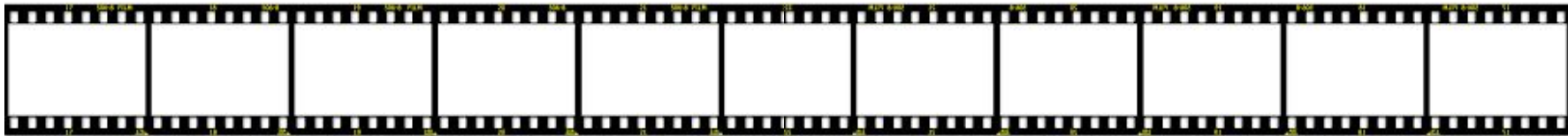
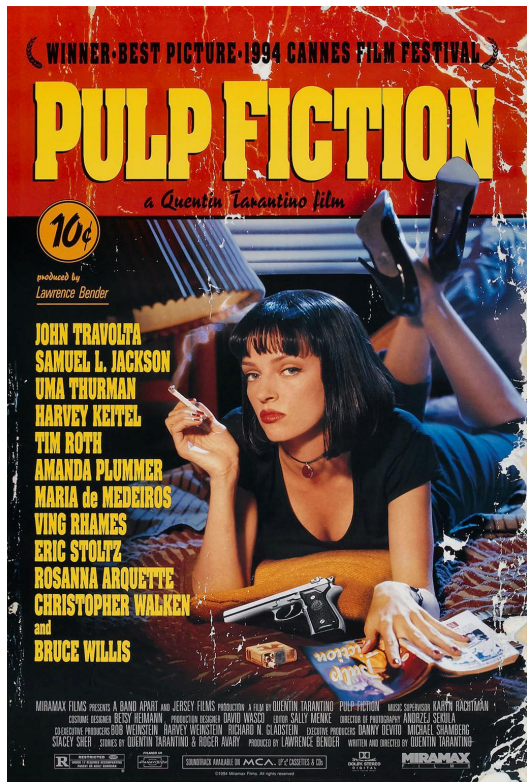


