Fictional Narrative Component

Week 1: Story Structure for Directors and Directing Actors

Part One
Short Films: What are they? “Free Pie”, “Ten Steps”
Job of Director? “Story Structure for Directors”
“Why Is Subtext So Important?” Clip/Judith Weston
Introduction to “Beats” – Clip/“No Country For Old Men”

Part Two
“Emotional Events” and “Directing Actors” - Clip/Judith Weston
Intro to “99 Film Scenes For Actors,” by Angela Nicholas, published by Avon Books – Handout

Casting…What are we looking for? And how do we look?
Clip: Ricky Gervais on the “real” David Brent
Practical demonstration of casting process with Student assistant.
(Camera, tripod, lights)

Homework: Handout Script Analysis sheet and read Ch. 7 & 8 of Directing Actor. During the week, students choose a scene and begin casting their scenes.

Week 2: Script Analysis, Rehearsal Breakdown and Shot design

Part One
Discussion of BASIC Rehearsal Breakdown/Playable Direction
Clip: Michael Mann on filmmaking Part 1
Clip: On The Waterfront – Playground Scene
Result direction / Emotional Events / “What do we Do?”
(Cold Read, Questions, Physical Space & Objects, Given Circumstances, Obstacles, Objectives, Actions (Negotiation, Fighting or Seduction) Adjustments (As If – What If), Improv. based on script)

Clip: Mike Leigh – Youtube “On making a script-less film”
Over-view of Script Analysis based on Basic Chart
Students present scene analysis / Class Questions
" 10 minutes Director 1
" 10 minutes Director 2
" 10 minutes Director 3

Part Two
Clip: Quentin Tarantino On Making Movies
Where to Put the Camera / Building Emotional Relationships /Shot by Shot Design – The 180 Degree Rule -- Part One
Staging Dialogue Sequences – Performance/Staging/Camera/Editing
BASIC Handout - Shot by Shot / Position One to Five
Students present scene analysis
" 10 minutes Director 4
" 10 minutes Director 5
" 10 minutes Director 6

*Homework: during week students break down and cast their scenes, read Ch. 9 Directing Actors/Weston
{Also build overhead/shot list and find location}*

**Week 3: In Class Rehearsal [Group A], Rehearsal Breakdown, Designing Coverage**
Further Discussion of BASIC Rehearsal Breakdown/Playable Direction
Clip: Brad Pitt and Tarantino Interview Part I (YouTube)
(Cold Read, Questions, Physical Space & Objects, Given Circumstances, Obstacles, Objectives, Actions (Negotiation, Fighting or Seduction) Adjustments (As If – What If), Improv. based on script)

Part One
Director 1 in class rehearsal (30 minutes)
Class Participation
Director 2 in class rehearsal (30 minutes)
Class Participation
Director 3 in class rehearsal (30 minutes)
Class Participation

Part Two
CLIP: Examples of Film shots (YouTube)
In-Class demonstration of Basic Shot Design Presentation Part Two
Staging Stationary Actors, Staging Moving Actors, Staging Camera Movement, Staging Camera Movement & Actor Movement
Using Background/Foreground and Space of Frame
BASIC Handout – Shot by Shot / Position Six through Ten

Part Two
Presentation on Coverage Design and Intuitive Decision-Making
How to design overhead diagrams and shot lists
*Homework: first three directors shoot and edit their scenes.*

**Week 4: In Class Rehearsal [Group B], Designing Coverage**

Part One
Director 4 in class rehearsal (30 minutes)
Class Participation
Director 5 in class rehearsal (30 minutes)
Class Participation
Director 6 in class rehearsal (30 minutes)
Class Participation

Part Two
Screening of Short Film (Title TBD)
*Homework: second three directors shoot and edit their scenes.*
***All six films are cut and locked***

Week 5: Screening & Discussion of Completed Scenes, Script to Screen Presentation

Part One
20 minutes Director 1
20 minutes Director 2
20 minutes Director 3
20 minutes Director 4
20 minutes Director 5
20 minutes Director 6

Part Two
Screening Living In Oblivion / Steve Buscemi

Additional Resources