2. Indirect Narration

- action or sound of a scene tells us what is happening
- narration supplements
  - why
  - context
  - significance
Direct Narration-Indirect Narration
from Arabs, Jews, and the News
3. Contrapuntal Narration

- juxtaposes narration and action
- makes a composite statement not present or explicit in either element
Contrapuntal Narration

non-fiction

from Arabs, Jews, and the News

◆ Also music lyric as narrator
Contrapuntal Narration-fiction film

from Platoon
Contrapuntal Narration-fiction film
from Platoon

- Poetic, letter-like lines
  - to grandmother
- Explains inner thoughts and feelings
- alienation from family
- Too protected
- family history--WWI, WW2
- bottom of the barrel
- pride about “grunts”
Usually, indirect and contrapuntal narration are stronger than direct.

- supplement and broaden content and are less obvious
Direct most effective when

- sounds and images not convey enough info
- information is complex and educational in nature.
- mixing the styles can improve communication
Direct Narration

from The Nucleus Factory
B. Dialogue

- conversation between 2 or more people
- at the core of storytelling
- not just the writer’s responsibility
  - director
  - actor
  - sound designer
  - editor
Interpretation

- 1. Accent
  - Location
  - social class
  - origin
- Appropriate/believable
- Can alter meaning
Accent

◆ from Out of Africa--Meryl Streep
Interpretation

2. Pace -- general guidelines
   • Deliberate -- inner tension
   • faster -- urgency or nervousness
Pacing

◆ from Schindler’s List
Pacing

- unlimited choices
- not just the words
  - that which is unsaid
  - eyes part of conversation -- “eyes to meet”
  - let the characters study each other
- Spielberg
  - breaths, air, pauses--phrasing
  - silence
The Caine Mutiny

- Humphrey Bogart
  - Captain Queeg
    - testified in court martial
    - ball bearings
    - in storm, crew mutiny
    - Queeg was rigid, overbearing, abusive
    - madness, then silence
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1Qzz7K_E1w
Caine Mutiny
Caine Mutiny

- Nominated for 7 Oscars
  - inc. best actor, best picture, best writing
- No special effects or fancy camerawork
- A kind of crescendo to climax
- ball bearings (identified with Queeg)
  - his internal conflict
- Use of silence
Interpretation

◆ 3. Patterns
  ● sentence structure
  ● vocabulary
  ● speech rhythms
    ◆ educated, informal or contemporary
◆ make it appropriate
Interpretation

- 4. Emphasis--stressing a syllable or a word changes the meaning

- DR JOHANSSEN APPLIED PRESSURE ON ME AT THE OFFICE
Interpretation

- 5. Inflection--altering the pitch or tone of the voice
  - raise pitch at the end of a sentence, declarative becomes question
  - speak in higher pitch--intensity and excitement
  - I love YOU
  - Like PHRASING in music
Interpretation

◆ Young Filmmakers ignore
  ◆ about the cool shot
  ◆ thinking technically
  ◆ ignore performance

◆ Story is first
  ◆ function of image and sound
  ◆ interpretation manipulates the story
  ◆ study the great films
IV. HOW DO WE RECORD
SOUND-microphones

- Electro-Mechanical Transducers
- Convert acoustic energy into electrical energy
- Different pickup elements
- Different pickup patterns
Microphones

- Carbon
  - Rugged
  - Cheap - $1 to $5
  - Limited Frequency Response 100Hz to 5KHz
  - Most Common type in the world
  - Inside telephones
Microphones

◆ Crystal or Ceramic
  ● Fragile
  ● Inexpensive $5 to $15
  ● 80Hz to 8KHz
Microphones

- Dynamic Ribbon
  - First Pro Quality Mic
  - Somewhat delicate
  - Expensive - $150+
  - 50Hz to 15KHz
  - Slow Transient Response
  - Very Smooth/silky sound
Microphones

- Dynamic Moving Coil
  - Very Rugged
  - Reasonably Priced - $60 to $350
  - 50 Hz to 15 KHz
  - Most popular Pro Mic
Microphones

◆ Studio Condenser
  ● Fragile
  ● Costly - $150 to $7,000
  ● 20Hz to 20KHz
  ● Requires constant Polarizing Voltage--Phantom Power or external
  ● Excellent Transient Response
Microphones

- Electret Condenser
  - Rugged
  - Small
  - Reasonably Priced - $100 to $500
  - 30Hz to 18KHz
  - Requires 1.5 volt battery
  - Lavalier
  - Cell phone
Pickup Patterns

- Omni-Directional
  - Accepts sound from all around mic
  - Ideal for interview situations
Pickup Patterns

- Cardioid
  - Accepts sound primarily from the front
  - Ideal for live sound applications
Pickup Patterns

◆ Hyper-Cardioid & Super Cardioid
  ● Accepts sound only from the front
  ● Ideal for isolating sound---directional
  ● “Shotgun” or “Boom” are common names
Pickup Patterns

- Bi-Directional
  - Accepts sound from front & back
  - Used in music studio recording
  - Also called “Figure of Eight”