



Open College of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Ashley Lauryssen	Student number	515532
Course/Unit	Digital Film	Assignment	1
Type of tutorial (eg video/audio/written)	Written		

Overall Comments

This is a good start to the course - exploring framing with different lens focal lengths and angles. Your story of the girl finding a mysterious (at first) object adds some drama to the unfolding of the story as we (the audience) wait to see what it is. The result is quite authentic; visually and technically confident. You're clearly thinking about the framing and the composition of each shot and leaving space for each self contained scene.

Feedback on assignment

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Quality of Outcome, Demonstration of Creativity

Shot 1

Your shots are all well exposed and the exposure is consistent through-out the film.

What really stands out here is the perspective of the tree trunks and the way the girl stands out with her red shirt. The narrative moves on quickly, she notices something, looks around – maybe feeling a bit suspicious, then jumps down and picks up whatever it is. Then she's off.

You leave an empty frame for a few 'beats' which is very professional. Also she is moving from right to left in this frame and that is carried through to the next shot, so that is consistent screen direction.

Shot 2

A very long telephoto lens is used to squash up the landscape into almost flat layers. The frame is well composed with the road on the bottom and the lamp post is well placed.

As the only moving thing in the frame, the girl stands out really well. She's running now which

pushes the story along - she's developed an excitement that was guarded tension and uncertainty in the previous shot.

I like the way the man walks into shot from the left, it's a good example of 'staging' for the camera. Clearly you can use the frame a bit like a stage like Orson Welles did in *Citizen Kane* and not attempt to film 'reality'.

Same use of empty frame at the end of this shot/scene.

Shot 3

Straight into the action here as the girl administers to the mysterious object in her camera bag! I like the framing through the tree trunks here, again flattening everything and using the background as a shapes of colours and textures to set the action against.

Fade to black works ok as an 'ending' to the scene as you are about to make a significant time jump.

Shot 4/Scene 4

Is this a character who sleeps with her clothes and hat on?! The framing is good, and very clear with the line of the ceiling leading the eyes to the girl. The man emerges on the left of frame in empty space, which grabs the eyes immediately.

This is all good, but the light is maybe too bright and there is some daylight coming in on the right side of the frame. But having said that, it is clearly 'interior tungsten light' with that warm orange glow.

Shot 5/Scene 4

This is the first continuity edit in the same scene you've made and it does work, but it is odd to be looking at a totally dark obscured frame for so long. Are you attempting to conjure up an appetite for a 'solution' or 'answer' in the viewer? Maybe. The "pay off" is certainly there with the close shot of the phone (with hat and plaster) next to the girl's sleeping head.

Sound?

I could not hear any ambient sounds in this film. Whether there are any I do not know. It doesn't hurt the film being silent, but unless you are deliberately using silence for narrative purposes, I think you should use sound.

Coursework

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity

Your two 'alcoholic films' show you're understanding the concepts of objective and subjective camera. I liked the "under the glass" shot. And I can see you're thinking about lighting, foreground and background in blocking, as well as composition.

Research

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

As you progress you'll need to add a RESEARCH tab to your learning blog and put writing about films you've seen on there, along with responses to exhibitions or books that influence you. Basically, you need to try to fill up your contextual knowledge - if it's about how atmosphere is generated, then consider that with respect to lighting, set design and costume (mise-en-scene).

Learning Log

Your learning log shows some really good work - telling the story both visually (in a sketch) and verbally. They also show that you are aware that the filmed images are only showing a partial view, that the viewer never sees the mysterious object. So you're using narrative ideas which is great.

Suggested reading/viewing

Context

We are now recommending *Film Art: an introduction* by David Bordwell and Kristen Thompson as a key text for all Moving Image students. It's expensive new (the 11th edition) but you should be able to get a much cheaper older edition. Look on Abe Books etc.

For atmosphere, you should be able to find movies that are strongly atmospheric easily. But Carol Reed's *The Third Man* and Nicholas Roeg's *Don't Look Now!* are great examples.

Pointers for the next assignment

You've done really well with composition here. The next assignment is a really good opportunity to experiment with light and shadow, with weather conditions and different spaces. Consider what generates the 'mood' when you are in a location.

Tutor name	Robert Enoch
Date	12th April 2016
Next assignment due	28th June 2016