

Subject research

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2:38 PM

Documentary modes and styles

Observational documentary-

Observational documentary is a style of film that captures real world events and people without interference from the film maker and crew. An observational documentary typically has no interviews, narration or any staged moments. Observational documentary is believed to have originated in the 1960s when camera gear became small enough to be easily mobile with. Observational documentary aims to show truth and is separated from opinion or narrative, this allows the viewer to come up with their own thoughts and conclusion without any help from the film makers. Weido suggests that "There are no interviews and no voiceovers - everything is as if you were watching events happen in real-time. The filmmaker is "not" there. Everything should be happening organically." (Hrbacek, 2022)

For this style of documentary the equipment is usually minimal so it doesn't disturb the subjects, all that is needed are hand held cameras so that the film makers can follow their subjects. Equipment such as tripods and mikes can be used if the film maker feels that they are necessary.

Poetic documentary-

Poetic documentary is a style that uses rhythm, mood and visual association to create a film that is an emotional experience. This style aims to push the viewer's emotions rather than state facts or put a point across to the viewer. Master class articles states that " Breaking from standard editing rules, poetic documentaries are avant-garde in that they aren't concerned with maintaining continuity from scene to scene. Instead, the editing goal is to emphasize rhythm, composition, and shot design to create visuals that show the viewer the world through a new point of view." (Masterclass, 2020)

I believe that my film will need to take parts from both styles of documentary. My film will need to be observational as my subjects are also working, getting in their way might disturb their work flow and could be quite dangerous as they are working heavy machinery and hot tarmac. The client has also told me that they don't want to do any interviews and for there to be no narrating. This allows me to focus on the rhythm of the film and the shot design.

Montage and editing approach

Montage editing-

Montage editing is a film technique that uses short shots moving or still edited together to create a sequence. Montage editing allows the film maker to condense a lot of information into a small film. Film makers often use this style of editing to pass a large amount of time in a film, a good example of this is at the beginning of the movie "UP". Studio binder states that "Montages can create some of the most memorable scenes in a film because of their unique ability to communicate vast amounts of information in a shorter amount of time." (Deguzman, 2020)

Visual rhythm and pacing-

Visual rhythm and pacing is very important as it controls the flow, improves storytelling, and maintains the viewer's engagement. With my project I want to show the satisfying work of these builders but also show off how hard their line of work really is. I would like to start my film with a slow pace, and then get straight into the action sequence of them actually doing the work. The pacing of them hard at work should be fast and be filled with small shots of them doing multiple different tasks such as; spreading the tarmac, filling their wheel barrows, and rolling over the tarmac to compress it. Lotter had explains that "Action in screenplay sequences can

over the tarmac to compress it. Jettie pad explains that "Action in screenplay sequences can involve anything from car chases and gunfights to hand-to-hand combat and explosions. These scenes are typically high stakes and fast-paced, designed to keep the audience on the edge of their seats." (Nair, 2023). I aim to take this same idea and use it in my film purely to show my audience the hard work, time, and effort that the clients are putting into every job. My film will end with a slower pace and rhythm to show off the beauty of the final product.

Close up and macro cinematography-

Close up are shots often used to show emotion, detail whilst macro shots are an extreme version of this often used to get the most detail possible for smaller subjects. I will be using close up shots particularly at the end of my film to show off the precision of the builders work.