**Film Terminology**

**Basic Terms**

**Shot:** an uninterrupted piece of film, without cuts.

**Scene:** a number of shots that takes place in one location dealing with one action.

**Sequence:** one or more scenes forming a coherent section of the film.

**Cut:** an immediate move from one shot to another or one scene to another.

**Mise-en-Scene:** literally means “put on screen”. This term refers to everything we see on screen including the costumes, lighting, make-up, props, etc. Using these things a film-maker can create a believable world for the characters.

**Camera Shots**

**Extreme Close-up:** A magnified image usually focussing on one part- a hand, an eye etc.

**Close Up:** A close up image normally showing all or part of the face and nothing else. Often this is to show emotion.

**Over-the-shoulder:** When two characters are having a conversation. This is shot from behind one character, over the shoulder, looking at the other character.

**Point of View:** Camera sees what the character would see.

**Medium:** Shows characters from the waist up. Shows some emotion.

**Medium Long:** Shows 1-3 characters from the thigh up. Establishes the characters and their roles without giving us their emotions.

**Long:** Presents the setting of the action and the initial characters. Mood is often established in this way.

**Establishing:** Shows the location, setting or landscape of a scene.

**Camera Angles**

**High Angle:** A shot taken above the location. Will make the characters look small and insignificant.

**Low Angle:** A shot taken from below an actor. Will make the characters look powerful.