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A film frame, is one of the many single photographic images in a motion picture. The individual frames are separated by frame lines. Normally, 24 frames are needed for one second of film. In ordinary filming, the frames are photographed automatically, one after the other. In animation filming, the frames are often shot one at a time.

Frame



ine Fourtn

A meta-fiction technique, is a situation in a work of fiction whereby fictional characters display an awareness that they are in such a work.

AKA "Breaking the Fourth Wall", in reference to the theatrical tradition of talking directly to the audience.

The fourth wall is the imaginary wall at the front of the stage through which the audience sees the action.

A Vertigo Shot AKA Dolly

A vertigo shot is a saccount of the camera either zooms in or out on a subject and only the view of the background changes while the subjects stays the same. This process is done by zooming out on a subject while moving the camera forward to keep the subject in the same position.

This method was developed by Alfred Hitchcock's crew for the film "Vertigo." It is also known as the "contra-zoom shot"; "trombone shot"; and "dolly zoom". If is famously used in the original *Jaws*.





Establishing shot

Usually a wide shot at the beginning of a scene intended to show things from a distance and to inform the audience with an overview in order to help identify and orient the locale or time for the scene and action that follows; this kind of shot is usually followed by a more detailed shot that brings characters, objects, or other figures closer.

As audiences become more sophisticated, establishing shots become more subtle.





Imagine a
Film that
starts here

Based on only this image, this establishing shot, what do we know?

Aerial Shot

A camera shot filmed in an exterior location from far overhead (from a bird's eye view), as from a helicopter (most common), blimp, balloon, plane, or kite; a variation on the crane shot; It is often used at the opening of a film, as an establishing shot.



Aerial Shot

Zoom Shot

A single shot taken with a lens that has a variable focal length, thereby permitting the cinematographer to change the distance between the camera and the object being filmed, and rapidly move from a wideangle shot to a telephoto shot in one continuous movement; this camera technique makes an object in the frame appear larger; movement towards a subject to magnify it is known as zoom in or forward zoom, or reversed to reduce its size is known as zoom out/back or backward zoom. The next images zoom in from wide shot to a closer shot.





Static Shot

An unmoving camera shot that is stationary, due to the use of a tripod.

Process Shot

A process shot in which two (or more) photographic images are combined into a single image using an optical printer.

Optical Printer



Optical Printer

An optical printer is a device consisting of one or more film projectors mechanically linked to a movie camera. It allows filmmakers to rephotograph one or more strips of film. The optical printer is used for making special effects for motion pictures, or for copying and restoring old film material.

Common optical effects include fade outs and fade ins, dissolves, slow motion, fast motion, and matte work. More complicated work can involve dozens of elements, all combined into a single scene.



A process shot using an optical printer

Matte

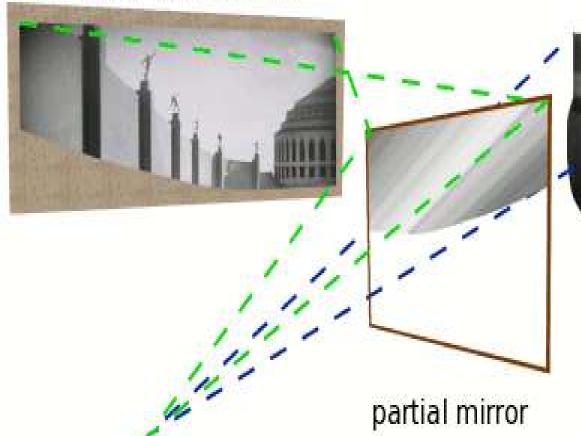
Mattes are used to insert part of a foreground image onto a background image, which is often a matte painting. A process shot in which two photographic images are combined into a single image using an optical printer. Matte shots can be used to add elements to a realistic scene or to create fantasy spaces. Matte shooting is one of the most common techniques used in studio filmmaking, for economical reasons (it's cheaper to shot a picture of the Eiffel tower than to travel to Paris) or because it would be impossible or too dangerous to try to shot in the real space.

MATTE SHOT

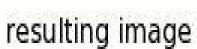
In recent years, however, special effects and computer generated images have taken over the function of matte shots. The camera would be carefully positioned so that the background painted on a plate appears to blend with the set as seen from the camera, giving the impression that the actor was in a large space without having to actually build that space.

scale model or drawing

camera



Actors and part of the scenery





scene from "Metropolis" by Fritz Lang

Matte Shot from The Pawnbroker



A composite shot using a model and a matte



Depth Staging Planar Staging

What does it look like?

