

As you read, check you understand all the film related vocabulary **in bold**.

The Genre

There are so many different kinds of films and we each have our preferences which may change according to our mood or even the time of day. Below are a list of the classic genres:

<i>Romantic Comedy</i>	<i>Comedy</i>	<i>Crime/Gangster</i>	<i>Musical</i>
<i>Action</i>	<i>Horror</i>	<i>Drama</i>	<i>Adventure</i>
<i>Science Fiction</i>	<i>Biopic</i>	<i>Epic/Historical</i>	<i>Fantasy</i>
<i>Animation</i>	<i>Thriller</i>	<i>Documentary</i>	<i>Romance</i>
<i>Period Drama</i>	<i>Film Noir</i>	<i>Western</i>	<i>War</i>

- 🎧 Which genres do you generally prefer and which do you avoid? Why?
- 🎧 If you were to make your own film, what genre would it be? Why?

The Cast & Crew

If you ever bother to watch all **the credits** that roll by at the end of a film, you'll appreciate just how many people are involved in making a movie from the writing to **the release**, especially a **blockbuster**.

Here are some of the key roles involved in film making:

<i>The Producer/s</i>	<i>The actors/actresses</i>	<i>Special effects/CGI</i>
<i>The Director</i>	<i>Film score writer/Composer</i>	<i>Editors</i>
<i>The Screenwriter/s</i>	<i>Camera man</i>	<i>Lighting designer</i>
<i>The Stars</i>	<i>Costume designer</i>	<i>Make-up artist</i>

- 🎧 What exactly do these people do and can you think of any other jobs in film making?
- 🎧 What element of the film industry would you be most interested in being involved in if you had the opportunity?

The Setting

The setting puts us in *a time*, past present or future, and *a place* somewhere on Earth, or far, far away in another Galaxy...

Filming **on location** means they **shoot the film** in a real place whether it's in a city or in the middle of a desert. Nowadays with CGI it's not always necessary to spend all that money on shipping your entire cast and crew out to exotic places as **sets, scenery** and **backdrops** can be replaced by **CGI (Computer Generated Imagery)** relatively easily. The actors are filmed in front of the **green screen** and then the background/props/lighting/costumes can all be added to **the footage** afterwards.

- 🎧 Are there any films that have inspired you to travel the location featured in the films? Where and why?
- 🎧 Do you notice whether or not the film location is real or CGI? Does it matter?
- 🎧 Do you know what a **continuity error** is in a film? Have you ever spotted any examples?

The Plot

The plot is the story, it's what happens in the film, usually involving various **characters**. The plot can be **adapted** from a novel, **based on** a true story, or created by the screenwriter, director or just someone with an idea. Sometimes plots are quite predictable, for example in a Romantic Comedy, where the guy and the girl are expected to overcome whatever obstacles are thrown their way to finally be brought together in a beautiful **tear-jerker** of a **happy ending**. However, some films have a **twist** where something quite unexpected happens, often near the end which has us falling off the sofa and spluttering on our popcorn in disbelief.

- 🎧 What are the ingredients for a great story?
- 🎧 Can you think of a film you have seen which has a really surprising twist at the end?
- 🎧 Have you ever watched a film which had a really disappointing ending? Why did the ending feel wrong?

The Film Score

There are very few films which don't have any kind of **soundtrack** or **incidental music** (music to accompany and enhance the ambiance of a film). It might not be something that you are aware always of as you watch a film, but a well written score will be manipulating your emotions, highlighting dramatic moments, providing comic relief or building tension.

Sometimes the director will use existing pieces of pre-recorded music, but often the music is written especially for the film. This process is very demanding for the composer who has to write to very precise timings so that the music coincides exactly with the actions in the film.

- 🎧 Can you name any famous film composers? Which directors did they work with and on which films?
- 🎧 Have you ever bought a soundtrack to a movie? Which one/s?

Sequels and Remakes

If a film becomes a great success it will often result in **sequels** – parts 2, 3, 4, maybe more to continue the story to the bitter end. These can often be a bit of a let-down as they rarely manage to maintain the originality or freshness of the first movie. Sometimes, as with *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, or the *Lord of the Rings*, the films are conceived as a set of sequels as the original set storyline is already very lengthy.

In some cases, a director or Studio will decide to make a new version, or a **'remake'** of an old classic, with the idea that new filming techniques and a fresh take might bring a new life into an old story and appeal to a younger audience. As with sequels this can be touch and go particularly when the original was a true classic, as even with all the most dazzling special effects and bright-eyed, bushy-tailed young film stars, it's difficult to recreate the magic from the first time around.

- 🎧 Are there any films you've watched where one of the sequels is better than the original?
- 🎧 Do you think remakes are worthwhile? Why?
- 🎧 Have you watched any remakes which you preferred to the original?

The Release and the Awards Ceremonies

Once it is finished, the film's **release** is normally a grand occasion with a **star-studded** guest list at the **premier** night requiring limousines and **red carpets** and of course the dreaded **film critics**, ready to write up their highly valued opinions in their newspaper columns or blogs.

Some films, if they are **critically acclaimed** or a **box office hit**, may even go on **to be nominated** for one of the awards: The Academy Awards (better known as The Oscars), the BAFTAs or perhaps the Palme d'Or... Once again, the red carpets are rolled out for the gorgeous actors and actresses who glide gracefully through the assembled press. The host's painful jokes are interspersed with gushing **acceptance speeches**, whilst the unsuccessful **nominees** watch on with plastic grins thinly disguising the pain of their disappointment.

- 🎧 Why do you think that awards ceremonies are important for the film industry?
- 🎧 What have been some recent controversies at the awards ceremonies?
- 🎧 Who would you thank in your acceptance speech?