

FILM CLASS

DAY ONE

We'll get started shortly!

WELCOME!

- Gimme a sec, I'll turn on my camera!



WHAT WE'LL DO TODAY

1. Talk about film, and what cinema is, even!
2. Discuss the assignment we'll be tackling over the 6 classes.
3. Talk about options for filming your assignments, with a focus on smartphones!



DISCLAIMER

Throughout this class, I will be recommending different films that I think demonstrate interesting filmmaking techniques! All films I personally recommend will be rated **PG-13** or lower.

However, when talking about different things in class throughout the weeks (camera techniques, direction, editing, etc), I will be talking about a wider array of films, some of which may be rated **R**.

Obviously this won't apply to everyone, but if you're one of my younger students, if you're going to watch any of the other films I mention beyond the ones I specifically recommend, run it by a parent or guardian first!



MR. K's DAILY FILM RECOMMENDATION

FILM: *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (2009) **AVAILABLE ON:** Disney Plus

WATCH FOR: Using the camera to tell a joke (visual storytelling!)

WHAT IS FILM?

- Technically, sure - it's a series of images displayed really, really fast. But, what is it *really*?



WHAT IS FILM?

'For me, the movies are like a machine that generates empathy. If it's a great movie, it lets you understand a little bit more about what it's like to be a different gender, a different race, a different age, a different economic class, a different nationality, a different profession, different hopes, aspirations, dreams and fears. It helps us to identify with the people who are sharing this journey with us.'

- Roger Ebert

THE SCHEDULE

DAY ONE - That's today.

DAY TWO - Shot Planning & Storyboards

WEEKEND - STORYBOARDING

DAY THREE - Revisions and Planning

DAY FOUR - Setting up your Shoot!

WEEKEND - SHOOTING

DAY FIVE - Editing

DAY SIX - Film Festival



ASSIGNMENT

- We're going to make a minute-long film! (or shorter!)
- Ideally one location
 - We're in the middle of a terrifying pandemic, let's make do with what we have
- Pick a theme/genre!
 - Comedy? Horror? A mixture of both?



EQUIPMENT YOU'LL NEED

- Recording device
 - Smartphone
 - DSLR Camera
- Tripod
 - Selfie Stick alternative for smartphones!
- Props, Actors, Setting!
 - Well, this one is going to be up to you.
- And scariest, of all, an idea!



BRAINSTORMING

- A minute or less might sound like no time at all!
- But in this age of Vines and TikToks, I think it's easier than ever to tell a great story in a short amount of time!
- Let's look at some examples



AN EXAMPLE! (AND SOME FILM TERMINOLOGY)

- Here's an example you may have seen! Short, simple and funny, and it demonstrates two pieces of filmmaking at its most basic!



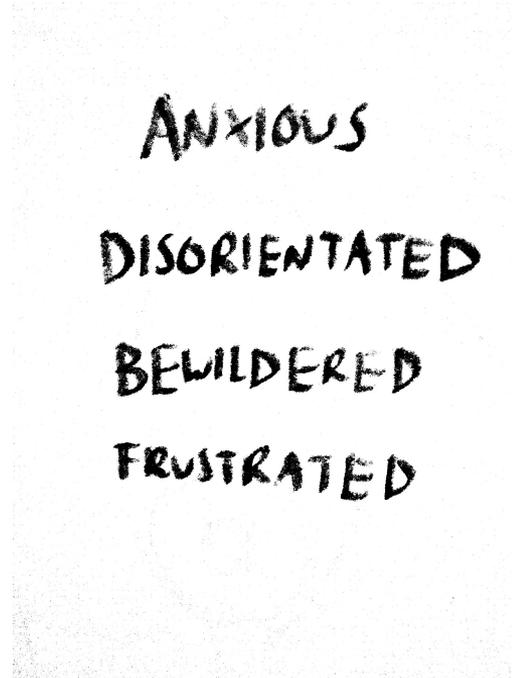
AN EXAMPLE! (AND SOME FILM TERMINOLOGY)

- Here's an example you may have seen! Short, simple and funny, and it demonstrates two pieces of filmmaking at its most basic!
- a **SHOT** - a single sequence of a movie by one camera without interruption
- a **CUT** - an abrupt change in image or sound



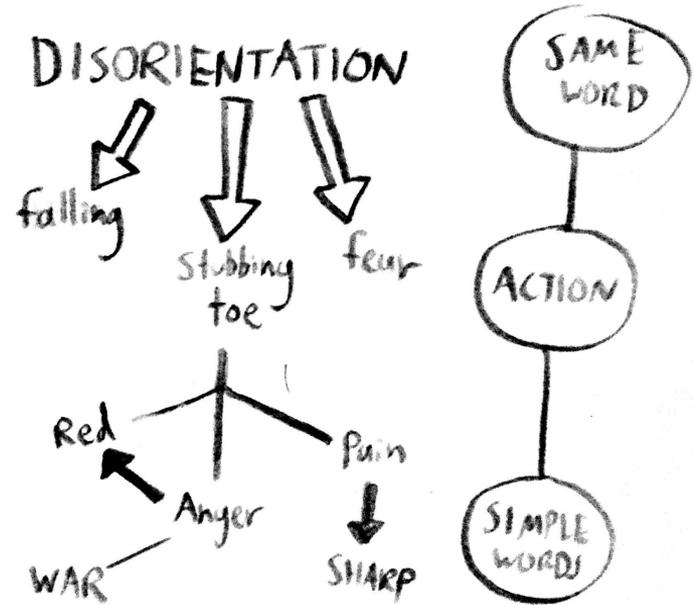
BRAINSTORMING

- You might have some trouble simplifying your idea to a specific genre or theme.
- Here's an exercise I use to do precisely that!
- Choose some descriptive adjectives that carry the feeling you want your film to have, or how you want the audience to feel!



