screenplay

where we get stories or idea

- **News Paper**
- **Books**
- **Own Life**
- **Autography**
- **Film**
- **People Talk**
- **Every Were**

Types of Stories

- **Character driven**
  - Focuses on people and what happens to them
- **Plot driven**
  - Focuses on events

What is a screenplay?

- **A screenplay (or script)** is a complete description of an entire movie.
- It is the **basic plan** that everyone follows to make a movie from start to finish.
- **A screenplay** is an example of creative writing.

In Screenplay

there is :-

- Information about the Characters
- Dialogue and Actions of the Characters
- Locations
- Props
- Camera Angles

- In Script World
  - 1 page = 1 minute
- A Feature Length Script is 120 pages
  - 120 pages = 120 minutes

5 stages of scriptwriting process

- Synopsis
- Treatment
- Scene Outline
- Master Script
- Shooting Script

Synopsis

- One Paragraph Long
- Brief Summary of the Story
- It Is supposed to:-
  - **Give Enough Information**
  - **Not too Much**
  - **End with a Hook**

Treatment

- A longer summary of the story
- It is written in prose (essay format)
- No dialogue
- Average length for a feature length script treatment is 20 - 25 pages

Scene Outline

- **A list of scenes in cronological order**
- **helps the screenwriter visualized the story**
- **helps the screenwriter workout problems with the story**

Master script

- The script is the blue print of film
- It is written by either a screenwriter or director could olso be the screenwriter
- It should not contain camera direction
- It focus is only on story, charactor & the Action

Shooting script

- It is the visual interpritation of the master script
- It is written by the director
- It contains camera direction

Elements Of Screenplay

1. Setting
2. Character
3. Conflicts
4. Plot
5. Dialogue
6. Theme

Setting

- **It refers to *time, place* and *social realities* of the play, film, fiction. There is three main setting contexts.**

1. **Historical context:-** It involves *cultural, social, economic* and *political* events of the play/movie…It shows the social realities rather than the place and time of the play.
2. **Topographical context:-** The general and specific place of the play
3. **Natural context:-** It shows the night and day, summer and winter of seasons.

- Generally it shows the general and specific time of the play.

Setting....

A. Natural setting

- Topographical /place/ and seasonal/time/ events of the nature.

Example earth, oceans, days and night, winter and summer.

B. Creative/ literary/ setting

- It is specific and selected setting.
- The *author select the* world, time and place for his/her/ characters.
- He/she explain and introduce *his or her established world.*

Setting…can be also classified as

1. **General setting:-** It includes General place setting and General time setting.

Example ;- *Centuries, years, seasons, months, weeks could be general time setting….Planets continents, countries and towns could be general place setting*

2. **Specific setting:-** it refers to a small unite of place setting and time setting.

Examples:-

- *Weeks, days, hours, minutes, mornings, night, half days, rainy, cloudy, sunny is specific time setting.*
- *Salon, sleeping room, meal room, veranda, road etc. could be specific place setting.*

Place Setting based on the physical area of production, can be also categorized as

- ***Internal setting;-*** *in door or box setting. E.g. salon, inside the building.*
- ***Exterior setting:-*** *outdoor setting. E.g. on the road, veranda*
- ***Bar setting:-*** *we know the place from the characters' dialogue.*
- ***Special setting;-*** *It is built to establish special, unique setting.*

Charactor

- **A character** is a person created for a work of fiction. It could be… human beings, animals, spirits, ideas in the creative story.
- **Characterization:-** The process of developing characters.

Characterize characters ***directly* or *Indirectely***.

- **Direct characterization:-** The narrator or a character summarize or tells the reader what another character looks like or what kind of person he or she is.
- **Indirect Characterization:-** a writer shows rather than tells, allowing the reader to infer (draw conclusion about) the nature of a character.

There are *four/4/ types* of characterization

1. **Physical characterization:-** physical appearance of characters. Example:- short, tall, fatty, age, sex, dressing
2. **Social characterization:- it refers** Educational background, Marital status, ,Wealth/richness and poorness/, Skill, job religion of the characters of the play.
3. **Psychological characterization:- refers** Interests, Hopes, Love and hate feelings Emotions, Thoughts

- It has potential to create suspense in the play; because of this it seems like the best way of characterization.

