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**Mise-En-Scene**

**Definition**:

-The staging of events for the camera

-what is put into the frame

-It is a concept for understanding how a director controls what appears in the film frame.

Therefore mise-en-scene: is a concept for understanding how the elements within the frame come to signify.

Mise-en-scene is a group of elements that work in relation with other film elements to signify.

Mise-en-scene functions across a spectrum of Realism to Expressionism

Realism: specifity and detail

Expressionism: the representation of character consciousness, thought processes, or emotions

**Four aspects of mise-en-scène**

**Setting:**  Those elements within the frame that function to depict space, place, and time period.

In the cinema, setting can take on an active role, it need not be only a container for the action.  [Current Example of Setting taking an Active Role:  The Perfect Storm]

Setting can be an already existing locale, or a studio construction--either way critical decisions are made as to how the setting will signify in what way. The overall design of a setting can significantly shape how we understand story action.

Example:  The rural and simple setting of Waking Ned Devine is an important factor in mediating our judgement on the fraud that Jackie and the others are committing--it helps ally our sympathy with them.

Setting also includes props: those objects within the setting that function within the ongoing action. (Lotto tickets, motorcycles, water bottles).

**Costume and Make-Up**: The clothing and attire of characters--or lack thereof.

Costume and make-up can function to express character situation, mood, or consciousness.

Costume functions through tree properties: color, texture, and movement.

Costume can play important motivating and causal roles in the narrative

Make-Up: Pigments and materials applied to figures to construct their characters.

Functions to define and articulate character

Frequently strives for invisibility and realism.

**Lighting:** Illumination by which objects within the frame can be seen.

In terms of its signifying function, lighting is more than just illumination.

Lighter and darker areas within the frame help create the overall composition of each shot, guiding our attention within the frame.

Lighting shapes objects by creating highlights and shadows.

There are four characteristics to lighting:

Quality: refers to the relative intensity of the light--its harshness or softness

Direction: refers to the path the light takes from its source to the object being lit--directions like front, back, side, top, and under.

source: refers to how many points of light illuminate an object.

color: refers to the hue of light: invisible white, soft yellow, or tinted through filters and gels.

**Figure movement and Expression (Acting)**: The physical performance of character, including gestures, expressions, and actions.

-functions to express thoughts and feelings.

-can create various kinetic patterns.

Frequently functions along a spectrum of individualized (probabilistic) to stylized (expressive more than real for whatever contextual motivation).