

# Basic Film Terms

# Frame

- Dividing line between the edges of the screen image and the enclosing darkness of the theater
- Single photo of film



# Types of Shots

- Cinematic shots are defined by the amount of subject matter within the frame
- Shots can vary in duration
  - from subliminal (a few frames)
  - to quick (less than a second)
  - to “average” (more than a second but less than a minute)
  - to lengthy (more than a minute)

# Establishing Shot (or Extreme Long Shot)

- Shot taken from a great distance, almost always an exterior shot, shows much of locale
- ELS



*Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom*

# Long Shot (LS)

- (A relative term) A shot taken from a sufficient distance to show a landscape, a building, or a large crowd



*Austin Powers*

# Medium Shot (MS)

- (Also relative) a shot between a long shot and a close-up that might show two people in full figure or several people from the waist up



*The Talented Mr. Ripley*

# Close-Up (CU)

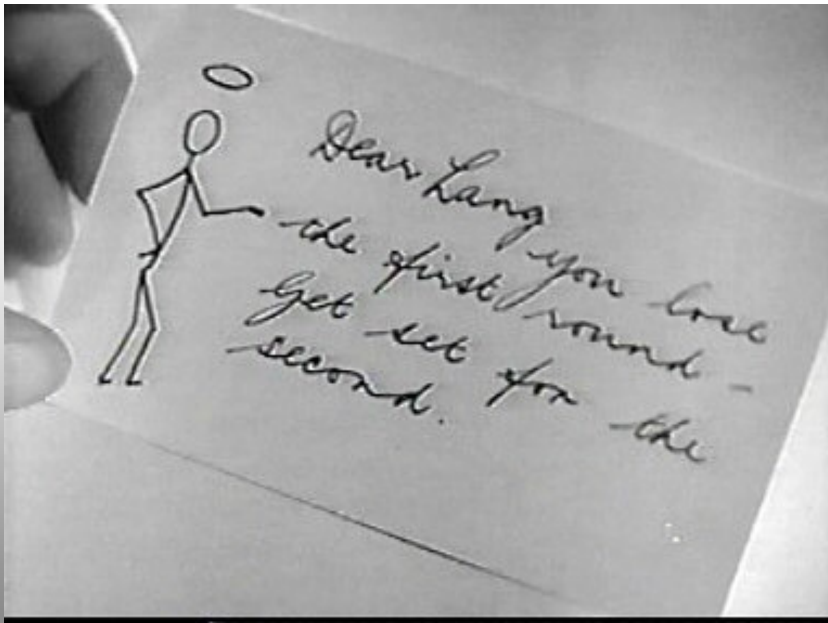
- A shot of a small object or face that fills the screen
- Adds importance to object photographed



*Under Pressure*

# Extreme Close-Up (ECU)

- A shot of a small object or part of a face that fills the screen



*The Saint In London*



*Rocky Horror Picture Show*



# Over the Shoulder Shot

- Usually contains two figures, one with his/her back to the camera, and the other facing the camera



*Cast Away*



*Hollow Man*

# Types of Angles

- The angle is determined by where the camera is placed not the subject matter
  - Angles can serve as commentary on the subject matter

# Bird's Eye View

- Camera is placed directly overhead
- Extremely disorienting
- Viewer is godlike



*Beverly Hills Girl Scouts*

# High Angle (h/a)

- Camera looks down at what is being photographed
- Takes away power of subject, makes it insignificant
- Gives a general overview



*Without Limits*

# Low Angle (l/a)

- Camera is located below subject matter
- Increases height and power of subject

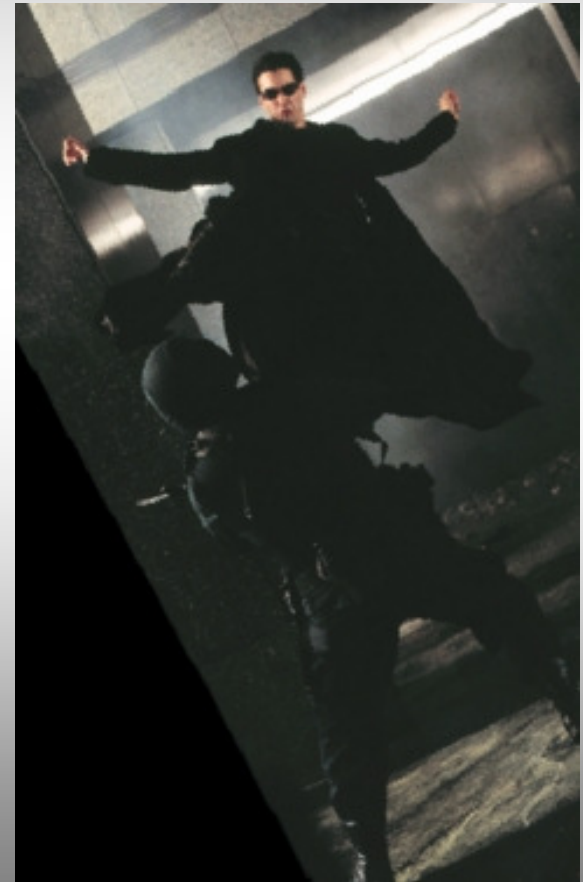


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*The Patriot*

# Oblique Angle

- Lateral tilt of the camera so that figures appear to be falling out of the frame
- Suggests tension and transition
- Sometimes used as the point of view of a drunk



*The Matrix*

# Point of View (POV)

- A shot taken from the vantage point a particular character, or what a character sees

# “Eye-Level”

- Roughly 5 to 6 feet off the ground, the way an actual observer might view a scene
  - Most common