FILM ART:
MISE-EN-SCÈNE

MISE-EN-SCÈNE

- “Putting into the scene”
- Everything in front of the camera

MISE-EN-SCÈNE

- Lighting
- Setting
- Costume (and Makeup)
- Acting
- Character positions

MISE-EN-SCÈNE

- How filmmakers
  - Share story details
  - Create worlds
  - Visibly express a character’s thoughts, feelings, personality

SUNSET BOULEVARD (BILLY WILDER, 1950)

SUNSET BOULEVARD

Frame Narrative

Subjective Representation

Unreliable Narrator

Empowerment

SUNSET BOULEVARD

Productive tension between words & images

Similarly victimized

Counter-Narratives

Competing power dynamics

LIGHTING

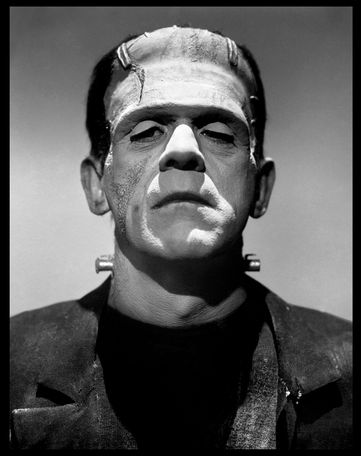
LIGHTING QUALITIES

- Intensity
- Direction
- Ratio

LIGHTING INTENSITY

Hard

Soft



Dark, Defined Shadows
Bright Highlights
Noir, Horror, Gangster

Even & diffused
Soft shadows & highlights
Dramas, Musicals, Comedy, Romance

LIGHTING DIRECTION

Frontal

Back

LIGHTING DIRECTION

Under

Top

LIGHTING DIRECTION

Side

LIGHTING RATIOS

High Contrast

Low Contrast

Big difference between dark and light areas

Little to no difference between dark and light areas

Dark
Mysterious
Moody

High Visibility
Invisible
Informative

LIGHTING IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

LIGHTING IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

Motif

LIGHTING IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

LIGHTING IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

SETTING

SETTING

- Visually establishes
  - Time and place
  - Mood and style
  - Intangibles like personality and psychology

TIME AND PLACE
MOOD AND STYLE

Past

Present

Future

Realistic

Fantastic

SETTING

Personality

Psychology

PROPS

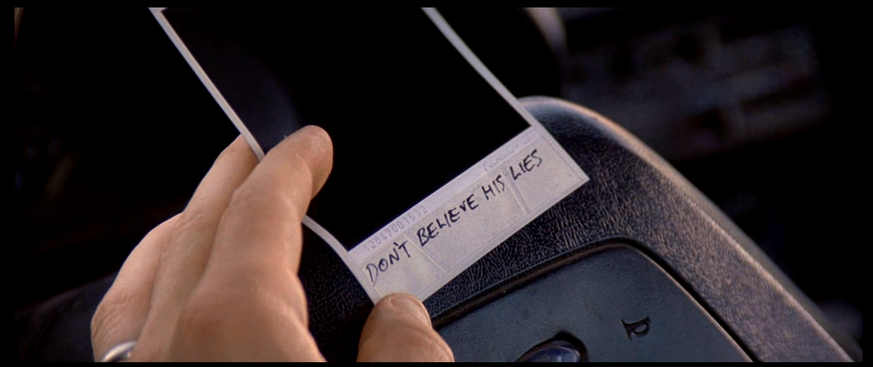
Significant objects in the setting that move the plot forward

Motivate characters

Create urgency

Introduce mysteries

Share story details



SETTING IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

Time and Place

Mood and Style

Personality and Psychology

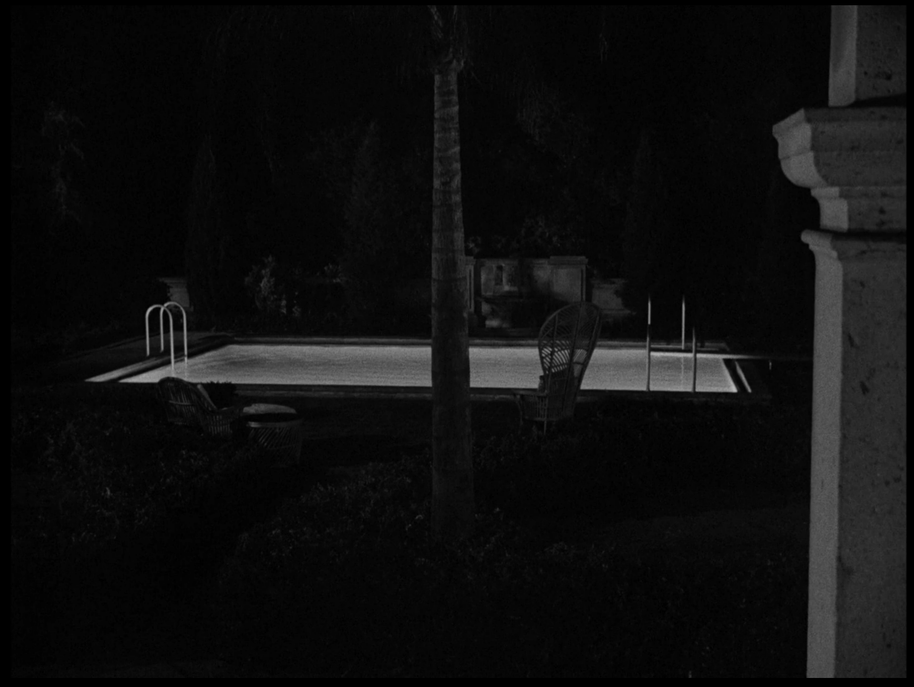
SETTING IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

