

Film Appreciation
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Wrong Lecture
Lecture - 16
The Language of Cinema

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Good morning. Today's lecture is the language of cinema, as you might be aware of that any like other work for example, like text, literature, cinema to distinct language, and distinct grammar. And now some of the basic foundations of this language are shots, and we will also be taking about something called mise en scene. And you know that whenever discussed key concept with you all ready discussed the concept of mise en scene, and what constitutes mise en scene. So, at some point you have been introduced to the idea of mise en scene.

We will be talking at length about it today it, and that also makes some for the district language of cinema. We will be also talking about... I have already told you shots ... lights, camera positions, angles, etc. So, this is something that is more related to the technical aspect of cinema, and to begin with I just want to show you very short film very short feature, which will you give good entry point into the world of the language of cinema. So, this is this particular link, I am giving to you and it is call this is good to understand the concepts of camera angles and shots. So, please make a note of this particular link and then come back.

So, welcome back I hope you liked the link and benefited from the explanation giving there. So, we will talk about cinematic images and shots now. So, cinematic images as these are image course, they are best understood as the rules which govern the construction of the moving image. And how that the image communicates. For example, we have the concepts of reverse angles shot in the construction of convention between two people very of an you must have notice that in conventional a kind of shot taking when two people to talk to each other, you see the face of the first person and the back of the head and the second one and vice versa.

So, here I would like to draw your attention to an excellently composed shot which is taken from one of my all time favorite films Heat directed by Michael Mann,. Please watch and come back,

I hope your enjoyed the scene and I hope you also notice that how the actors Al Pacino and Robert de Niro the capture by camera in an excellently composed short. And reverse shot. Now the elements of signification of cinema cinematic the language divided into the technical, and the symbolic which includes camera angles, camera movement lighting editing sound music framing etcetera.

We here have taking about the language of cinema. Please be attention to this while talking about camera shorts, we have to understand that is shots at the building blocks of a cinematic image, just the way words build Literature. Similarly shots built cinematic image ... the close up is a shot on actors' body part. For example, face hand foot eyes, it can also be a be shot of an object, for examples a gun, a cigar in many westerns you must have seen a gun is an important part. So, Sergio Leone's films and the way he captures guns and body parts, and extreme close ups. For example in the good the bad the ugly look at the way he positions the camera and gives and gives us and extreme close of short of peoples are the actors hands ,specially the guns ...like in once upon a time in the west. For example, you have the scene where there are extreme close of shots of peoples' guns shoes as well as their hats . again in his another great film once upon a time in America, you have the extreme close up shots of the protagonists' faces as well as their eyes. So, directors use close up shost and as well as extreme close of shorts in order to high light emotions and drama objects are also used in order to create a kind of tension in the film. For examples in Prakash Mehra Zanjeer starring Amitabh Bachchan, you have a close up short and extreme close of short of chain on somebody's hand holding a gun, and the child who is hiding the inside the wardrobe, he watches that the hand the gun and

this change hanging from the killers hand.

So, those are extremely importance sequences or shots they signify the significant of that image emphasized and leaders in to the married at this point of a like, you tube watch the opening shot of taxi driver. Here is the link, pleased watched and noticed how extreme close of shorts are utilized welcome back, I hope you have enjoyed the seen in taxi driver, this is the in 1970's movie directed by Martin scorsese starring De Niro ...you'll find extreme close up shots of Robert de Niro, who plays a character called Travis Bickle here. And what to the significant of extreme close of shots of his eyes. We understand something is going on a in the mind of the protagonist. So, the workings of the mind of the hero is a close up shots.

And if you do not want of you voiceover technique how do you the explain extreme of consciousness of a protagonist that kinds of turmoil emotional feelings, and term of the character going through the only ways to show extreme close of shorts of that character any particular body part.. Now from here we want to symbolic elements that include a color costume props objects stars at locations at etcetera, and in this context we should the understand that apart from close of shots and extreme close of shot, we also have something call the long shot which is often used to situate person in or in his or particular environment. So, for examples think of the Monument valley shots in cinema of john ford, it is an important that extreme long shots are taken in order to situate on the hero on the protagonist in the particular locale.

So, from here... We will move on to camera angle.. camera angle is the placement of camera, in relation to the object or a person on view angle can be used for both aesthetic psychological purposes. For example, low angle is position to the camera is place before below eye level and looks up at subject to suggest power and domination, this is a something very common to build up the heroic image of Indian film actors. For example, lets consider the opening shot the introductory shors of super stars such as Rajanikanth, Amitabh Bachchan where the camera is placed before are below eye level and looks up at the heroes.

So, this is done in order to create a larger than life kind of an image. Orson Welles also did it several times in his citizen Kane. Now high angle is the camera looks down on a its subjects making them look power less and insignificance. So, this is completely opposite to low angle shot .film makers also make use of lenses. So, we have something like the

wild angle lenses, which is the most commonly use on the long shot seen sit provides a large focus range. We also a zoom lens which allows the camera man to change the rage of the shot from telephoto to close the without stopping the camera, the fact is to direct audience is the attention any number of objects of people within a short a tracking short or a dolly shot allows fast moving action to be followed either close in or at a distance dolly short may also may be used intensify The emotions of a character by physically moving in for close or a drawing or drawing way to long shot

the lighting as I told is an integral part of cinema, and it has its only language, it is one of the most important elements of producing realistic on non real is images, the most common lighting style is the three point lighting; the key lighting is one of the brightest of the three and highlights details on the face by casting shadow on the portion; that is not lit . the fill light is softer and less bright, and less is the effect of the shadowing on the face the back light is located behind the subject, the back light gives the subject.The appearance of depth lighting can be high or low key depending upon the emotionally effect that the director, and cinematic autograph look for you have to understand how lights are use particularly in film noir the interplay of light, and shadows, and the lights are in order to an use in certain kind of an impact...

