Missing Scenes Found on Film: Transmediating Text into Film
Lesson by Allison Giordano Casper

Duncan's Murder – Augmenting Act 2, Scene 2

Introduction: In Act 2, Scene 2, the murder of King Duncan occurs offstage. But a twenty-first century film audience would expect to see such a pivotal moment in Macbeth's character development. Based on your reading of Macbeth's first and second soliloquies and your interpretation of Macbeth's state of mind and his attitude toward his king and the act of committing murder, write the missing scene of Macbeth's murder of King Duncan in the form of a film script. Whenever possible, borrow dialogue from Shakespeare, weaving it into your new dialogue. Compose dialogue that is appropriate for the characters, dramatic context, and mood of the scene.

A **Director** and **Script Writer** will co-write the script while a **Storyboard Artist** visualizes the scene. A **Costume and Set Designer** and a **Location Scout** will plan where and how to execute the scene.

The script will include three components: **slug lines, dialogue,** and **directorial commentary.**

Step 1: A **Slug Line** – this is the information line in a film script. Use caps and include three pieces of information about the shot: EXTERIOR or INTERIOR, the LOCATION, and TIME OF DAY. When one or more pieces of information change, write a new slug line.

Slug Line example: INTERIOR / DUNCAN'S BEDROOM / NIGHT

Step 2: Dialogue – add dialogue for the murder of King Duncan and edit the existing dialogue in Scene 2.

- ➢ What does Macbeth say as he passes the guards who are "sleeping"?
- ➢ What does he say as he enters Duncan's chamber?
- ➢ What does Macbeth speak aloud before and as he commits the murder?
- ➢ What does Macbeth say as he leaves the chamber?
- ➢ Then, examine the rest of scene two and adapt it to your film script.

Step 3: Directorial Commentary: this is typed in *italics* and is highly descriptive. It includes directions for:
- ➢ Line delivery
- ➢ Actions, gestures and facial expressions
- ➢ Set and props
- ➢ Sound (vocal, environmental, music, silence)
- ➢ Camera shots
- ➢ Camera angles
- ➢ Camera movement
- ➢ Camera focus
- ➢ Editing techniques
- ➢ Lighting

Film and Edit the Scene
Practice performing the scene before filming in several takes. Using an editing program (Adobe Premiere, iMovie, Windows Movie Maker, or some other free online editing program) the director and editor (with the help of other group members if necessary) will edit the footage into a rough cut, then a final cut.

Text Experts Wanted

Storyboard Artist
Must be able to analyze text closely and work well with others. Storyboard artist will work with scriptwriter and is responsible for sketching the scenes, recording ideas for sound and camera angles, and conveying your group's interpretation to an audience. Daily meetings with script writer, actors, directors, crew.

Script Writer
Ability to read closely and make informed decisions is a must. You will work with the storyboard artist to create the bones of the film trailer and adhere to the maximum time length of two-and-half minutes for the trailer. This job also includes working with actors on tone and interpretation of lines.
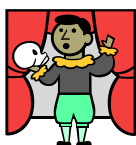
Actors Wanted
Applicants must be reliable, have excellent attendance, and have the ability to work well with others. Responsibilities include speaking and acting words or lines from *Macbeth* and working daily w/ director, storyboard artist, film crew, and scriptwriter. Be prepared to be on camera regularly.
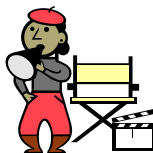
Director Wanted
Must be organized, able to multitask, have strong leadership skills, and read text closely. Director will create the vision for how the scenes and film trailer are executed, including decisions about acting, storyboard creation, script interpretation, camera shots and angles, props, costumes, etc. Job requires daily meetings with multiple people and the responsibility for keeping everyone on task.

Production Crew Wanted

Costumes, Set & Props
This person will identify and gather appropriate costumes and props for actors, help dress actors, and consult with film director. Applicants must be organized, reliable, and creative.

Location Scout
Responsibilities include close reading of text with attention to setting and identifying appropriate locations for shooting film in and around the school. Applicant will work closely with director.

Camera Operator
Interested applicants must have experience with video recording, excellent attendance, and an understanding of camera angles and shots. Camera crew will work with storyboard artist to plan and execute designated shots and angles. Must be careful and responsible with expensive equipment.

Editor
Applicants must have excellent computer skills. The editor will upload all film shot each day and develop the rough cut. Editor will add sound effects, music, titles, and credits to the final cut, working closely with director and sound technician. Creativity and computer skills are musts.

Sound Technician
Sound technician will decide on appropriate use of sound effects, silence, and/or a musical score (classic or contemporary music) that will convey the conflicts of the scene to a modern audience.