Dialogue in Film

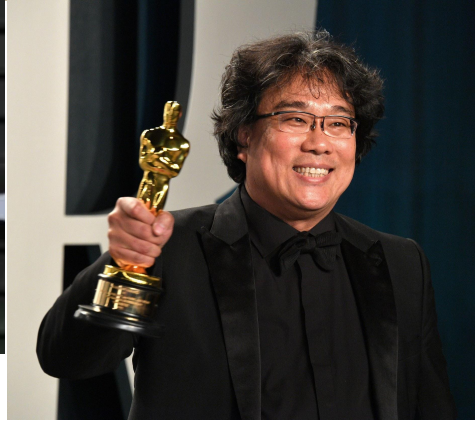
June 2020

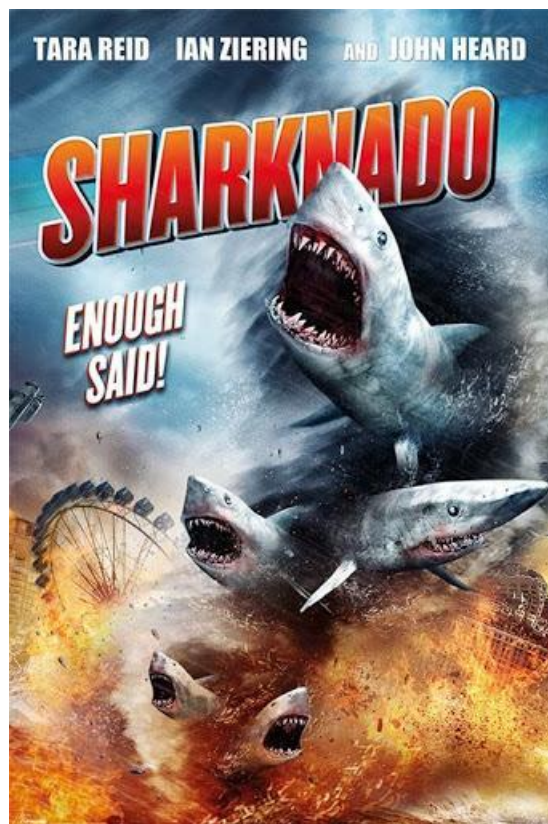
By Charissa Vesurai



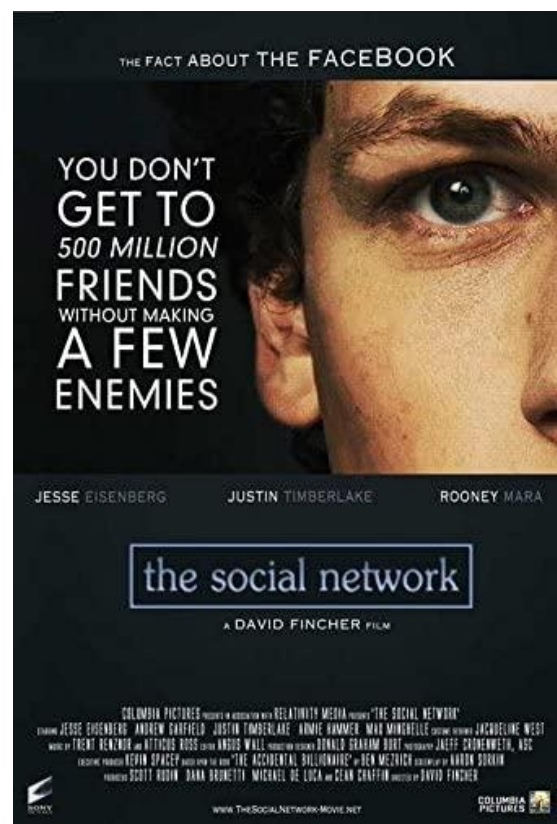


STORYMAKERS





vs.



DIALOGUE

IN FILM



(Less is More)

- Concise, dense lines are better.
- Replace with visual storytelling
 - "show, don't tell"!!
 - Delete repetitive lines
- Enter scene as late as possible
- Leave as early as possible is ideal

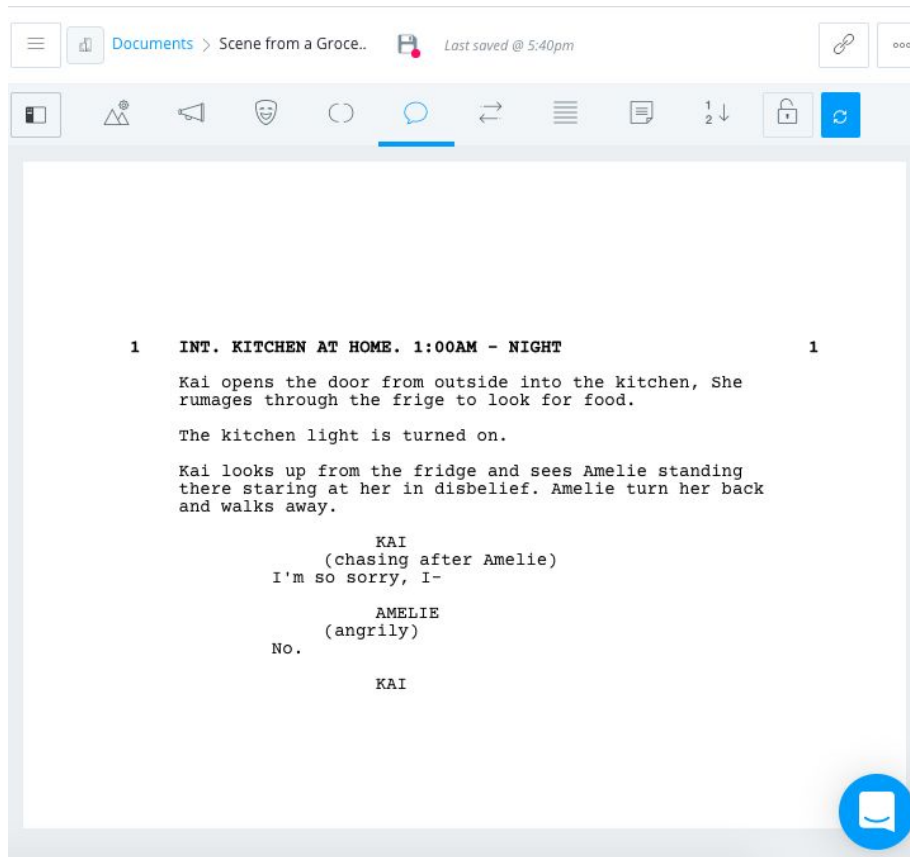
(Character Depth)

- Add to character development
- Consistent show of character
- Advances the story, not explains it
- Avoid on the nose and expository lines
- Shows the intentions of characters through subtext



(Rhythm and Flow)

- Good rhythm, like a song
 - Paced well and steadily
- Quick and punchy phrases are better
 - Avoid dragging on sentences
- Not about making it sound realistic.
That is the actor's job!



