Emmanuel Vazquez

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Lesson 6 - Camera Movement

One of my most favorite camera movements, that I enjoy using in all my projects, is the dolly zoom. One of my favorite genres to shoot is horror films or action packed films, with the dolly zoom technique I can make the audience feel uneasy and it’s a fairly easy way to express the sense of suspense building up or a realization happening. Some of my favorite directors, such as James Wan, use this movement so much and it never seizes to amaze me how good it works. We can see this in ‘The Conjuring’, ‘The Conjuring 2’, and even ‘Annabelle’.

Another camera movement that I also enjoy using handheld. I like the experience and the feeling that the audience gets when they watch a fight or battle scene shot with a handheld movement. I have caught myself dodging at times as well and feeling as I am in the scene, this was one of the first camera movements I learned to master as well, and I enjoy doing it when there is a lot of action in scenes. It allows the viewer feel more connected and also bring more energy instead of just a steadicam or a stationary camera movement. We can see the handheld techniques in movies such as ‘Saving Private Ryan’ and other war based movies.

The last, but not least, of my favorite camera movements is the drone or aerial shot. In every single one of my projects I have been able to apply this movement in technique in. From drone shots of a city, to of animals in their natural habitat, these always add an aspect of aw in the minds of the viewer. We can see aerial shots such as ‘Planet Earth’ and many other nature documentaries.