

Fatma Oukili

Prof. Penner

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Film Discourse Communities

As a film enthusiast and an entertainment technology major, I've always been intrigued by the behind the scenes work that goes into creating a film. The way the different departments communicate with one another to create an outcome that is a combination of all their individualistic assignments is very intriguing. It is interesting how a group of people will share one vision but with different ways of approaching it so that they all receive the same outcome. Three important departments in the film discourse community that will be discussed in this essay are the writers, directors, and editors.

Dylan, a director who attends City College of New York answered questions about the discourse community of directors in the film world. As a director, he stated that their goal on set is to use their assets to the best of their abilities. To make a quality film the entire crew has to be on the same page to create a cohesive product. This is done by thorough planning and countless meetings with cast and crew. By taking these precautions, the production process can be more fluid, as there is less time wasted trying to get everyone seeing the same vision. Another critical goal of the director according to Dylan is to be able to problem solve on the spot when the unexpected goes wrong, which will also be made easier through pre production planning.

Dylan also mentions that as a director, communication with my crew is the most quintessential aspect of filmmaking. Without having the crew on the same page the project will

suffer, as those who are responsible for the formal elements of the film are not sure what to do. I personally optimize group chats as a way for the cast and crew to communicate, as being student filmmakers it can be very tricky to find a day where we can all meet up and converse. From there, I have personal meetings with all of the crew, if several people are free one day I'll meet with them then, and then another few when they're all free as well. While communication can be tricky to obtain it is crucial to the outcome of the film.

As a director, they are able to communicate with the outside world through their films. Directors can shed light on issues that are important to them through the themes and plots of their films. Dylan says he can express his emotions through cinema, something that is hard for him, and many others, to do straight up seems to come naturally to him through film.

Amongst each other the language that filmmakers use would confuse those who aren't involved with the process. Language that is riddled with technical along with metaphorical terms that help depict certain imagery and tonal elements. Even when we are not talking about the process and technicalities of a film our conversations might still be tough to follow as we often make film references and inside jokes which can be very confusing to anyone who isn't an enthusiast.

According to Dylan, to become a director one must be able to handle pressure. The role of a director in filmmaking is one that has many upsides, but being in charge of a set also means that you have to be ready for the worst and be quick on your feet to correct any issues with production. There will be many times that you feel defeated and frustrated beyond belief, but you have to be able to fight through these cons and think about the project that you were so

passionate about creating in the first place. While the adversity you face will be a burden, it will make you feel even more proud when you see an immersive, concise final cut of that film

Joseph, a writer who attends SVA states how the writer's goal is to tell a story to their audience. It's vital that they introduce the viewer to a character who will carry the plot throughout all three acts. They must keep their audience captivated throughout the whole story and have characters that are three-dimensional and not flat. Writers communicate with each other in numerous ways. They can talk through email, meet up at a location, or talk on the phone/send messages.

Primarily, writers communicate through email and real life conversation. Writer's communicate with the outside world by sharing their art form with their audience. They allow strangers to see a very personal and raw side of them through their writing once it appears on the screen. Some "language" that writer's use within their groups are key words like: "character arc" "inciting incident" "climax" "resolution" "on the nose dialogue" "exposition" "slugline" and plenty more.

Before joining this group, know that it is a safe place. Nobody wants to hurt you, or shut down your writing Joseph states. When people critique your work, it is only for the purpose of making it better, even if it feels like a personal attack. Be polite, respect other people's writing, and give strong feedback that you believe will help your peer reach their end goal.

Liam, an editor who attends Fashion Institute of Technology talked about the editors community of the film world in our interview. The editors goal, according to Liam, is to assemble the movie in post [production] and complete the director's vision while implementing their own voice in the film. This happens all while meeting deadlines for cuts. The editor must

provide multiple rough cuts of the film before reaching the final product that the director and studio are happy with.

Editors communicate with each other through verbal and visual conversations. Liam talked about how they tell each other what they like about the film and what they might do differently in the edit. Editors communicate with other members also through virtual and verbal conversation. The editor lets production know what they can shoot and do on set that will make the editing process easier in post production. If the editor is missing shots, he/she/they, will tell production that they need to do some reshoots. When speaking to the director, the director will let the editor what he wants changed to fit his vision. Editors communicate with the world through the movies they work on. The pacing and overall tone of the film is determined by the editor.

Before joining this group you must know that it is very tedious work and sometimes you can spend days just editing one whole scene. Liam recalls how a lot can go wrong and will go wrong in the process of editing and encourages you to be sure to save your work. Organize your work as well and make sure you have two copies of every file on separate hard drives if the project you are working on is very important. He says that if you are looking to gain notoriety or the spotlight then you are in the wrong profession, there are a number of well respected editors within the film industry, but rarely will anyone know who they are.

What surprised me about the film discourse community is how large it is. Due to its size, the slightest job, no matter how minor you may think it is, contributes to the big picture. It is important that all these sub communities within the film discourse community are on the same page in order for them to communicate their assignment or vision with the rest of the world.

Works Cited

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McAuliffe. Editor Interview. 19, February 2020.