Editing Lecture

* The first films ever made, the kinetoscope films, just showed a single, complete action
  + A train pulling into a station
  + Waves on a beach
* However, as time went on, people started to photograph different pieces of action and piece them together to create a more exciting and interesting picture
* Thus, editing was born
* The process of editing different pieces of film to build and emphasize action is the essence of cinematic technique
* It is a process that, if done well, is unnoticed by the viewer
* Editing is done to manipulate the viewer to feel or relate to the story more than any other key element
* The job of an editor is to create a smooth, flowing story that accurately portrays the feelings and moral or the film
* The Work of an editor
* The editor must take the dailies and synchronize them
  + Synchronizing: Making sure the picture and sound match up
* He then shows the dailies to the director
* At the end of Production he begins to assemble the film
  + He must place the film together chronologically
  + This process can be equated to that of creating a story:
    - He takes the shots (words)
    - Puts them together into scenes (sentences)
    - Then puts those scenes together into the film (story)
    - The editor must decide the most effective way to arrange the pieces to tell the story
  + The editor will do this many times until he finds what he feels is the best rough cut to show the director
* He will then sit with the director and make changes based on the directors feelings
  + They will add, delete, rearrange, or re-shoot scenes until they have found what they need.
  + This becomes the directors cut
* Once the directors cut is finished they take it to the executive producers
  + They will then add, delete, rearrange, or re-shoot scenes until the have found what the need
  + This becomes the theatrical cut
* While putting all this together, the editor must always choose story over flawless cutting
* Sometimes they will put shots together that don’t flow very well if it is better for the story overall
* Techniques of Editing
* 1. Pace: How long each shot appears on the screen
  + By leaving shots on the screen for shorter periods of time, we increase or speed up the pace
  + By lengthening the amount of time each shot is on the screen we decrease or slow down the pace
  + The editor can also change the pace of a scene by changing shots: A series of close-ups followed by a sudden long shot would shorten the pace
  + By altering the pace of a scene, the editor can create or relieve tension within the audience
  + Quick pacing is used during action and chase scenes
  + This puts the focus on the action, not the words.
  + <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mbdaNjnRoE>
  + Slow pacing is used in scenes with little action
  + This puts the focus on the words, not the actions
  + <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdWF7kd1tNo>
* 2. Rhythm: The pattern of the pacing
  + If there is a constant increase or decrease of pace, or no change at all, we have a uniform rhythm
    - This helps create harmony or a sense of serenity
  + However, if there is constant change in the pattern of the pace, we create an erratic rhythm
    - This will create tension or disharmony
* 3. Juxtaposition: Cutting together seemingly unrelated shots to create new meanings neither of the shots had before
  + Ex: You see a shot of a woman looking out a window
  + Then, you see a show of a man walking down the street
  + It goes back to the shot of the woman looking out the window
  + What does it make you think??
* 4. Montage: A sequence of images edited together to suggest a passage of time
* Generally put to some sort of upbeat or inspirational music
* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DP3MFBzMH2o&feature=related>
* 5. Time Manipulation: Lengthening or Shortening the time it takes to accomplish something
  + Give a sense of importance or unimportance to the action taking place
  + Time is lengthened by inserting shots of details or reactions not normally seen during that event to emphasize the action
    - This creates a sense of tension and suspense
    - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5939di1bj4>
    - Techniques of editing: Time Manipulation
  + Time is shortened by showing less detail and eliminating parts of the action.
    - This creates a sense of well being and natural progression
    - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lLPUmYiVgbw>
* 6. Transition Tools: How the editor cuts from shot to shot
* During the editing process, the editor must piece together each shot into scenes and each scene into the picture
* In order to move from scene to scene, the editor will us a transition tool
* Techniques of editing: Transition Tools
  + 1. Cut: A cut is simply the joining of 2 strips of film together
    - It is the simplest transition
    - Creates and unnoticed transition
    - Techniques of editing: Transition Tools
    - That was a cut from the last slide to this one
  + 2. Fade-In: The gradual fading from black to the picture
    - Used to indicate the beginning of a chapter or event
  + 3. Fade-out: The gradual fading from picture to black
    - Used to indicate the end of a chapter or event
    - The length of the fade will indicate importance
      * A long fade is dramatic and may indicate more importance
    - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyjRGXkghsg&feature=related>
  + 4. Dissolve: Where one image dissolves into the next one
    - This is done with a fade in and fade out together
      * Can look like a double exposure
      * Generally used to indicate a small change of time or place
      * Could also be used as an introduction to a flashback or dream
      * The duration of this effect adds emphasis to it’s importance
        + The longer the transition lasts the more important the sequence is
  + <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhPu5AHDMHM>
  + 5. Wipe: Where a shot literally seems to be pushing the old image off the screen
    - Wipes can come from either side of the screen, the top or bottom of the screen, of from the center out
    - A wipe is often used to indicate a rapid change in time or place
    - A Split Screen is an unfinished wipe
      * It is used as a means of showing a number of things that are going on simultaneously
      * <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJyyhNwdQz0>
    - The transition into this slide was a wipe. The information on this slide “wiped” the information from the other slide off the screen
  + 6. Swish Pan- A solid movement of the camera from one shot to the next one
    - Often used when a character leaves one place and arrives at another
    - Also used to show a passage of time, either forward or backward
    - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_s2x4AGPJdI>
    - Techniques of editing
* The type of technique used and the pacing of it helps the audience to sense the importance of the changes in time, place, character, action, and story of the film
* In recent years, the job of the editor has increased.
* Their importance as an above the line job has really shown
* Editors must use their skill, creativity, and imagination to portray the directors vision of the film
* Recently many editors have been commissioned to restore old films to their original directors cuts
  + They are restoring footage that was considered unimportant or too sensational by the studios when they were originally released
* As with most of the jobs we’ve learned about, there is no right or wrong way to do it
* Verna Fields, a world renowned editor, says:
  + “As far as I’m concerned, there are no rules except the film: the emotion or the impact of what you are trying to get. If it’s a laugh you’re trying to get, or tears, or a smile, or a good feeling, whatever it is. If it works, do it.”

***Pass Out Editing Movie Notes***

***Watch “Who Framed Rodger Rabbit”***