

5 Stages of Blocking Worksheet

Based on work Erik Sean McGiven and Jim Soto

Blocking and Movement, McGiven & Scene Blocking, Soto

Audience Desire for Information

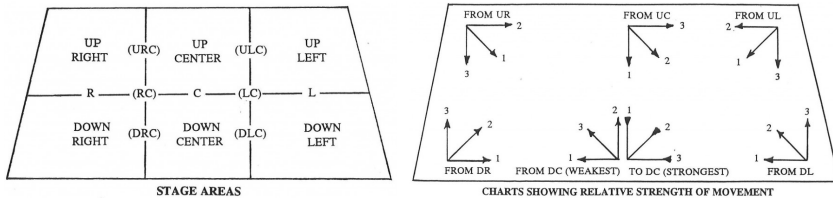
The camera is moved to almost any angle because the audience desires to get a better perspective and obtain more information

5 Important Tips When Blocking a Scene

1. Having a shot list will help you during the blocking process. The shot list is like a map; it gives you a path to your destination but you don't always have to follow it.
2. Let the actors show you what they want to do first, then, when you make a suggestion, it is based on something you have already seen.
3. Where the camera is placed is determined primarily by what is important in the scene.
4. Blocking is like a puzzle: directors need to keep working at it until the whole scene works.
5. In low budget films speed is essential, story and block some scenes so that your action takes place in one direction (to avoid turning the camera around for reverses).

1. Blocking

Deciding where the actors will be on the set and first camera position



- Walk the actors through the scene before filming it to make sure:
 - Light is adequate
 - The camera is able to get the desired focus required
- All departments are prepared for the scene to be shot:
 - Lighting – placement of the lights
 - Camera(s) – placement & movement of camera(s)
 - Sound – placement of recording device(s)
 - Actors – physical position, chemistry between actors
 - Set Design

2. Light (Three Point Lighting Technique)

Time for the DOP to light the set and position the camera for the first shot

1. Key Light - 45° to side of subject – The main light
2. Fill Light - 45° to side of subject (50% of key light) – is softer and less bright than the Key Light – often a light box is used

3. Back/Rim Light - directly behind subject (50% of key light) – adds definition and subtle highlights around the subjects outline – provides 3D look

Shoot in a way as to minimize the need to relocate lights

- Lights for scene # _____ Key ___ Fill ___ Back ___
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3. Rehearse

Camera rehearsal of the first set-up with the actors and crew

Table Read

- 1st read through
 - Emotion & dramatics added to voice
- 2nd read through
 - Emotion & dramatics added to voice
- 3rd read through
 - Emotion & dramatics added to voice

Rehearse on Set (Should be quick to keep actors fresh)

- Read through lines
- Block the scene

4. Adjustments

Making lighting and other adjustments

Fine tune:

- Lights (if changes are made, must review for scene to scene consistency)
- Camera work
- Acting
- Other _____

5. Shoot

Shooting the first scene (then repeat the process)

- Preparing from the shooting script
- Make sure shooting script is clear and concise
- Make sure camera support material is ready to go

Camera Support

- Crane
- Dolly
- Stabilizer
- Hand-held

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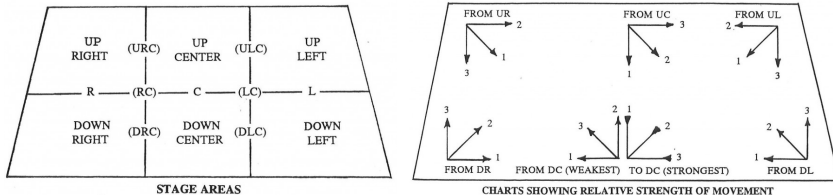
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