

Film Connection Quiz 4

1. Explain the problem with only "writing what you know". How will you, as the screenwriter, go about creating stories that exist outside your realm of experience?

Writing what you know limits your perspective and will bore the audience quickly. One can create stories that exist outside your realm of experience by talking to new people consistently, watching movies, reading books, observing people. Ask yourself "what if?".

2. Explain what makes a fantastical story believable.

The human element. As long as a story has characters whose motivations and choices can resonate with the audience, it will be exciting them for watch, no matter how fantastical the scenario may be.

3. What tools are needed to write "believable" characters?

Basic human emotions, understanding what type of people your characters are. Make them full of contradictions, as people are in real life. No character can always be good or bad.

4. How do you move a story idea beyond simple spectacle?

Make sure that every second in the story is leading to some kind of conflict or resolution. Make sure your characters can connect well with the audience.

5. What ingredients are necessary to create a compelling story?

Portraying the motivations behind the characters actions, showing some kind of desire or need. This desire can be just about anything.

6. Explain the difference between the "inner" and "outer" focus of a story.

Outer focus of a story tends to be the dramatic irony. It is what is clear in the actions and dialogues of the characters to the audience, but not to the characters themselves. The inner focus of a story is how you arrange its elements to drive the story to some kind of resolution.

7. What is the biggest mistake beginning writers make? Why is it a problem?

The biggest mistake amateur writers make is that they write it like a novel. Its a problem because to robs other people of having a say in their job on the movie, like costume designers, set designers, DP's etc. It makes the process less collaborative.

8. What are the structural elements of a script?

A script should have a first, second and third act, not necessarily in that order. The important elements in the script are the characters, plot, setting, time, dialogue, pace etc.

9. Why is it important to predict Hollywood's upcoming trends?

So that you can set them yourself and make yourself unique amongst an enormous pool of talent.

10. Describe what a synopsis should entail.

A synopsis should just have the main story of the film, without any of the particulars like scenes and dialogues.

11. What is "creative discipline? Why is it important?

Its the ability to regularly make time for working on your story. It's just like the discipline you need to go to the gym or build any other new healthy habits. It's important because without it your story will just be an idea in your head and not something that you'll be able to show to the world.