

# Lecture 1

## Fundamental premise of scriptwriting

- Writing not to be read, but to be made.
- Script is fundamental to the process of making a movie, video, or any type of visual programme.

# *What is visual writing?*

- Writing and thinking with images that the audience will see, rather than words they will read.
- A scriptwriter has to invent a visual sequence that will condense background and action in such a way as to advance a story.
- Meta-writing → the visual idea that makes the content work for a given medium.
- → it is usually embodied in the written creative concept.

## *Describing sight and sound.*

- Writing a script involves describing what the eyes see through the camera lens and what the ears hear on the audio track.
- What the camera sees is always in the present. The description of what the camera sees is always in the **present tense.**

- The first decision as a scriptwriter is to imagine whether we see the scene from the interior looking out or the scene as an exterior.
- → use abbreviation **INT** (interior), or **EXT** (exterior).
- Next, describe where the action is taking place.
  - E.g. (street or living room)
- Then, decide what time it is.
  - E.g. (day or night)
- These 3 pieces of info are arranged in a well-recognised sequence called a **slug line**,

e.g.     INT           LIVING ROOM       DAY

# *Genres and themes*

- Genre: French word → “type” or “class” of things.
- Love and romance
  - Deals with romantic conflicts faced by lead characters and how they overcome those obstacles.

- Jeopardy and survival
  - Centres on life-and-death situation.
- Vengeance
  - Usually deal with lead characters who personally seek revenge for some wrong doing.

- Success and achievement
  - In story pattern lead character needs to achieve something at all cost.
- Search and quest
  - Centres on the notion of a person trying to find something of great importance.

Group and family ties

- Group and family ties
  - a group of characters who normally would have nothing to do with each other but circumstances bring them together in a story.
- Fantasy
  - Lead characters become “whole” as a result of their fantasy experience.

- Return

- Characters may have to confront the sudden reappearance of someone or something from the past.