Digital Filmmaking For Students

Welcome to "Digital Filmmaking for Students". In this course you will learn the basics of filmmaking, and be given the chance to create your own student film. You're not going to need any special equipment, just your smartphone and an editing app.

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To help you in the process of creating your film, you will be given specific assignments to complete. These assignments will be listed in red throughout the course, and you should be able to type directly into each one. You will need to return <u>all</u> of the completed assignments to your teacher along with your completed film. In order to return your assignments, you may either email or text them to your contact teacher, and don't forget to reach out to your contact teacher whenever you need help.

GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY FILMMAKING!

INTRODUCTION

The word "movie" comes from the term "motion picture" — pictures that move. Like books, movies tell a story. But instead of words on paper, movies are a visual and a listening experience. The audience sees and hears the story.

The storyteller is the director. He/she is in charge of how a story is made into a film. Exactly where and how the images are filmed and edited, how the actors portray their characters, and what the audience experiences, is all part of the director's vision. The story itself can be simple or complex, silly or intense. The director's vision is responsible for how the movie makes the audience feel about the story: sad, amused, bored, exhilarated, scared, powerful, or humble.

Stories in books can describe any place in the universe, with any number of characters. But there are constraints in filmmaking. Film directors can be limited by the weather, number of actors, available space, and, especially, the money needed for props, costumes, special lighting, sound and camera equipment. So, a lot of creative problem-solving comes into play. Still it is the director's job to make his/her vision translate from story to movie. This is done by using various filmmaking techniques such as character development, camera angles and editing. In this course, you will be the director, and you will learn how to develop your own vision. The best way to do this is to create a film from the beginning to the end. To help you accomplish this creative task, the lessons in this subject will teach you how to:

- **develop a story using interesting characters**
- **write a screenplay**
- **create storyboard**
- **plan a filming schedule**
- **utilize various camera, sound, and lighting techniques**
- **do post-production sound and editing**

Your first set of lessons will be on the art of storytelling.

STORYTELLING

Every movie tells a story, and the better you are at storytelling, the better you will be at moviemaking. One of the classic ways to tell a story is to <u>follow this simple story formula:</u>

- **There is a hero.**
- **The hero faces a scary or difficult adventure or problem.**
- **The hero eventually overcomes his/her fear and goes on the adventure.**
- **The hero faces serious obstacles.**
- **The hero solves his/her problems, and overcomes the obstacles.**
- **The hero reaches his/her goal and learns a lot along the way.**

This formula may sound basic, but huge numbers of excellent movies have used it. The power of a film comes more from how the story is told.

Telling a story in a movie differs from using words to write a story. These lessons will tell you about those differences, and give you exercises to help you become a better storyteller and movie maker.

Imagine a scene in a horror film where a monster sneaks up on his victim, ready to pounce, and, at the last minute, the victim turns around and screams. There is no dialogue; the director wants the audience to see the action rather than hearing it, to help them to become more captivated and scared. Now, imagine that same scene with the following dialogue:

Monster "OK, get ready because I'm about to jump out and scare you!"
Victim " But I'm just here, unaware of what's happening."
Monster "Well then, you better get aware because here I come! Get ready to scream!"
Victim   "I'm going to scream now because I just became aware of a monster! "

This dialogue would be silly and funny, but not scary.

In filmmaking, sometimes the storyteller decides the feeling expressed to the audience would be communicated better without using words. In our daily lives, we experience non-verbal (no words) communication all the time. Think about when your mother, or father, or best friend gets mad at you. Sometimes the way they look at you, or the thing they do like ignoring you or turning their back on you can be more hurtful than anything they might say. <u>How can you tell people how you are feeling without using words?</u>

List three ways you can communicate your feelings non-verbally:

1.

2.

3.