SETTING & PROPS

SETTING IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

Collapse
Of
Time
&
Space

PROPS



COSTUME

COSTUME

Puts You In the World

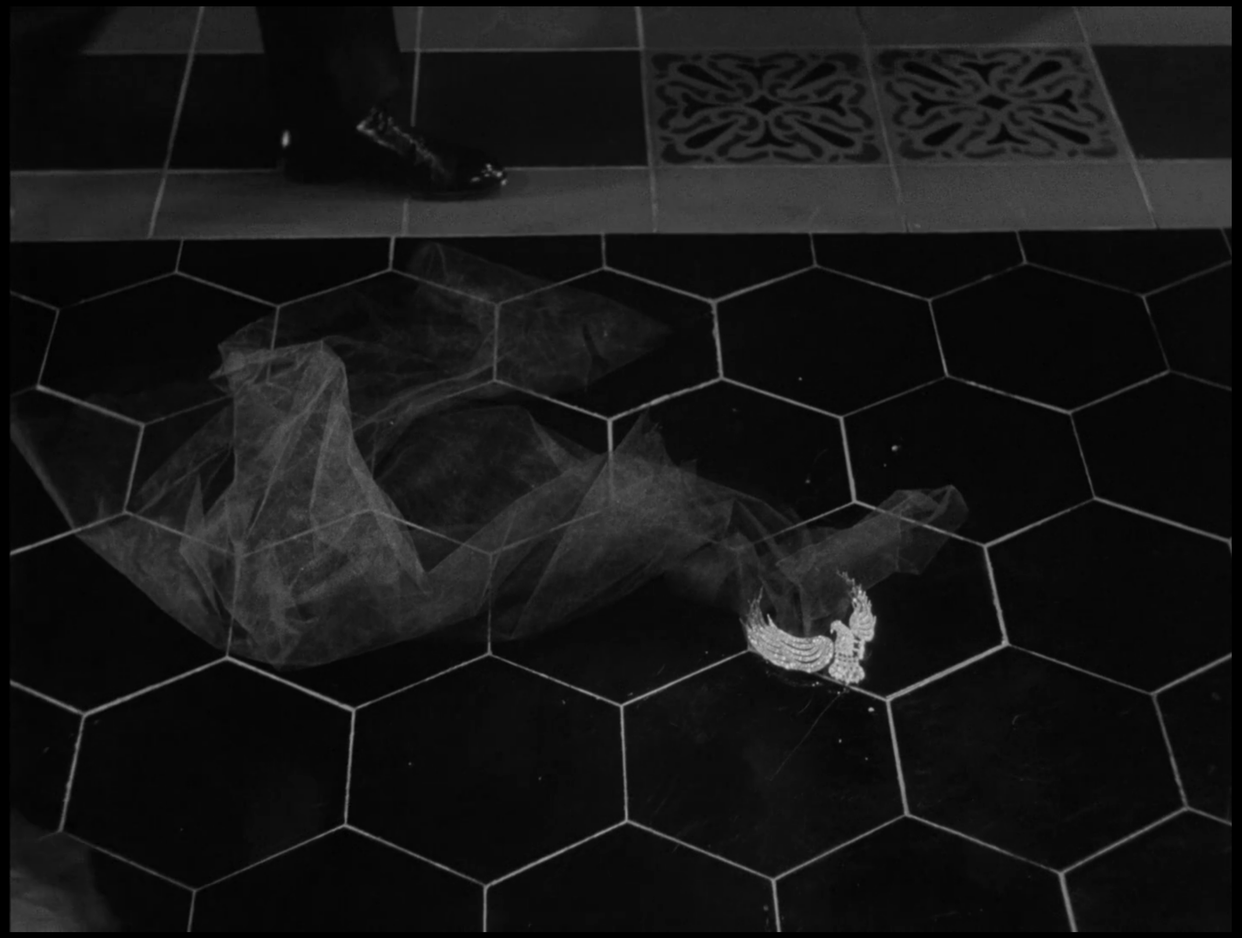
Reveals Character

COSTUME IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

COSTUME IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

COSTUME IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

COSTUME IN SUNSET BOULEVARD



ACTING

ACTING

- Actors are part of the visual design
- They work with directors to shape their performances **visually**
- Using their faces and movements to develop their characters

ACTING

- Notice body language
  - Facial Expressions
  - Posture
  - Gestures
  - Movement

ACTING

In a visual art form like film

facial expressions and body language

are as important as words spoken

ACTING

- This short clip establishes character traits and relationships via
  - Different acting styles
  - Body language
  - And the visual expression of personality traits

CHARACTER POSITIONS

CHARACTER POSITIONS

Visually communicate…

Relationships

Power dynamics

CHARACTER POSITIONS

Relationships

CHARACTER POSITIONS

Power Dynamics

CHARACTER POSITIONS IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

CHARACTER POSITIONS IN SUNSET BOULEVARD

CHARACTER POSITIONS IN SUNSET BOULEVARD