exploring

VISUAL STORYTELLING

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contents

Preface v

Tools of the Trade 1

The purpose of this chapter is to introduce readers to the tools of the storytelling trade. Tools include intangible assets like talent and passion, but also concrete pieces like scripts and storyboards.

Context 28

Context is how various pieces of the story work in relation to one another. Readers learn about the framework of the story: exposition, conflict, dialogue, motives and values, and plants and payoffs.

Character 50

The characters are the most important piece of the story. They are the stand-in for the audience members, and the reader will learn how to get the audience to understand them and feel empathy for them.

Conflict 68

This chapter explores the crux of the story—conflict. Conflict is what happens to the characters to drive the plot. This chapter explores how to introduce conflict, how to create tension, and how to build action.

Plot 86

Plot is the structure of the story, the through line that the characters and events move along. This chapter provides an introduction to the parts of the story, from beginning to end, and gives readers the skills to build a new world using storytelling.

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Space and Time 108

This chapter explores ways to establish a story's space and time, teaching readers about shots and transitions, scenes, sequencing action, and introducing them to the concepts of two- and three-dimensional space.

Two-Dimensional Space 122

For storytellers who work with a two-dimensional space, this chapter provides assistance with composition and establishing spatial relationships.

Three-Dimensional Space 138

This chapter provides more in-depth information about working in a three-dimensional space. Storytellers have to set up their shots to provide as much information as possible. This chapter explores the visual cues storytellers can provide to help their audience, from staging to camera placement.

Staging over Time 158

The story plays out over time. The audience gets to know the characters, the problem, and follows the story through the events that transpire. Readers learn how to edit before the camera even begins to roll, so that the story is pared down to answer the audience's three basic questions.

Story-Shaping Questions 174

Pulling it all together takes a lot of work. This wrap-up chapter reviews all the concepts the readers have been introduced to, and helps them review the critical information.

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