4. **Moral characterization**:- super ego, extreme need of respects

- It preaches moral and ethics to the extreme/ highs degree/

kinds of character

- **Major Characters**
  - **protagonist** and **antagonist** characters

Protagonist:

main character (see also **antagonist**)

Sympathy is the feeling of love, attachment and attractiveness

Antagonist:

- The character or force in conflict with the protagonist (see also **protagonist**)
- who stands on the goals of protagonist oppositely.
- Empathy feeling is the feeling of hate, detachment.

- **Minor characters**
  - Most of the time the protagonist has a partner or one or two friends. .
  - Sometimes the foil provides comic reliefs.

Round Character: A complex, fully developed character, often prone to change

Flat Character: A one-dimensional character, typically not central to the story

Stock Character: A stereotypical or symbolic character already familiar to audiences

stereo typed Character :- Represents a category of people. Example;- the dump athlete, the nagging wife, the absent minded professor.

Arch typal characters:- have the same /one/ dream, need, obstacle, threat, goal in common.

- **Active charactors:-** change their personality because of the happenings or events in the plot of the play.
- **Static characters:-** unchanged throughout the whole play.

Conflicts

Conflict;-

- ***External conflict***

Character VS nature

Character VS environment

Character VS character

Character VS social/society/

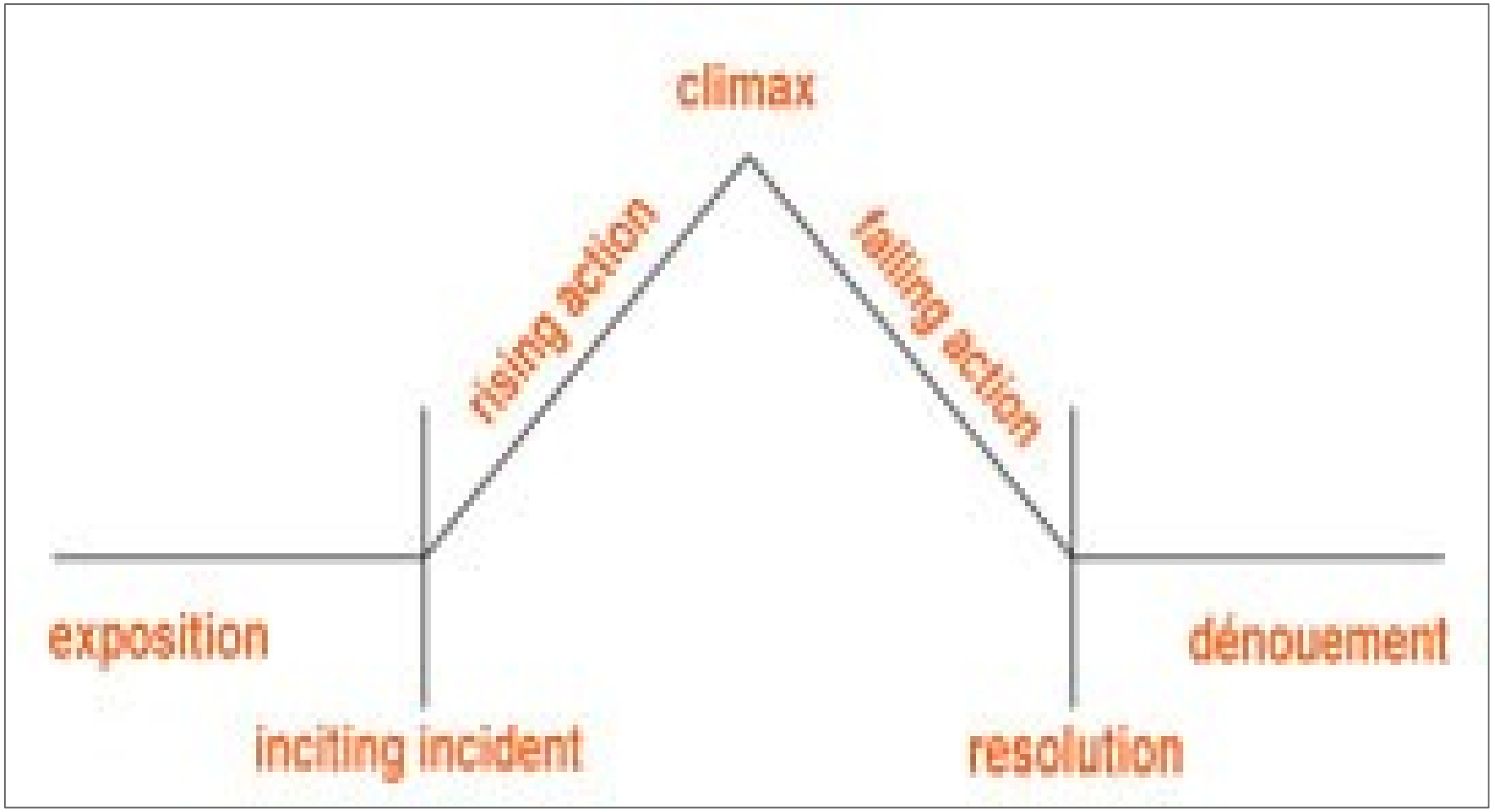
Internal conflict

self- conflict/the conflict with your thinking and needs/

Plot

- **Refers to the mechanics of story telling, including the**
- cause and effect of each event.
- Sequence of entrance and exit of characters.
- The time table of events of the play
- Actions and reactions of the story
- It is the causal sequence of events.

Plot structure



1. Introduction/ Exposition

- provides background information about the characters
- starts the narrative, or chain of events.
- Explain relationships of the characters, the mood of the play the setting of the play etc.

2. Inciting Incident

- something happens to begin the action.
- A single event usually signals the beginning of the main conflict.
- The inciting incident is sometimes called 'the complication'.

3. Raising Action

- a movement toward the central issue
- the events in the story become complicated

4. Climax:-

- turning point in the story
- It is the point of greatest tension.

5. Falling Action:- The point where conflicts begin to solve.

6. Resolutions:- Conclusion in which any loose ends are tied and the conflict is resolved.

7. Dénouement

- *(a French term, pronounced: day-noo-moh)* the ending.

