## Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

# Calling the Shots

## Supporting Materials

Oide
YiFM Young Irish Film Makers
CC BY NC

## Notes

# Camera, Action!



Whole group

15 minutes

## Description

This warm-up activity focuses on using film language and physical movement together to help develop group cohesion and cultivate creativity.

## Method

- The facilitator (Director) asks the participants to walk the space. The facilitator will then call out a prompt (camera movement) and the whole group will physically respond:

**Pan** – slowly turn your body left/right.
**Tilt** – look/move up and down.
**Zoom in** – take small steps towards someone.
**Zoom out** – move backwards.
**Tracking shot** – walk alongside another person.
**Freeze frame** – freeze instantly.

- **Change the mood:** Call out emotions or genres — *horror, comedy, action, romance, documentary*. Participants change the way they move to match.
- **Director:** Choose one participant to be the "director." They call out combinations such as **"Horror + zoom in!"** or **"Action + Tracking shot!"**

## Extension

**Final challenge:** Call **"Scene!"** and give everyone 10 seconds to create a frozen tableau representing a prompt such as '*The moment everything goes wrong.'*

## My Notes/My Reflections



CC BY NC

# Setting the Scene



Whole group | 30 minutes | Screen to view

## Description

A collaborative film analysis activity that introduces participants to the key elements of film language through discussion, clip viewing, and group feedback.

## Preparation for facilitation

Film clips and guiding questions.

## Method

Introduction to Film Language

To identify the core elements of film language:

1. Lighting
2. Sound
3. Shot type
4. Camera angle
5. Camera movement

**Small Group Discussion**

In small groups, participants share a memorable scene from a film.

Each participant should briefly explain:

- What happens in the scene
- Why they chose it
- Which elements of film language are used effectively

**Whole Class Viewing**

The class will sit in a semi-circle to watch a selected film clip together.

While viewing the clip, pay attention to:

- How lighting creates mood or atmosphere
- Use of sound and music
- Different shot types and angles
- Camera movement and its effect on the audience

**Whole Group Feedback and Discussion**

After viewing, participants share observations with the whole group.

Together, identify and discuss the different elements of film language used in the clip and how they help communicate meaning and emotion.



CC BY NC

# View to Create



Whole group | 15 minutes | Screen to view

## Description

This approach can be used when viewing and responding to film clips as part of the critical response process.

## Preparation for facilitation

Film clips and guiding questions.

## Method

In this method, view the film clip three times.

- First watch: to enjoy the clip.
- Second watch: to observe with a focus, for example, the framing and shots.
- Third watch: use the camera equipment to recreate one shot or angle that you chose from the clip.

## Extension

The facilitator asks the participants to consider the impact of using a different camera angle or shot for the same sequence.

## My Notes/My Reflections



CC BY NC

# Focus the Lens



Small groups

30 minutes




Guiding Prompt Cards

## Description

This creative process activity introduces participants to the imagining and conceptualising stage of the filmmaking process.

## Preparation for facilitation

Film clips for inspiration/influence ideas.
Guiding prompt cards.
Organise whole group into smaller groups.

## Method

Participants will need to have critically responded to a range of film clips. They will use these clips as inspiration to begin developing an idea for their own film sequence/short film idea.

**Part 1: Individual Reflection and Idea Development**

Individually, respond to the following prompt questions. Participants may respond in different ways: including written notes, sketches, mood boards, images, diagrams, or keywords.
Guiding Prompt Cards:

- What ideas do you have for your film?
- What has inspired you and why?
- What genre could this film be and why?
- Is there a particular style for your film?
- What form will this film take?
- How will you demonstrate your practical filmmaking choices?
- Have you considered using a particular time period or setting for this film?

**Part 2: Sharing Ideas**

Each participant shares their initial ideas with the group.
As a group:

- Discuss the different concepts presented.
- Identify common ideas, styles or influences.
- Consider how the film clips have inspired your ideas.

**Part 3: Group Concept Development**

Working together, agree on one concept for a film sequence.



CC BY NC

# Feedback Frame: Glow and Grow



Whole group

8-10 minutes

## Description

This activity supports participants to give feedback and to help individuals or groups to move the learning forward.

## Method

- When presenting work or creative ideas, participants can use this frame to gather feedback on their work or ideas.
- Participants take turns to tell each other something using the sentence frame.

**Glow** One aspect of this work that really worked well was…because…

**Grow** One aspect of this work that we think you might like to consider is…because…

**My Notes/My Reflections**



CC BY NC

## Storyboard Template

**Title:**

**Scene:**













**BREAKDOWN SHEET : # _____ Page Count: _____ Date: _____**
**Prod Company: _____**
**Project Title: _____**
**Scene #: _____ Scene Name: _____ INT/EXT: _____ DAY/NIGHT: _____**
**Description: _____**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **CAST:** | **PROPS:** | **WARDROBE:** |
| | | **MUSIC/SOUND EFFECTS:** |
| **SPECIAL EFFECTS:** | **EXTRAS/SILENT:** | |
| | **EXTRAS/ATMOSPHERE:** | |

| MAKEUP/HAIR: | VEHICLES/ANIMALS: | STUNTS: |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |

**SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:**

**PRODUCTION NOTES:**

# Production Sheet

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Production *(Title)* :** | | **Date:** |
| **Genre:** | | |
| **Reference Material:** | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Director:** | |
| **1st Assistant Director:** | |
| **Camera:** | |
| **Sound:** | |
| **Clapper:** | |

| No. | Shot Type | Description | Location | Cast |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
| 4 | | | | |
| 5 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |

# Reflection:
# Looking Back, Looking Forward



Whole group

15 minutes

### Description

This activity supports participants to reflect as individuals (or groups) on their ongoing work.

