**Lighting and Visual Effects**

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*Video Clip #1 - Introduction*

Hello everyone, my name is Mark Kevin Stallman Jr. and I am here to talk to you about how lighting and visual effects should be used to visually help the audience describe the events occurring in the background and to enhance the best quality possible for one movie. Lighting and visual effects are two film editing techniques used in movies where they provide a better description for the background, to describe the action being portrayed throughout one storyline, and to bring out the personality and reaction for several movie characters during the production of a film. Even though these two film editing techniques are both used to help make the background of a film look interesting to a large audience, the one thing that everyone should keep in mind is that there are many differences between lighting and visual effects.

*Video Clip #2 - Introduction to Lighting*

Lighting is often used in films in order to include colors and texture for the background and to set up the mood for the movie characters that are involved in a film and their environment that they are surrounded in. Recording a video clip that provides the best lighting is usually done in a way where a camera operator moves all over the stage and shooting a video clip from a different angle while a lighting technician relocates the lights in order to ensure the subject is lit correctly. When it comes to recording several movie clips through the use of a video camera, setting up the lights is considered as the most time-consuming technique that is used during film production. There are five different types of lighting used to set up the mood and to provide the best colors and textures possible for the background of a film.

*Video Clip #3 - Types of Lighting used in Films*

The first type of lighting that is used during the production of a film is High-key lighting. Filmmakers usually include this type of lighting for the backgrounds of their film because it reduces the lighting ratio present in one scene and is also used to enable the audience to easily watch movie characters and whole scenes. The most common movie genres that involve the use of high-key lighting for are usually found from romantic comedies, musicals, and dramas. The qualities that are typically found from the use of high-key lighting is that it is open and bright, lacks shadows and contrast between dark and light.

In order for filmmakers to include dramatic tones and to enhance shadows for the background of a film, Low-key lighting is another type of lighting that is used during the production of a film. This type of lighting is used in a film where all the other forms of light are all dimmed out and a single small light source will only be used while recording a scene for a film. Even though filmmakers use low-key lighting in the same way as high-key lighting, the one difference is that this lighting characterizes a moody and ominous scene which creates another experience for the audience in terms of film production.

The next type of lighting that is used to produce several video clips in order to create a movie is Neutral Lighting. Most filmmakers use this type of lighting in a film to simply light one scene without highlighting or placing any significance on a certain movie character or object. The one quality that is found in the use of neutral lighting is that it corresponds between dark and bright natural lights during the recording of one video clip. The movie scenes that are typically found from the use of neutral lighting is where the movie characters perform any dangerous activates such as driving over 55 miles per hour, fighting against antagonists, and shooting other individuals with a gun.

Bottom/side lighting is another type of lighting that is used during the production of a film where filmmakers generate the illusion of giant monsters or villains. In the background of a film, Bottom/side lighting is either coming from below the subject which creates contortion of the subject or coming from the side where this type of lighting only illuminates part of the subject’s face. The best use and a classical example for this type of lighting is where a movie character holds a flashlight under his or her chin while telling scary stories.

In order for the filmmaker to provide the best highlights for a subject, the final type of lighting that is used during film production is front/rear lighting. Even though this type of lighting is constantly used in film production to direct the lights towards the face and the back of a subject, there are two differences between front-lighting and rear-lighting. Front-lighting is used in film production where the lights are placed near the camera and directs light towards the subject whereas rear-lighting is used where the lights are placed behind the subject and lights from the back. The best use for this type of lighting is when several movie characters intentionally get themselves involved in a climatic fist-fight scene.

*Video Clip #4 - Visual Effects in Video Production*

Visual effects are constantly used in a film where they involve the use of live-action footage in order to obtain a realistic feeling in the movie character’s environment. The main objective of creating visual effects in a film is to reproduce a new perspective of reality by having movie characters and certain objects performing unrealistic movements while being recorded in front of the video camera. The main goal of visual effects is to create an occurring event or a special moment that hardly exists in the real world and to fool the audience into believing the accuracy of a storyline being portrayed for one film.

Even though visual effects such as explosions, car-accidents, or many other chaotic events can be a fun film editing technique to use for a movie, they are impossible and dangerous to capture on a video camera. In the present day of film production, most filmmakers currently have actors and actresses wear computer animation suits while having the cameraman record their own movements during one movie scene. Once the cameraman finishes recording all the movements made by the subject or an object, a filmmaker can create the best visual effects from their movements through the use of computer animation. When it comes to filmmakers creating the best visual effects for one film, all the subject’s movements should be primarily executed during the post-production of a film and are always carefully planned and choreographed before and during film production.

*Video Clip #5 - In Conclusion*

After talking about the five types of lighting and how visual effects should be included in a film, everyone should have a better understanding of how both of these film editing techniques are used during the production of a film. If you have a desire to create the best movie describing the action being portrayed in one storyline or to set the best mood for the film’s background, lighting and visual effects are the two film-editing techniques that all filmmakers should keep in mind. If there was one thing that I have learned after describing how lighting and visual effects are used during film production, it is that both film editing techniques were meant to be used to show the best and worst reactions from movie characters in their environment and to make a film’s background look very interesting while being viewed in front of a large audience.

Resources Used:

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