

Film Language 3 – Exploring Mise-en-Scène

Now that you have learnt to identify different elements of film language and experimented with different shots, you can now experiment with how the scene is set or staged.

1. Work on your own or in pairs. Before you set up each shot, decide the following:
 - **Who** or **What** will be the subject?
 - **Where** will the shot be set?
2. Now create some shots experimenting with the different elements of mise-en-scène as follows:
 - a) Composition:**
 - i) Create a shot with a subject in the foreground, and with a clear and defined background.
 - ii) Create a shot that has a different composition, and explain this contrast.
 - b) Lighting:** Use some interesting or dramatic lighting that draws your eye to the subject of the scene.
 - c) Set:** Choose a location for your subject and design the set so that it communicates something about them.
 - d) Costume & Makeup:** Capture an image of a subject where their costume or makeup tells us something about them.
 - e) Colour:** Capture two images with contrasting colour schemes using different lighting, sets and/or costumes.
3. Print out your best shots and paste them into your film notebook.
4. Under each shot, explain your filmmaking choices
e.g. type of lighting, what effect this lighting has - why I chose this
5. Reflection: When you have finished experimenting, look back on all the shots you have created and think about what you have learnt. Write the following into your film notebook and complete the sentences...
 - a) One thing I enjoyed about this project was...
 - b) One thing I found difficult was...
 - c) One thing I would do differently next time would be...