Types of Plot

Strong plot

- It characterizes the characters strongly. It gives a clear cause and effects for each action of the characters' dialogue, movement.
- The time and place change of the story should not raise a question why?

Loose plot:-

- The characters can appear and disappear simply without any reason.

Single plot:-

- It could be strong plot or loose plot.

Double plot;-

possible to call as ***major plot*** and ***minor plot.*** It can be strong and loose plot. It is the opposite of single plot.

Plot less plot;-

- Its story is not full.
- It is poor to attract the attention of audiences

Dialoge

- speaking and responding of words among two and above characters.
- write in three different ways/ forms/. These are
  - In poem form
  - In verse form
  - In poem and verse form
- Dialogue mostly indicates conflict of the play.
- It could be generates from the integration of conflicts, actions, characters and settings.

Dialogue should be

1. ***Clear :-*** it should *not create confusion*, *ambiguity*. Simplicity/not complicate/, *Shortness*,*Expressiveness.*
2. ***Natural:-*** speak like the real people.

- The dialogue should come from the internal feeling of the characters.

3. ***Appropriate:-*** The dialogue should be contextual according to the characters job, skill, education, back ground, knowledge.

- Dialogue should come from the internal nature of the characters, not from the interest or willing of the writer/author/

Function of Dialogue

- Introduce the setting of the play.
- Complicating, progressing the plots, conflicts and stories.
- Characterize the characters.
- Showing the internal interests, feelings and needs of characters.

Theme

- Theme is the central message of the play
- the governing idea of a play.
- It can be extracted from plot, character, dialogue or setting.
- Based on message of the play, theme can be categorized as ***Major theme*** and ***Minor theme***

Universal theme

- The common features of human beings regardless of their *nationality, color, and ethnicity; such as love, revenge, hostility, hope, fate, basic needs.*
- It is trans-boundary and not timely bounded.

Local theme

N*ot Trans boundary as universal theme.*

Example; a play with subject matter of female genital mutilation may be get acceptance and could be understood in Ethiopia but may not in America.

The Three Acts

- **Act 1**
  - **Introduces characters and establishes the conflict that makes up the story. Act 1 ends with the catalytic moment.**

Act 2

- Explores the consequences of the catalytic moment. What happens to everyone as a result? Complications?

Act 3

- Tells what finally happens. Resolves any loose ends. We understand what the movie is about.