

# "Indie in DC" Deconstructing Storytelling



## What's a Script Look Like?

Not what you learned in English class:

- Simple present tense. As few words as possible.
- Enter scenes as late as possible and leave as early as possible.
- Very few adjectives
- Very few adverbs and easy on the parenthetical directions
- Incomplete sentences are okay.
- Let YOUR VOICE come through.
- Action: No more than 5 lines together
- Start and end every scene with action (or brief description, if first time there), not dialogue.
- Do not both show and reveal thru dialogue. One or the other.

## How's a Movie Script Different than a Book? A Play? A TV Show?

- Book can be in characters' minds. No constraints re: length, style, omniscience, 1st/3rd person
- Play emphasizes dialogue, limited space
- TV is "Radio with pictures," lots of dialogue, different act structure, character arc over weeks
- Movies use sparse dialogue ("Pictures with Sound"), Constraints re: structure/length

## 3 Film "Lenses"

Literary: characters, plot, theme (in a book, play, or film)

Dramatic: scene settings, costumes, props, acting (in play or film)

Cinematic: emotion via scores, camera shots, montages (only in film)

## Story Structure

The Hero's Journey via Joseph Campbell's work

The Writer's Journey via Chris Vogler

The LCL! 3x3 Story Path via MCPS

## Audience Involvement

- Symbols, metaphors, inferences (hypothesis and support), reversals
- Do not tell us how a character is feeling!!!! Tell us what he does so we must INFER his feelings.
- Use subtext (vs on-the-nose) and A/B dialogue as much as possible.
- Reversals let your audience know they are in good hands.

## Arla's Recommended Resources

Formatting Your Screenplay by Rick Reichman

Making a Good Script Great by Linda Seeger

Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting by Syd Field

The Writer's Journey by Chris Vogler