Throughout the history of film different waves of film style have emphasized varying aspects of staging within the camera frame.

Depth staging involves placing the character in the frame at excessive distances from each other emphasizing depth. One character could be all the way down the hallway, while the other character sits in close-up toward the front.

Planar staging has roots in the theater, where all the characters are lined up on a stage. Planar staging emphasizes a flat surface for staging a scene.

Where can I see Planar staging?

Citizen Kane makes considerable use of Depth Staging. In 2001: A Space Odyssey, there is a conference in which the speaker stands at a podium far in the background.

Deep Focus Shot

A technique of cinematography and staging with great depth of field, preferred by realists, that uses lighting, relatively wide angle lenses and small lens apertures to simultaneously render in sharp focus both close and distant planes (including the three levels of foreground, middleground, and extreme background objects) in the same shot; contrast to shallow focus (in which only one plane is in sharp focus)

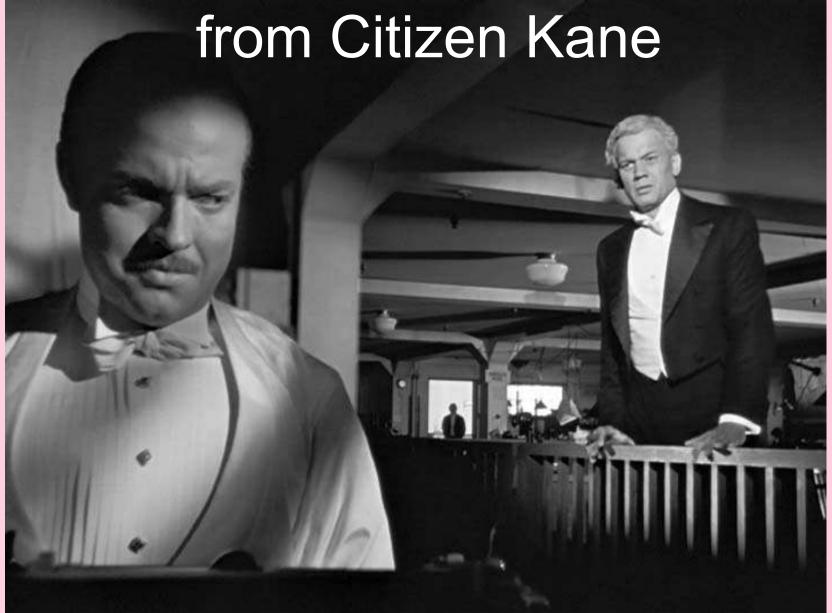
Examples of Deep Focus shots

Gregg Toland's pioneering cinematography in many deep-focus images in Citizen Kane such as in this image of Mrs. Kane, Jim and Mr. Thatcher all on different focal planes. Included is the famous fake from Kane and the deep focus shot of Kane in the layers of doors.

