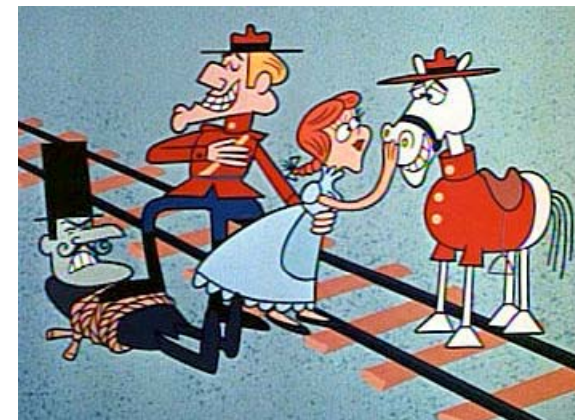


# Drama and the Movies

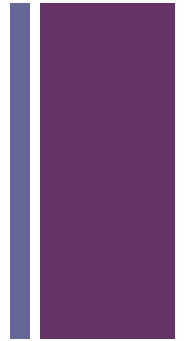
Character, Plot, Theme, and How They Do It

# + Characters

- **Protagonist:** the central character
  - caught in a conflict
  - must act
  - actions reveal character traits
- **Antagonist**
  - the villain
  - often creates conflict situation
- **Alter Ego**
  - act as support, therapy, sounding board
- **Romantic Interest**
- **Fifth Business**
  - minor character who is a catalyst, allows plot to turn or be resolved



# + Plot



- Actions of the characters
- Usually grouped into scenes
  - parataxis: scenes presented in sequence, often without transitions
- Rising and falling actions: introducing characters, complications, turning point, climax, denouement

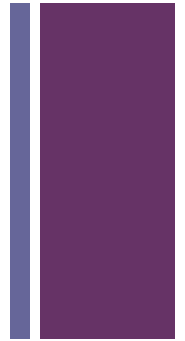
# + Theme

## ■ Ideas ...

- dramas present one or more perspectives or philosophical points of view on the human condition
- e.g. The Nostos: the Journey Home
  - The Odyssey
- e.g. The Bildungsroman: the Journey into Adulthood (Coming of Age)
  - Stand By Me

## ■ Motif ...

- a recurring pattern that points to a theme (image, music, etc.)

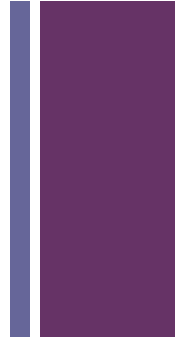


# + Writing a Movie

- Film begins with a script.
  - contains dialogue, actions, music, settings
  - can be original or rewritten from other sources
    - novels (short are best)
    - plays
    - other films
- Good films must start with a good script.



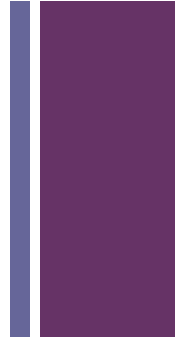
# + Acting in a Movie



- No live audience, just set technicians and director
- More intimate
  - close-ups: acting with the eyes, with slight gestures
  - more silence
  - greater range of volume in voice
- Greater demands of the modern audience for
  - authentic accents, gestures
  - physical ability e.g. stunts



# + Directing a Movie



- Director ....
  - places and directs the actors in each scene
  - collaborates with cinematographer on camera angles and lighting
  - collaborates with producer to get locations, actors, equipment, etc. required for movie scenes
  - collaborates with writers on the shooting script



# + Designing a Movie

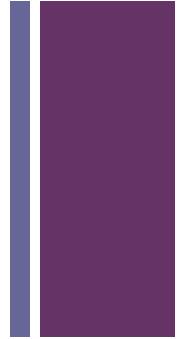


Set for “High Plains Drifter”

- Set Design ...
  - sound stages to create complete environments
  - exterior sets grander, more expensive
  - any historical time period can be created with
    - costumes
    - architecture
    - vehicles
- Locations
  - movies can travel anywhere on Earth, set the action in real places

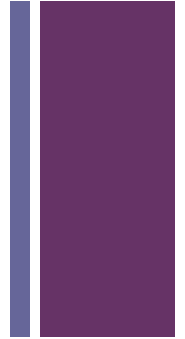


# + Editing a Movie



- Scene Sequencing
  - done after filming
  - can speed up or slow down a final cut
- Major Scenes
  - Longer
  - Establish main characters at beginning
  - Main events of plot
  - Turning point and climax scenes
- Minor scenes
  - Shorter
  - Scenes to advance plot
  - Scenes to show character
  - Transitional scenes

# + Scoring a Movie



- Music can ..
  - set a mood or theme from the beginning, identify the film in the audience's mind
  - signal a change in action, fast or slow pace of a scene
  - reinforce the mood or theme of a scene
  - identify specific characters
  - make transitions between plot elements
  - be original or borrowed

Original score by  
Henry Mancini