### Method

- Participants take a moment to respond to each of the following questions.
  The reflective prompts focus on what has been completed so far and look forward to the next steps in their work.



Looking back: how did I contribute to the making of the film sequence today?



Looking forward: What do I need to consider for tomorrow's film shoot?

**My Notes/My Reflections**



CC BY NC

# Reflection: Press Pause



Whole group

15 minutes

## Description

This reflection activity can be used by a group (or individual) when reflecting on the progress of the developing work.

## Method

Use the honeycomb sections on the graphic organiser to respond to the following questions:

1. How is our filming progressing?
2. Do we need to make any changes for the afternoon?
3. What surprised me/emerged during the filming?
4. Are things going according to plan?
5. Have we implemented unplanned changes during filming?
6. How might I document my progress and learning so far during filming?

## Extension

Graphic organiser may be edited to focus of the reflection to other aspects of the developing work.

## My Notes/My Reflections



CC BY NC

**Choose one section on the honeycomb to respond to each of the following:**

How is our filming progressing?

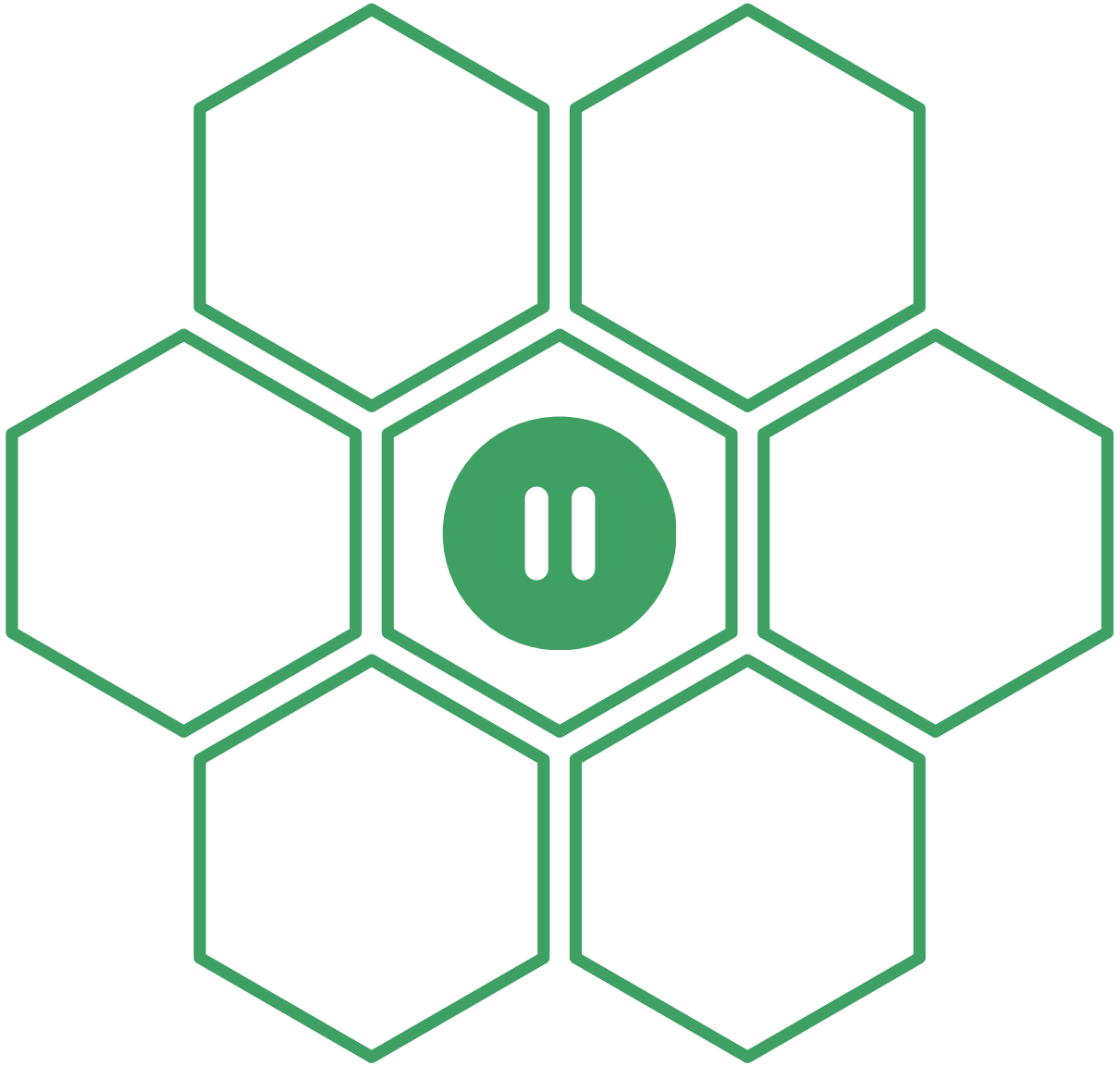
Do we need to make any changes for the afternoon?

What surprised me/emerged during the filming?

Are things going according to plan?

Have we implemented unplanned changes during filming?

How might I document my progress and learning so far during filming?



## Notes