BRAINSTORMING

- You might have some trouble simplifying your idea to a specific genre or theme.
- Here's an exercise I use to do precisely that!
- After you've narrowed it down to one word, break that word down - what actions correlate with that adjective? Keep breaking down each word into more branches, with correlating feelings, words, colors, actions, etc!



BRAINSTORMING

- Once you've settled on an approach, and a basic theme or genre, let's get into the specifics.
- Every story has a beginning, middle and end!
- Or, more simply, a problem, and a solution!

patch. He pulls out a crowbar and pries open the hatch. Inside, surrounded by a nest of liquid cooling tubes, is a small black module -- the drone's auto-pilot.

Cooper looks down at Murph, who is standing at his elbow.

MURPH

What are you going to do with it?

COOPER

Reprogram it. Give it something socially responsible to do like drive a combine or a tractor.

MURPH

(quiet)
Couldn't we just let it go? It's not hurting anyone.

Cooper looks down at his son. Good kid.

COOPER

We need all the help we can get, Murph. This thing has to adapt.

BRAINSTORMING

- Let's make a sort of mock script - almost as if you were writing your film out as a short story (but very short!)
- If your film has dialogue, plan it out here - though let's try and keep it as visual as possible!

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BRAINSTORMING

- Here's mine, from the brainstorming we did earlier...

Disorientation

Our character is lounging around, reading the paper when the doorbell rings. As they stand up to answer - **THONK!!** They stub their toe on the furniture!

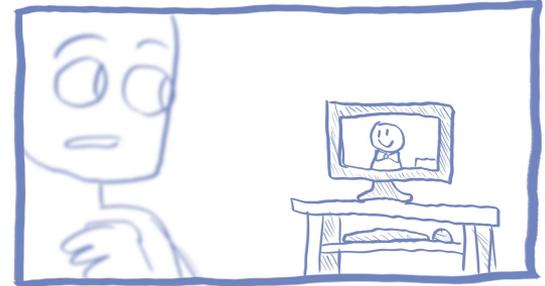
The pain! Sudden flashes of violent red! War flashback! Stock footage of nuclear bombs! All visual metaphors for our characters unbearable pain, as they crumple to the floor.

And yet, they must answer the door! So, much like a desperate soldier crawling the lengths of the battlefield after a fatal wound, our character crawls their way to the door, heroically pulling themselves to one knee, willing their way to the door, finally opening it and answering, as triumphant music swells.

They retrieve their parcel. All is right in the world. Only for them to close the door on their other foot, as the film ends with a scream. |

FIRST STEP COMPLETE!

- Once you've got your idea down, you've got your first step (and one of the hardest steps) all taken care of!
- If you're still having trouble, here are some off-hand ideas you're welcome to borrow from and make your own!
- Maybe think about borrowing from your own quarantine experiences!

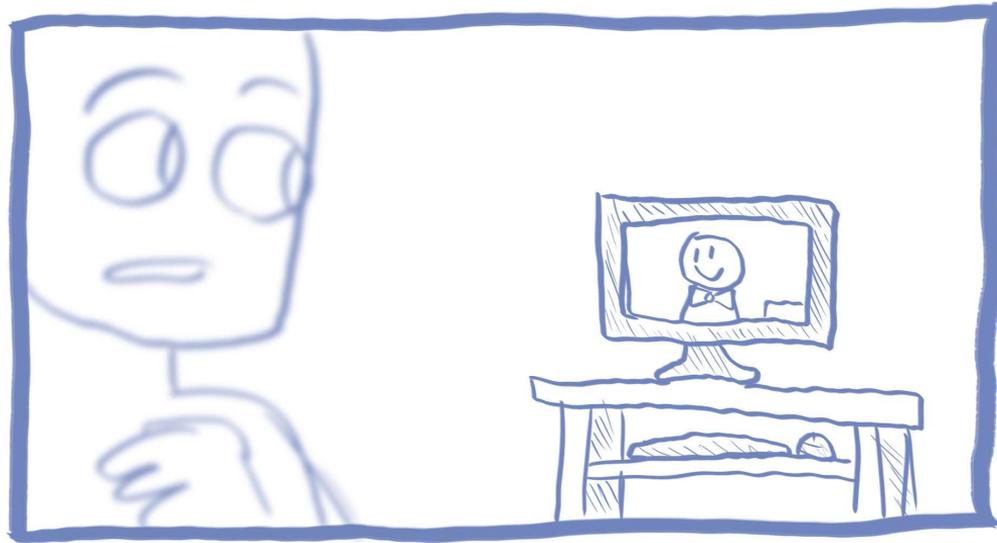


EXAMPLE IDEAS - HORROR!



A mysterious unlabelled package appears on the doorstep...

EXAMPLE IDEAS - ROMANCE!



Someone attempts to make the room behind them in their webcam look especially impressive for a first online date!

EXAMPLE IDEAS - COMEDY!



Someone desperately struggles to open a jar, resorting to extreme methods to solve the problem!

TODAY'S TAKE-AWAYS!

- Start writing and planning out your script!
 - This doesn't need to be excessive! Maybe just a paragraph or two.
 - Just like in my brainstorm session, think of some key adjectives that describe your film, and the feelings you want it to invoke!
 - It's okay if it changes! We'll be working storyboards and tinkering with our idea, it may change as I show more examples and you get inspired! Just have something to start with!
- Start thinking about your equipment!
 - Do you have a DSLR camera, or will you be shooting on your cellphone? What props will you need? Make a list!