

Introduction to Videomaking: Camera Movements

Alessandro Tedeschi Gallo, DBL
February 24, 2023 – CHOICE JSTE, Larissa (GR)

Camera Movements



Which one is best?

Tripod Movements



Handheld Movements



Tripod Movements



Static

- ✓ Using a tripod helps with minimising camera movements and vibrations.
- ✓ The camera is mounted on the tripod and does not move at all while filming.
- ✓ Only the subject moves, not the camera.
- ✓ Suitable for interviews, timelapses and tutorials
- ✓ Used to slow down or disrupt the rhythm of a dynamic sequence.



Pan

- ✓ Camera moves from right to left and viceversa.
- ✓ Used for landscape scenes and when the subject needs more movement (e.g., subject walks up and down).
- ✓ Very common in sports programmes and action scenes.



Tilt

- ✓ The camera moves from top to bottom or viceversa.
- ✓ The camera is always mounted on the tripod.
- ✓ Useful to give the idea of vertical size.



Zoom

- ✓ Camera operator changes the focal length of the lens.
- ✓ It reproduces the effect of getting closer/further from the subject
- ✓ On the phone, it is usually done by “pinching” the screen.
- ✓ Optical or Electronic Zoom?



Handheld Movements



Handheld Movements

- ✓ The camera moves with the operator.
- ✓ Shooting is more dynamic and intense compared to tripod movements
- ✓ The audience is brought closer to the scene and thus more involved.
- ✓ Perfect for action scenes.

Push-In

- ✓ The shot starts from a larger frame and zooms down on the subject.
- ✓ Unlike the Zoom, it's the camera that moves.
- ✓ Well-suited for introductions and wide shots to give setting and context to the story.
- ✓ Hints the audience that what's happening is important and they should focus



Pull-Out

- ✓ Exact **opposite of Push-In**: the camera starts from a Close up/Detail and zooms out from the subject.
- ✓ Makes the focus shift from the subject to the setting/surroundings.
- ✓ Very used for final scenes, or to take away the focus from the characters.



Arc

- ✓ The camera moves in **circles/orbits** around the subject, which is at the center of the framing
- ✓ Very used and effective to convey dynamism while the subject is still.
- ✓ Very used in music video, car commercials, official ceremonies.



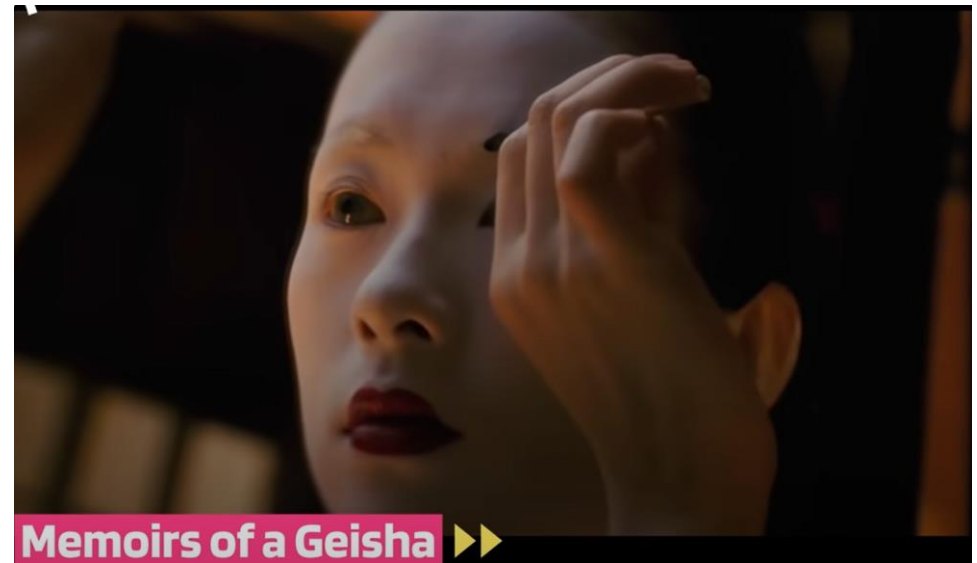
Crane

- ✓ The camera moves freely in lines and arches, like a bird (thus the name)
- ✓ There are no limitations: up, down, left, right, also in combination (diagonal movements)
- ✓ Very effective to gradually reveal details of the setting.



Reveal/Conceal

- ✓ The camera starts/stops behind an obstacle that conceals the subject.
- ✓ The camera can move in any direction, the focus is on the subject and the obstacle that conceals them.
- ✓ Often used for cuts and transitions.

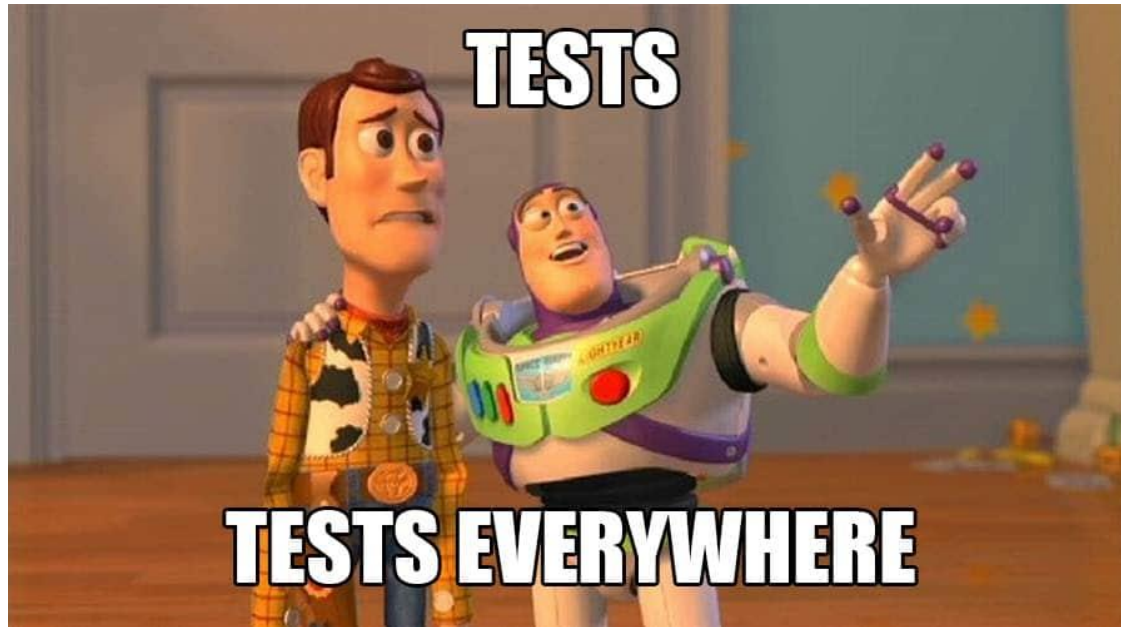


Tracking

- ✓ Used to follow closely a moving subject.
- ✓ *Lead Track*: Camera is ahead the subject
- ✓ *Follow Track*: Camera follows the subject.
- ✓ *Side Track*: Camera and subject move side by side.
- ✓ It's preferable to a Pan movement for longer shots and to engage more the audience.



Exercise



<https://youtu.be/liyBo-qLDeM?t=1617>



...and Action!