Brainstorming!



plot+scene brainstorm

- mother (Amelie, 47) and daughter (Kai, 19) in the kitchen
- internal conflict: kai is ashamed of herself and Amelie is confused, she just doesn't know what to, overwhelmed with emotions
- external conflict: mother mad at kai for leaving school
- they both mask their sadness with anger
- college dropout who sneaks back into her house without her parents knowing
 - didn't care about college, wanted to begin her business and design her clothing brand
- kai was always interested in expression and clothing but her parents never let her go out and buy clothes often since they didn't have the money
- during her childhood, she would create new pieces out of the scraps and fabrics of her old clothes
- her parents forced her to do well in school to push her to have a better future filled with more money and opportunity
 - she gets a scholarship to college and her parents make her go
 - she has to pay for dorm and books so she works 3 jobs
 - she spends her other time designing clothes and making collections
 - she fails/drops out
 - she goes to live in her parent's shed where they kept their tools (one of her parents is a construction worker)

1 INT. KITCHEN AT HOME. 1:00AM - NIGHT 1

Kai opens the door from outside into the kitchen, She rumages through the fridge to look for food.

The kitchen light is turned on.

Kai looks up from the fridge and sees Amelie standing there staring at her in disbelief. Amelie turn her back and walks away.

KAI
(chasing after Amelie)
I'm so sorry, I-

AMELIE
(angrily)
No.

KAI
(teary eyed)
Mom, please.

Amelie keeps walking.
...Just sit down.

Amelie takes a moment, sighs, looks up at Kai's tired eyes. She walked back to the kitchen table. Her back is turned away from Kai.

KAI
(trembling)
Last month, a lot of things
happened and now I... uh... now I'm
here.

AMELIE
You know you should be at school.

Silence. Amelie breathes heavily in frustration.

KAI
(walking to the table)
I tried. I really tried. But...

AMELIE
But?

They lock eyes and Kai looks down immediately. She fidgets with her hands and does other self-soothing actions.

KAI
(sitting down at the
table)
I felt like I was in the wrong
place.

AMELIE
Do you think I just quit when I
felt-

KAI
I can't go back, okay.

AMELIE
Look. this isn't about what you
want-

KAI
Right, it's about what you want.

AMELIE
It's about what's best for you.

KAI
Can you stop being so
condescending?

AMELIE
I'm trying to help you.

KAI
Since when? I had to pay for books
and the dorm myself.

AMELIE
You could've gotten another job.

KAI
I had three.
(takes a deep breath)
Mom, I'm telling you that I tried
my best!

AMELIE
(sternly)
Then why are you here?

KAI
I didn't know where else to go.

AMELIE
Well, you shouldn't have just snuck
in!

KAI
What else could I have done?

AMELIE
Tell me what's going on.

KAI
...They kicked me out.

Amelie stares in disbelief.
My grades dropped so I lost my
scholarship.

AMELIE
But you need to get a degree... for
a better life.

KAI
I can makes my own decisions.

AMELIE
Clearly not.

KAI
Why don't you stop telling me what
to do with my life and fix yours
instead?

Amelie is very hurt by this comment and tries to hide it. She
puts her elbows up on the table and runs her hands through
her hair.

AMELIE
Kai-

KAI
Stop pretending that you care.

AMELIE
I do so much for you.

KAI
To make you feel better about
yourself! It's not my fault your
parents didn't do the same. I never
asked for this.

Amelie sits silently for a moment. She tries to reply but she
is at a loss for words. She fights back tears.

AMELIE
I gave you things you didn't ask
for. That's what love is.

KAI
(hysterically)
It's because you had to.



Kai stands up and walks out the door. Amelie sits still at
the table with tears slowly streaking down her cheeks.

FADE OUT.



When you tell,
and don't show.