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CONCEPT GUIDE #2: CINEMATOGRAPHY

Academy Ratio: An aspect ratio of 1.33:1, or 4:3, used in films until the 1950s, and still standard in (pre-digital) television.

Aspect Ratio: The width-to-height ratio of the film frame.

Canted Frame: Framing that is on a diagonal instead of level.

Close-up: Framing that is very close to the subject, and shows details (e.g. when someone's face fills the screen).

Crane Shot: A shot taken from a camera mounted on a crane (shot, therefore, from above, and capable of moving through space).

Deep Focus: A focus in which multiple distances from the camera are all equally in focus.

Depth of Field: The range or distance before or behind the main focus of a shot in which things remain in focus.

Dolly Shot: A kind of **tracking shot** in which the camera is moved on a dolly, instead of on tracks.

Extreme Close-up: Framing that is so tight and close to the subject that a detail much smaller than a face (e.g., an eye, or a small object) fills the frame.

Extreme Long Shot: Framing at such a distance that the human figures are dwarfed by the background or surroundings.

Following Shot: A **tracking shot** that follows a character.

Handheld Shot: A shot taken by someone actually carrying the camera, resulting in a somewhat jerky image.

High Angle: A shot directed at a downwards angle.

Long Shot: Framing at such a distance that we see an object or person together with their surroundings.

Long Take: A shot of relatively long duration.

Low Angle: A shot directed at an upwards angle.

Medium Close-up: Framing at such a distance that we see an actor's head and shoulders.

Medium Long Shot: Framing at such a distance that we see an actor's entire body.

Medium Shot: Framing at such a distance that we see the body of an actor from the waist up.

Overhead Shot: A shot from high above the scene.

Pan: The camera is not moved, but rotates left or right.

Point-of-View Shot: A shot that replicates the point of view of a character in the film.

Rack Focus: Changing the focus within a single shot. (Also called **pulled focus**).

Reframing: Moving the camera during a shot in order to keep moving persons or objects centered in the frame.

Sequence Shot: A long take in which an entire scene, or an entire complex action, is shown in one continuous take.

Shallow Focus: A focus in which only one part of the shot, at a particular distance from the camera is in focus, and things closer or further away are not in focus.

Take: Everything contained within a single shot.

Tilt: The camera is not moved, but rotates up or down.

Tracking Shot: The camera itself moves, often literally along a track. (Also called **traveling shot**).

Zoom: The camera changes its focal length, without actually moving, in order to close in on a distant object (zoom-in) or to pull away from it (zoom-out).