



Open College of the Arts

Formative feedback

Student name	Ashley Lauryssen	Student number	515532
Course/Unit	Digital Film Prod.	Assignment	3
Type of tutorial (eg video/audio/written)	Written		

Overall Comments

This is another strong assignment showing your commitment, ambition, amusing eye for detail and clarity of vision. It's no easy task to try to make a very short but emotionally complex scene in a short time with amateur actors and you've pulled it off convincingly. The lighting and camera movement is consistent even though you're dealing with an inside/outside scene - actually quite professional.

The story is really tight and entertaining, plus you express the implied meaning in a variety of interesting ways: through dialogue, character and mood contrast, symbolism, camera movement and sound. This is quite an accomplished little film. I always say to students, if you can make an interesting 2 minutes, then maybe you can multiply that and make an interesting 20 minutes or 90 minutes. So just keep learning because you're making excellent progress.

Feedback on assignment

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

Title, start...

I really appreciate the way you begin your film so quickly, getting straight into the mood by using ambient sounds of chatting students over the titles. Great start because it sets up an expectation of optimism which the young man Ahad contrasts immediately.

Shot 1

This shot confirms the celebratory mood of the sound. The colours and the smiles, the odd enthusiastic word comes through. It is clear that things are going well for this crowd. Pull back...to reveal a serious looking Ahad! And here's the immediate contrast in one shot. It took you 15 seconds to establish the conflict - excellent!

That's not an easy move to do in your kitchen so well done! It's not perfect, but it's telling and

that is so vital in narrative film making.

You're clear about your use of signifiers here - and using them for narrative meaning - "Have a beer" "No I'll just have a tea!"

Shot 2

Boiling water into a pot. Yes, here there's the sense of scorching. Here you have jumped ahead in time a bit with your edit. That's fine, but you've continued the sound of the pouring water over the next shot. It doesn't work because you're implying continuity - as if he's still pouring the water - when there isn't continuity. Clearly a moment has passed. What you need to do is place the "Feelin' Good" woman's dialogue a few frames before your cut to shot 3.

Shot 3

In shot 1, Ahad is on the right, you have established the action axis which would place the woman in this shot on the right with Ahad on the left. It's as if your camera had moved around - panned 180 degrees - to get her in shot.

Anyway, I love the T-shirt.

Shot 4

You cross the established 180 degree line here - but I think you're aware of it. Your camera needed to place Ahad on the right, being on the same side (the right) of the two shot before. Don't worry too much about this but just try to do a little research on YouTube to figure it out. But you've established an action line with the over the shoulder shot in shot 3. She's facing to the right and he's facing to the left. You just need to preserve that for the sake of continuity.

For the sake of continuity - because this framing was your first shot - you should really have preserved this 180 degree line where Ahad is facing right. This would then mean your shot 3 should have placed the woman on the right with Ahad on the left of frame.

All this must sound pedantic, but it has an important dramatic significance in a film like this - it makes Ahad the centre with the peripheral action revolving around him. That affects the interpretation and enhances your drama.

Anyway, this wider shot is interesting for including the excited party in the background, setting off a contrast of mood.

Great the way the guy in the blue T-shirt jumps into the shot just as she's delivering the line "I think you should tell him as soon as possible..." Once more playing with the contrast. And he's a lot bigger than Ahad, making the poor man look diminished!

SOUND: there are some issues with sound here. The crowd behind is about the right level. But the woman sounds a lot louder than Ahad - who is quietly spoken. You can lift his levels - maybe using a Compressor to even out the sound of the dialogue.

Shot 5

This close shot of the knife cutting the lemon is good, but it doesn't cut too well. It's all right, but I think you needed the lemon and cutting board in the wider shot. But I like the significance of the knife here over Ahad's dialogue about his 'future'.

Shot 6

The actor playing Ahad is a bit easy-going sometimes. It's a difficult part of course. Nice touch bringing Joe in again like a comic element to create more contrast.

Shot 7

Notice here how the woman jumps to the wrong side of the line?

Shot 8

Cutting to the close up of Ahad works well - tasting the sour lemon - another nice touch.

Shot 9

You don't really need the dip to black transition to this infusing tea bag. A cut to a detail often works well and can feel connected to the previous shot. The dialogue seems to continue, so why not?

The infusing tea is like blood in this context. Or perhaps just Ahad's fear at telling his father.

Shot 10

This is an extremely accomplished tracking shot - almost a Brian di Palma! And the actors are really bubbly and happy, which is convincing and really helps continue the consistent contrast with Ahad and what's happening 'in the background'. In a way, I wish the track didn't stop in mid-movement but continued through to the window.

I really don't think you needed the music because it makes things a bit obvious in the way that TV drama and soaps have to always 'tell you what to feel!'

But the move to the window is excellent and we see something totally at odds with what we hear, so it's a fascinating juxtaposition.

Fading out the sound also works really well.

Shot 11

This is really good - panning from the happy graduates to the more concerned woman who then looks out of the window. Cut to:

Shot 12

A simple pov shot of the over-turned tea cup - suggesting a mysterious but sad end to Ahad.

Coursework

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity

Really good, thorough coursework.

Research

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

Your research is also really strong and you're looking at key texts that help you achieve your aims, which is excellent.

Learning Log

The blog is just getting better. Exemplary.

Suggested reading/viewing

Context

This ought to help: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HinUychY3sE>

Pointers for the next assignment

You've already told me that you're making a film about wine making. It sounds good and I wish you well with it.

Tutor name	Robert Enoch
Date	4th August 2016
Next assignment due	10th October 2016