Mise en Scene

Induction Intro to Film Elements in Area 1

Technical Language [(prepare for test)](prepare%20for%20test)

- Colour Grading
- High Key/ Low Key Lighting
- Props
- Costumes
- Make Up (Including prosthetics)
- Composition
- Aspect Ratio

- Set Dressing
- Set Designer
- Sound Stages
- Studio Back lots
- Location Filming
- Verisimilitude
- World-Building

Intro Activity

- Imagine that I am going to film you at your desk and I want to give the impression that you (the main character of my film) have **a chaotic personality.** Arrange items on your desk for the camera to create this meaning for the audience. <mark>Take a picture with your phone camera and post on the blog,</mark>

- Now do the same to represent an **anally tidy character**!

Q. What do you think the above exercise demonstrates in relation to a film maker's use of **props**?

[Mise-en-Scene](#):

Literally **putting things into the shot** or setting the up the scene. Refers to the [staging of a film sequence](#) and brings in craftspeople from different areas to ensure that intended meaning is created effectively.

French film directors are often referred to as "metteurs"

BLOG POSTING TASK 1- Find your own working definition of this term.

Ext. Mise en Scene is often regarded as an **Aesthetic** film element – what does that mean?

Mise-en-scene:

Principal elements:

- setting, props, costume and make-up

- staging, movement and off-screen space

- how cinematography impacts on mise-en-scène, in particular through variation in depth of field, focus and framing (a significant area of overlap with cinematography)

Creative use of mise-en-scène

- how mise-en-scène can be used both naturalistically and expressively

- how the principal elements of mise-en-scène can generate multiple connotations and suggest a range of interpretations

- how changes in mise-en-scène contribute to character and narrative development.

Mise-en-scene:

Conveying messages and values

- how mise-en-scène conveys messages and values

- how mise-en-scène, including setting, props, costume and make-up, can generate multiple connotations and suggest a range of possible interpretations

- how staging, movement and off-screen space are significant in creating meaning and generating response

- the significance of motifs used in mise-en-scène, including their patterned repetition

- how mise-en-scène is used to align spectators and how that alignment relates to spectator interpretation of narrative

Mise-en-scene:

Spectator interpretation of narrative

- how and why different spectators develop different interpretations of the same mise-en-scène

- how mise-en-scène contributes to the ideologies conveyed by a film.

Indication of an auteur approach and film aesthetic

- how mise-en-scène can be indicative of an auteur approach (director or designer)

- how mise-en-scène contributes to a film's overall aesthetic

1.Set Design:

- Includes making/buying props, creating backdrops, set construction.

- N.B. The difference between location and studio filming on **backlots** or **sound stages.**

- Especially important for creating a sense of **verisimilitude** or realism in film and building a believable "world" that the characters inhabit.

- Films requiring imagined-worlds such as Sci-Fi are particularly challenging and expensive because things often have to be designed and built from scratch.

