**



# Getting from Scene to Scene



# Cut

- **Transition between scenes when one scenes ends and another one begins**
- **Most common**





# Dissolve

- **A gradual transition in which the end of one scene is superimposed over the beginning of a new one.**



# Fade-out/Fade in

- A scene gradually goes dark or a new one gradually emerges from darkness



# Wipe

- **An optical effect in which one shot appears to push the preceding one from the screen.**



# Iris

- **An optical effect in which one shot appears to emerge from a shape on the screen.**



# What This Means

- These are the basic elements of film that a director can use to tell his/her story.
- Through editing, these shots are put together to create (hopefully!) a coherent story.

