

FILM APPRECIATION

HUM 2003

Instructor: Dan May

Class Time Wed 5:30-8:20 PM

Office: 109 Office Hours: Posted on MY office door

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<http://www.goodgravydesign.net>

<http://www.saumag.edu/art/dm>

Assignment for Honors Students:

GOAL:

Create a film in Noir style.

No less than three minutes in length.

Must have no less than two characters, and have a plot line with a visible transition from intro, to denouement, to conclusion.

PARAMETERS:

The screenplay must be original but

the story may be adapted or derivative of another.

Lighting, characters (ala femme fatale), Aspect ratio and sets must be created to reflect the period when noir was popular...1940s-50s

SOME REFERENCES:

For inspiration, besides the work done by John Huston's "The Maltese Flacon" that we watched in class you might want to considerFor your screenplay: Short stories in a recent book entitled "PULP."

Another source are old radio programs of the thirties, forties and fifties.

<http://www.oldtimeradiofans.com/>

Or...a modern look is the 2005 movie "BRICK" starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

The movie's tone can be comedic in nature but the style must remain "noir" in appearance.

Comedic references :

Steve Martin's "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid" 1982

Graphic Novelist:

Frank Miller's "Sin City"

Remember the work of the German Expressionists and the camera work of:

Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane."

Their use of extreme angles and dynamic camera work can set the tone of your characters as they enter a scene.

POINTERS

Keep it simple.

Live action is not a necessary requisite.

You may interpret you characters in whatever fashion you feel meets or exceed the requirements. (Puppets, animation??...maybe??)

As possibilities:

Dialogue:

There need not be any dialogue in order for the piece to be successful.

(though a lot of "period" banter is always fun to listen to, and is not a bunch of hooley.)

Think in terms of silent films and/or the movie "WALL-E" in terms of their

success in conveying a mood and a story with the minimum amount of spoken text.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADES

All students in the troupe must contribute in some fashion and must appear in the final credits as actors, set designers, directors or whatever.

All students will be given an evaluation sheet at the end of the production to assess the contributions of the other members of the troupe.

You will be given two grades. One will be based on the resulting movie and the other will be an average based on the assessment given to you by your peers. Cooperative collaboration is necessary in every artistic endeavor, so I imagine that compromise, and a fair amount of give and take will be necessary in order to complete the assignment along with your imagination. Play to your strengths. Keep it simple and do not overtax your capabilities.

Any technical or critical assistance, I will be at your disposal as schedules permit.