Deep Focus Shot in Citizen



Actually this is fake deep focus





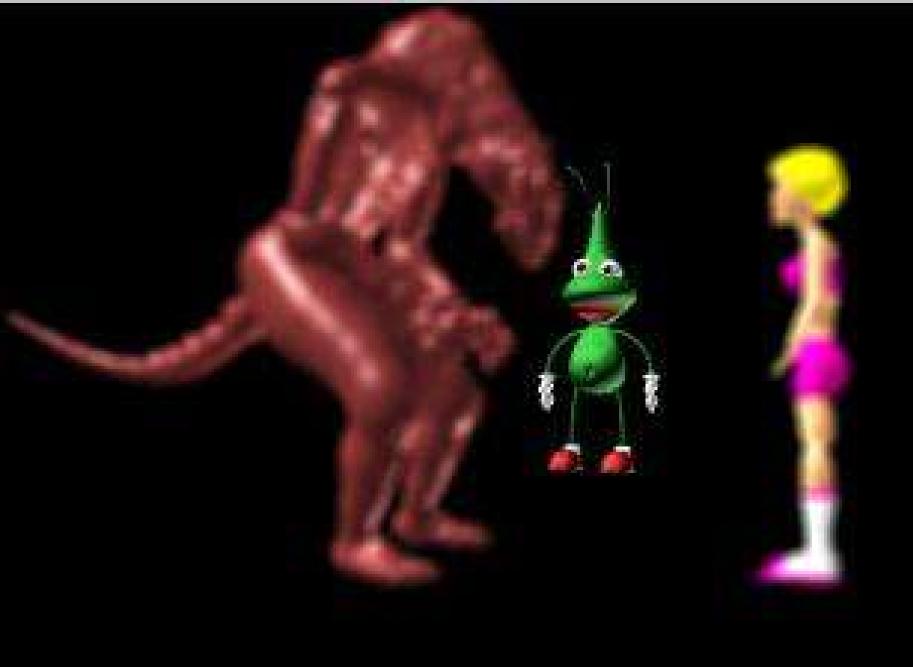
Film effect

Rack Focus

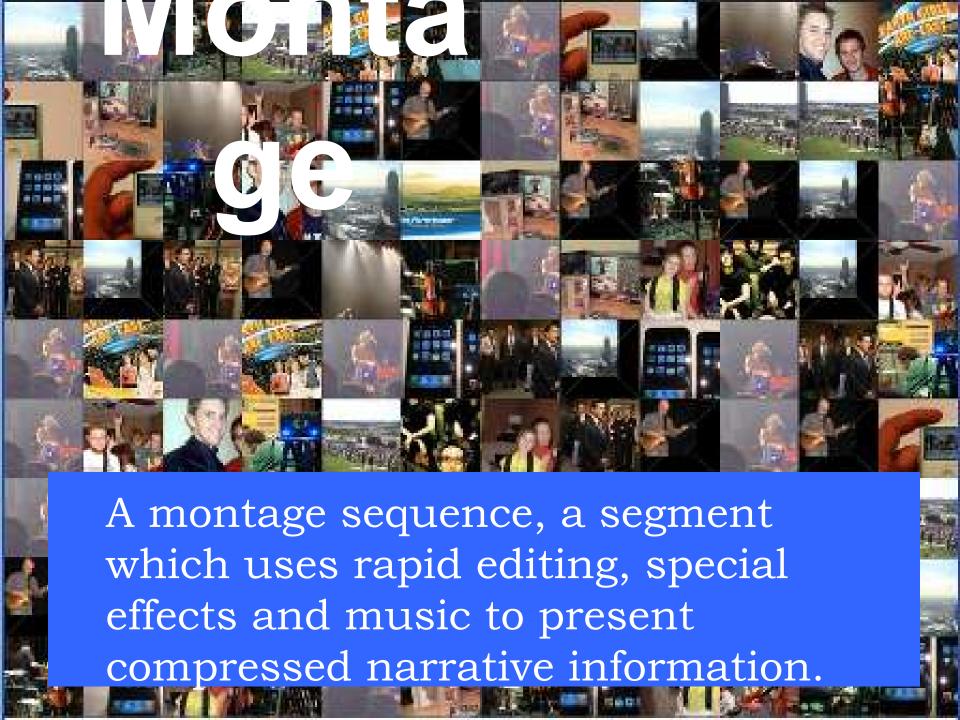
Depth of Field Effects -- Rack Focus

-- Rack Focus
One way to change the center of attention in a scene is to have one object, e.g., in the foreground, in focus, with the background out of focus. Then an object in the background is brought into focus, with the foreground object now out of focus. Here is an example prepared in 3D Studio Max 2. Creature and Debbie have a conversation, with the focus shift we realize that it is being overheard.

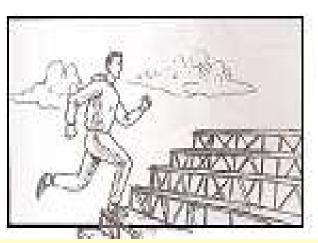


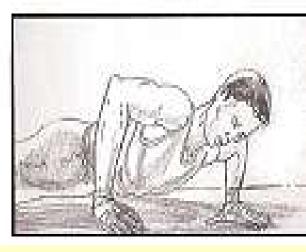


Montage









In Rocky a Montage Sequence shows Rocky training for his big fight. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid has a bicycle riding Montage Sequence. In Easy rider, sever Montague Sequences show the characters driving across the country. In the beginning of Mimic, a Montage Sequence presents the images that fade in and out to present an ominous, chilling introduction.

Montage examples can be seen in the following films:

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid To Sir With Love Bonnie and Clyde Ferris Bueller's Day Off Pulp Fiction Almost Famous Pleasantville Cinderella Man Zelig

