

# Analysing Images



Introduction to Film Language  
*Mise-En-Scene*

# Mise-En-Scene

- ...is a French term meaning *what is put into a scene or frame*
- ...is made up of visual information in *front* of the camera
- ...communicates essential information to the audience about setting (time & place) and characters
- ...is made up of 5 elements: Can you guess what they are?

# The 5 Elements of Mise en Scene

- Settings & Props
- Costume, Hair & Make Up
- Facial Expressions & Body Language
- Lighting & Color
- Positioning of characters/objects within the frame

Each aspect of mise-en-scene creates meanings and communicates them to the audience, influencing how we are feel at a certain point

# Settings & Props

- Settings & Locations play an important part in film-making and are not just 'backgrounds'
- Sets are either built from scratch or a great deal of time is spent to find a setting which already exists or today, CGI
- Settings can manipulate an audience by building certain expectations and then taking a different turn
- **TASK:** What settings and props you would find in:
  1. a Science Fiction Film
  2. a Romantic Comedy
  3. a Horror Film

# Costume, Hair & Make Up

- Tell us immediately whether the film is set in the present and what society/or culture it will center around
- Act as an instant indicator to the audience of a character's personality, status & job
- Certain costumes can signify certain individuals (e.g. black cloak of a vampire) or groups (e.g. policemen)

How does MES convey period?



# Facial Expressions & Body Language

- Facial Expressions provide a clear indicator of how someone is feeling
- If someone is smiling broadly, we assume they are happy but we may get a different feeling if this is accompanied by scary music
- Body Language may also indicate how a character feels towards another character or may reflect the state of their relationship
- TASK: What meanings/emotions do the following images convey:

# IMAGE 1





# IMAGE 2



# IMAGE 3



# IMAGE 4



# Positioning of Characters & Objects within a frame

- Positioning within a frame can draw our attention to an important character/object
- A film-maker can use positioning to indicate relationships between people
- TASK: What does the positioning in the following images reveal about the characters/film:

# IMAGE 1



# IMAGE 2



# IMAGE 3



# IMAGE 4





# Lighting & Color

Lighting & Color can be used to achieve a variety of effects:

- To highlight important characters or objects within the frame
- To make characters look mysterious by shading sections of the face & body
- To reflect a characters mental state/hidden emotions(i.e. bright = happy, dark = disturbed, strobe effect = confused)