- The responsibility of the **Production Designer.**

Set design joker

. The graffiti in the bus shows that the city is run down and not looked after. This gives of the mood that everything is going wrong for joker as he is on a grimy crusty ahh bus as he is to broke to afford a car having just lost his job. ☺
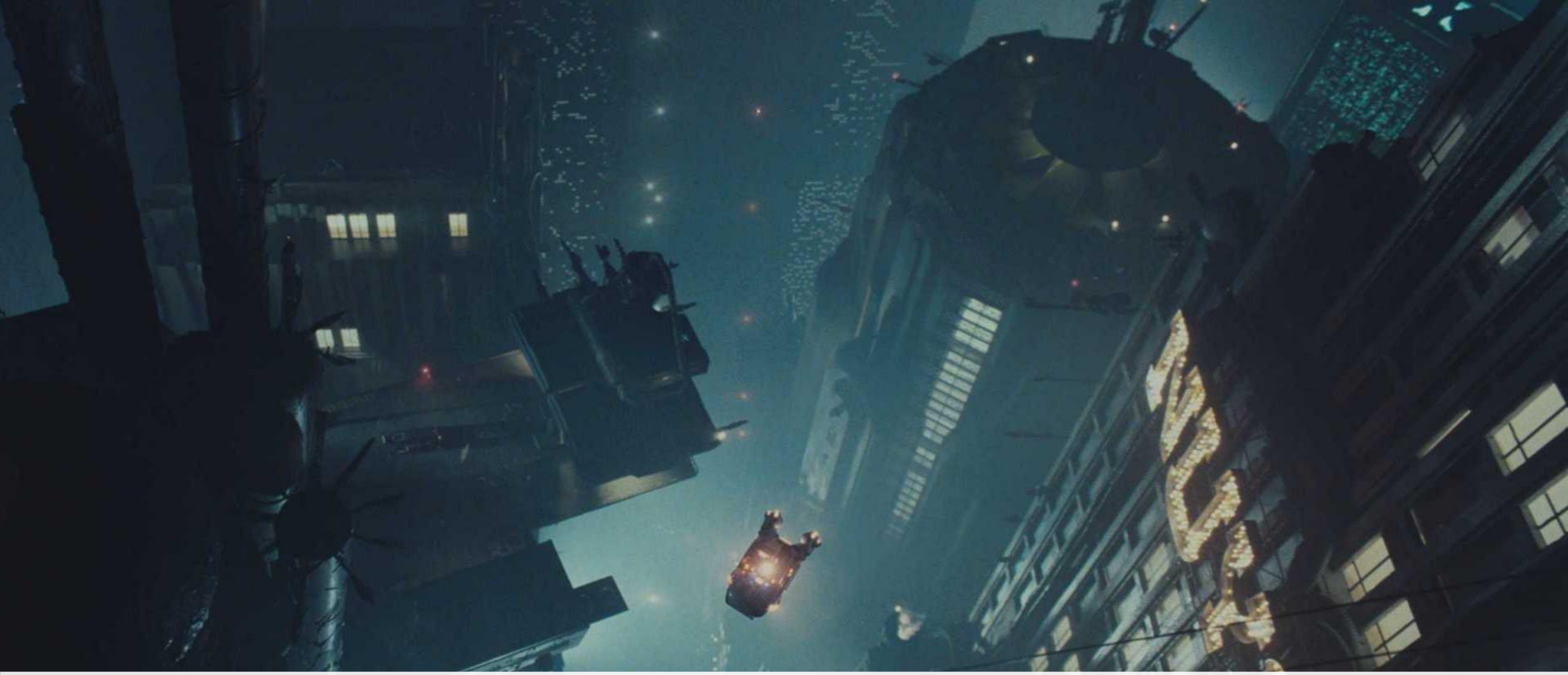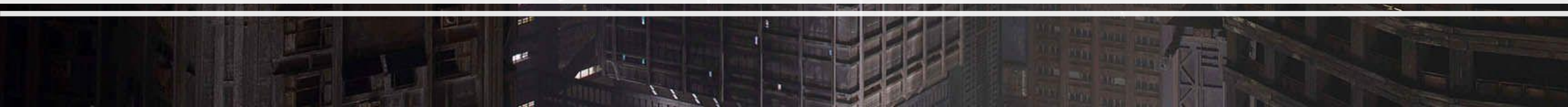
Bladerunner (1982)

BladeRunner 2049 (2017)

2.Costume

- Every film requires costume!

- Period and fantasy costumes are particularly expensive and usually correspond to the need for a high budget.

- Wardrobe errors are responsible for a large percentage of continuity mistakes.

Joker costume

The jokers costume is more colourful compared to other villains to show how his occupation before he became the joker

He is dressed in mostly red to show the anger he has at the world

Sense and Sensibility (1995)

Bridgerton (2020)

3.Space

- Note the relationship between **foreground** and **background**.

- What is the **director** bringing to our attention?

- N.B. this works in relation to size, colour, lighting, **depth of field (cinematography)**, and distance from one object or person to another (proximity).

Space used in Joker

In this scene in particular there is a lot of space in the background however being a subway train the space is enclosed as well

Toy Story (1999)

Citizen Kane (1941)

4.Lighting

- The **Key Light** is the main light source thrown onto a subject making things brighter.

- **High Key** (key light turned up) lighting is used in genres such as Comedy which reflect a "bright" mood.

- **Low Key** (key light turned down or off) is used in genres such as Horror and Film Noir to reflect a "darker" mood.
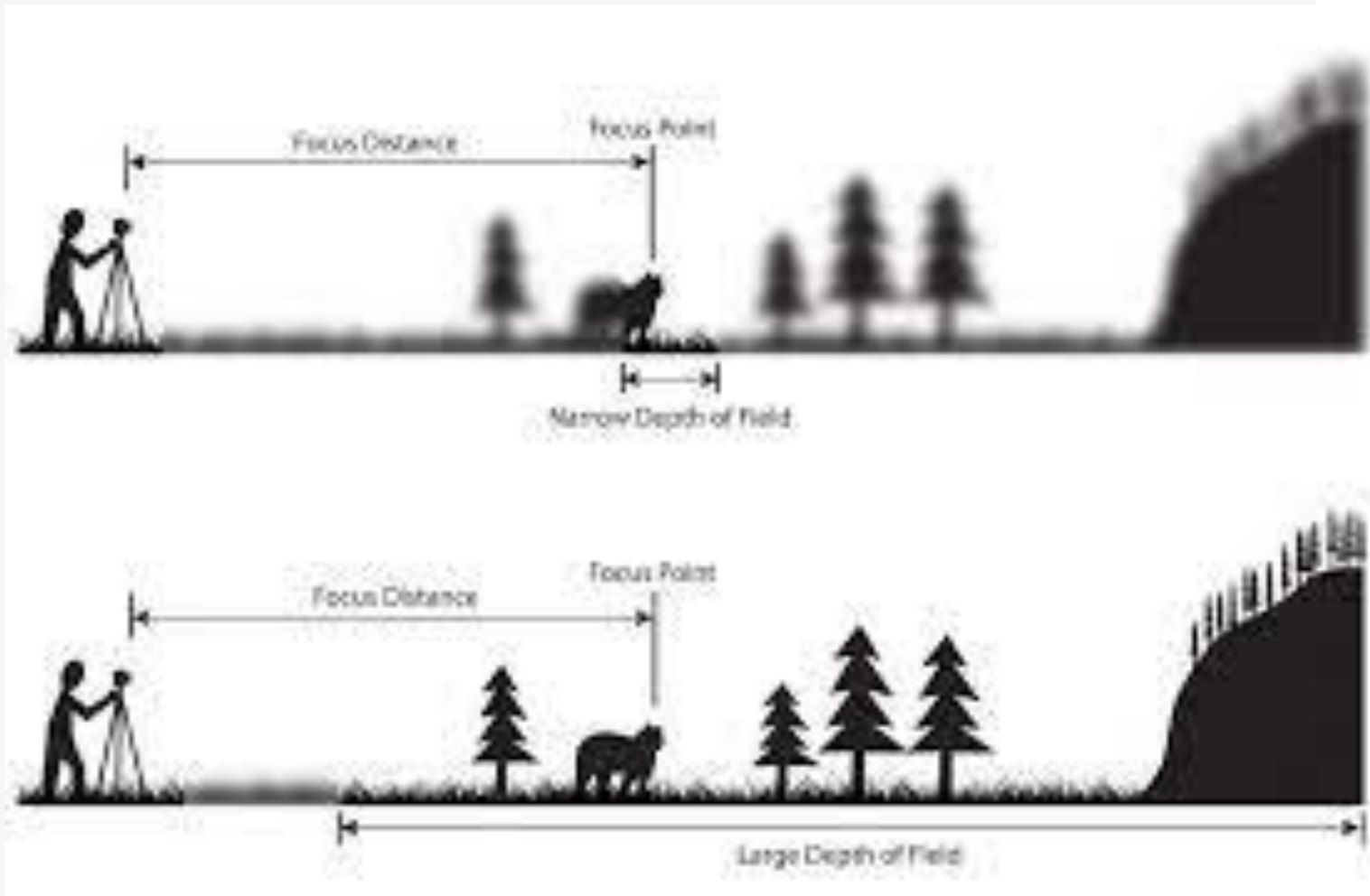
Lighting in joker

In joker lighting is used throughout the film to set the mood. The fact that this is a fairly dark movie shows that the mood of this movie is dark and depressing which it is. The use of shadows in some scenes shows mystery and that people don't know who joker is

The Maltese falcon (1941)

The Woman in Black (2012)

5. Composition

- Is the arrangement of objects/lighting/sound on the screen Balanced (symmetry) or Unbalanced?

- Unbalancing a shot or scene is used to draw the audiences attention to something within the film.

In this scene the camara is focused on joker as he is the most important part of the scene.

It brings attention to joker by blurring out the crowd

This scene is unbalanced

The Shining (1980)

The Graduate (1967)

6.Hair and Make-up

- Create a sense of **verisimilitude** (believability) for the audience.

- Horror/ Fantasy make-up particularly elaborate and expensive, again adding to a film's overall **budget**.

- Q. How have developments in film making technology altered audience's expectations of how a film should look?

Hair and makeup in joker

In this scene the make up makes the scene seem complete. The blue coming down from the jokers eyes look like tears showing that he is sad and has nothing to loose.

An [American](#) Werewolf in London (1981)

The Wolfman (2010)

7.Film Stock and Aspect Ratio

- **Film Stock** refers to the choice of black & white or colour, **fine-grain** or grainy film to create a particular effect/ meaning for the audience.

- Many directors now shoot on **digital film formats** rather than traditional **35mm film** as it is cheaper and easier to edit.

- **Aspect Ratio** refers to the relation of the width of the rectangular image to its height.

- Each aspect ratio encourages the audience to look at the world in a specific way and adds meaning to the film e.g. the use of **Widescreen**.

The Wizard of Oz (1939)

How The West Was Won (1962)

BLOG POSTING
<mark>TASK 2</mark>

- Using stills from Joker, find examples of effective use of the techniques and craft associated with Mise en Scene. Create 7 additional slides for each mise-en-scene element with an illustration and brief explanation how this element is being used by the director to create meaning within the film.

Touch of Evil (Welles,1958)

- Watch this famous **continuous take** which forms the opening sequence from the Orson Welles film "A Touch of Evil".

- Identify key aspects of planning **(pre-production**) required to ensure that this kind of shot is successful.

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8AXd1ayxrg

Mise En Scene
HOMEWORK ESSAY

- Choose **one key scene** from both Joker and Moonlight and explain how elements of Mise-en-scene are used effectively by the director to create meaning.

- Remember to go into detail explaining which elements of mise-en-scene are being used e.g. costume, set design, props etc. and talk about the "effect" on the viewer.

- Write a short analysis essay of around 500 (spell-checked) words + still image illustration for your response.

- DEADLINE –Monday 9th October

- E MAIL Direct to Ms Magowan on l.magowan@hautlieu.sch.je

- DO NOT POST YOUR ESSAY ONTO THE BLOG UNTIL IT IS MARKED!