Let us take about of camera movement. Now you have to remember that in the early days of cinema we have the talking about the cinema George Melies and Lumiere brothers. So, in those days the camera would remain still or static; however, it started to move during the silent film era, but with the advent of sound film makers is started using bulky cameras and camera again became static, still; however, once and held cameras became popular directors and moved freedom to... So, just as the real stick images of space with long takes the lighter of the camera equipment the freer director would become and then camera started moving much more.

So, here is another link youtube link that I would like to draw your attention to please watched, and it will give you a very good analysis of various cinematic techniques please watch it.

So, from camera movement we will move on to another area that interests us, that is mise en scene , literally putting on stage it is a French term and the term originates from theater were it designates everything that appears on stage for examples sets, colors lighting character movement mise en scene includes element of narrative style, and its

designs to create the narrative space and help progress the story.

You are already familiar with the French New Wave directors and critics noted style is in the works of certain Hollywood directors, who staged their shots to late a certain style. The French director Jacques Rivette took went to breath lines to explain the term in Cahier du cinema cinema, and the way Hollywood directors mise en scene, as the resignation style according to Susan in Hayward Key concepts mise en scene is the expressive tool at the film maker's disposal, which and reach deter mean the of the Cinema auto graphic work that is critic and identified particular style specific film maker, and there by point to it as an auteurial sign

some of the features of mise en scene include production design, that is sets props objects costumes color lighting it also include framing that include position, which is depth the feel aspect ratio height an angle it also includes actors' performance. So, there for how an actor is cast his all make up movement jousters, all this things are important and then sound the sound that emanates from the same, which is and the did not emanates in seen is non diegetic Mise en scene is also as we already discussed it is about productions designs what is production design it includes elements of sets props, and costumes and they play specific function in the total film. For example, if you watch Truffaut's Jules and Jim which is the 1964 movie. And try to understand how the rocking chair assumes a particular significance by itself, but if you watch the sequence and position of the rocking chair you will understand there is a certain meaning to associated with that. And it lends itself to the progression of story

From here less one to talk about costumes; costumes are significant, because they are use to connote time and place and also took provide personality trace to the character think. For example, how is Stanley Kubrick uses period costumes in his Barry Lyndon which is based on a novel by Thackeray.

So, costumes are an integral part of any film. The characters' personality traits are also explained through their costumes characters speak through the clothes. Now you also know there are such an iconography of clothes; for example, Marilyn Monroe in her seven year Itch avatar and Audrey Hepburn in breakfast at Tiffany. So, clothes are symbolic of actors they suggest something. For example, the western or super hero or gangster films, you know what clothes and costumes with these characters appearing in the create meaning.

color is an important part of mise en scene colors, just like for instance a 2002 film Gangs of New York, the poor immigrants the Irish monochromatic colors were in the natives are in mode from in wine colors, colors can be symbolic of characters and emotions in cinematic causes is the age of enough sense.

You have to white that colors in order to understand how we uses the motive of roses the enough roses in order to say just the growing passion between the two lead characters. So, colors are just emotions also colors are also use to this thing wish characters and settings. For example, in Steven Soderbergh film Traffic, which was releasing two thousand directive, we will the three color settings, and characters performers performance are another integral part of a mise en scene... stars are associated with particular genres and style of acting.

For example, Marlon Brando is associated with method acting and Elizabeth Taylor is with associated with high glamour. So, audiences come is certain expectations that become to watch the actors' stars' performance and actors performance is best understood by his or her appearance, and also is informed by the suggests style voice physique and body language. So, all these things constitutes the performance thing actors like Schwarzenegger or Stallone and how they speak through there muscular bodies.

from there... We move want to sound as I have already told you sound can be diegetic or non diegetic. the diegetic sound emanates from the seen such as the sound effects ,dialog, and the background sound in a scene non diegetic sounds are those that do not emanate from the see here watch a for example, music or a voiceover.

So, music can be diegetic since it could be part of the drama music plays telling role as a types to have life mode of the audience it also determining the face of the screen action and also lance musical motif to the action. For example, Jaws and its famous soundtrack ...also the James Bond introductory music. So, he is associated with a certain kind of theme music.

Setting is the another part of aspect of mise en scene which established the time and place of the story. specific genres are tied to specific settings, for examples gangster films are often set in cities and the western in the wild west.

Now at this point I would like to show you this clipping from Agneepath.

And see how every except of how every element of mise en scene is perfectly blended in this scene. Agneepath was directed by Mukul Anand, and this particular scene that I am

showing you... it stars Amitabh Bachchan and Danny .please see and make a note of mise en scene. welcome back. So, I am sure that you understood how the actors; performance the gesture, the body language, the style the costume the setting the music everything played a key role in adding certain mystique to this wonderful seen. Thank you very much and we move will meet for next lesson.