

Editing 'Rules' ...?

Murch and Dmytryk

Edward Dmytryk (1908-1999)

Director: *Crossfire*, *The Caine Mutiny*, *Broken Lance*, *Warlock*

Author: *'On Film Editing'*



“Technical skill counts for nothing if it is used only to manufacture films which have little to do with humanity.”

“In art, the obvious is a sin.”

Edward Dmytryk



- 1) Never make a cut without a positive reason
- 2) When undecided about the exact frame to cut on, cut long rather short
- 3) Whenever possible cut 'in movement'
- 4) The fresh is preferable to the stale
- 5) All scenes should begin and end with continuing action
- 6) Cut for proper values rather than proper matches
- 7) Substance first - then Form

Walter Murch (1943-)



Editor, Sound Designer: *Apocalypse Now*, *Godfather*, *The Conversation*, *Cold Mountain*

“Looking at a first assembly is kind of like looking at an overgrown garden. You can't just wade in with a weed whacker; you don't yet know where the stems of the flowers are.”

“Film editing is now something almost everyone can do at a simple level and enjoy it, but to take it to a higher level requires the same dedication and persistence that any art form does.”

Walter Murch



- 1) Emotion - Does the cut reflect what the editor believes the audience should be feeling at that moment?
- 2) Story - Does the cut advance the story?
- 3) Rhythm - Does the cut occur at a moment that is rhythmically interesting and 'right'?
- 4) Eye-trace - Does the cut pay respect to the location and movement of the audience's focus of interest within the frame?
- 5) 2-Dimensional plane - Does the cut respect the 180-degree rule?
- 6) 3-Dimensional space - Is the cut true to the physical/spatial relationships within the diegesis?

Readings and Resources



The Cutting Edge - The Magic of Movie Editing

<http://ifsstech.wordpress.com/video-channel/>

Using Colorista in Final Cut Pro Introduction

http://www.redgiantsoftware.com/_assets/uploads/file/community-tutorial/Colorista_Final_Cut_Intro_web.mov

Using Colorista in Final Cut Pro Advanced

http://www.redgiantsoftware.com/_assets/uploads/file/community-tutorial/Colorista_Final_Cut_Advanced_web.mov

Adobe DV Primer

http://ifsstech.files.wordpress.com/2008/06/adobe_dv_primer.pdf

Adobe Digital Audio Primer

<http://ifsstech.files.wordpress.com/2008/06/audaudioprimer1.pdf>