# Color

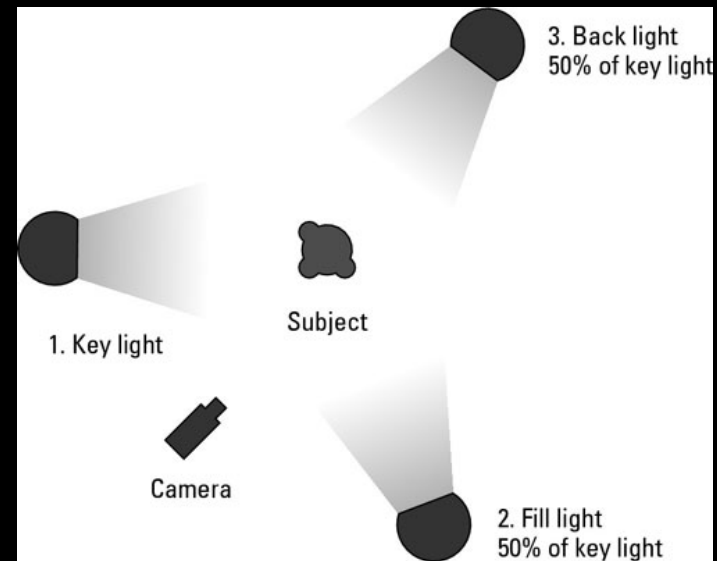


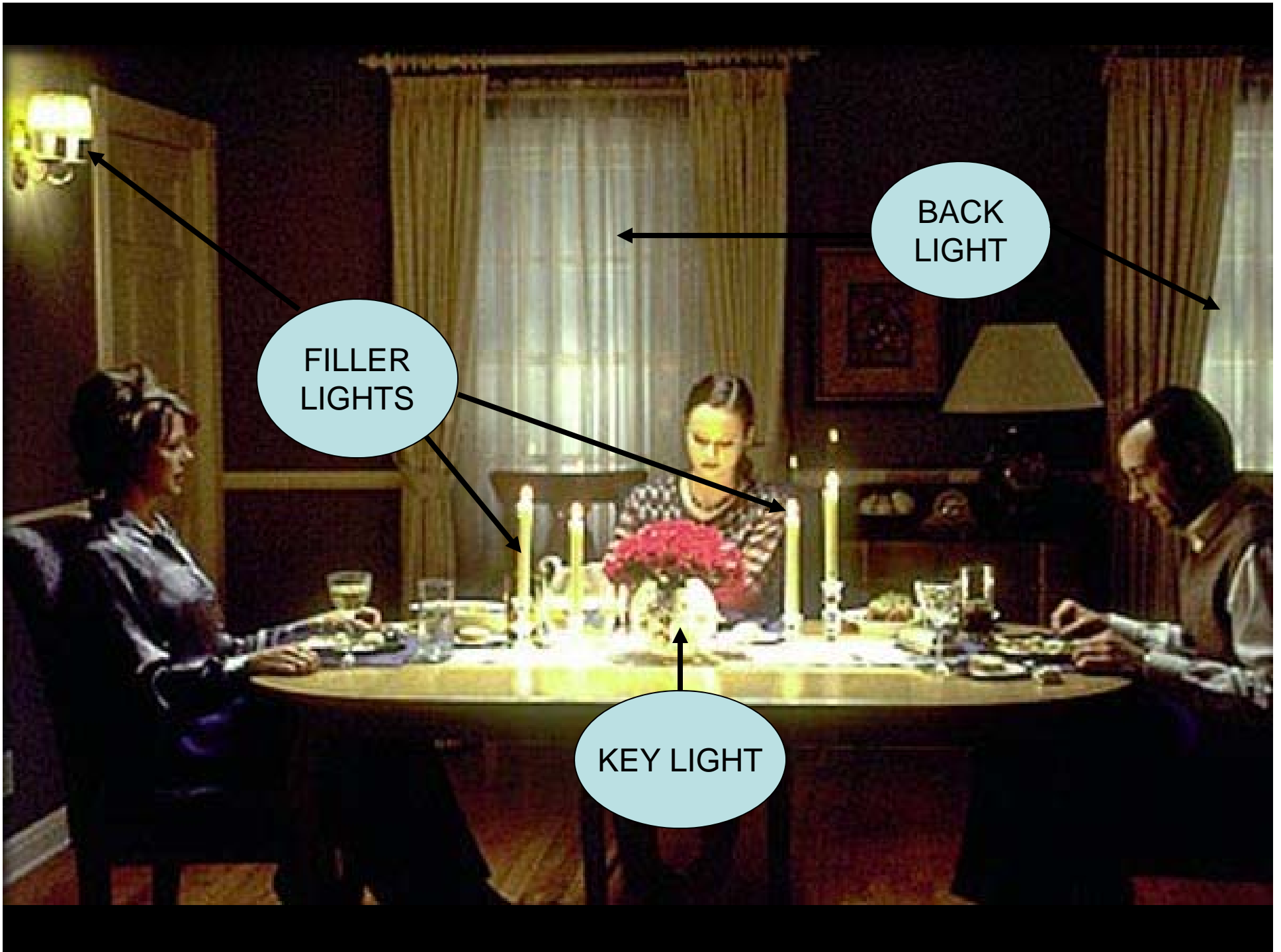
- Color carries certain connotations which may add meaning to a scene
- It can give a scene a particular look, feel or mood
- It may also be used for dramatic effect



# Lighting

- **Three Point Lighting:** the standard lighting scheme
- Key Light – the main light source; used to highlight the subject
- Back Light – used to make the subject stand out from the background
- Fill Light – used to remove most of the shadows created by the key light





FILLER  
LIGHTS

BACK  
LIGHT

KEY LIGHT



# Types of Lighting

## HIGH KEY LIGHTING

- More filler lights are used. Lighting is natural and realistic to our eyes
- Produces brightly lit sets or a sunny day (right)

Example: Rom-Coms



# Types of Lighting

## LOW KEY LIGHTING

- Created by using mostly key & back lights
- Produces sharp contrasts of light and dark areas
- Deep, distinct shadows/silhouettes are formed



Example: Horror Films

# What types of lighting are used in the following images:

