Spoken Sound

• A. Narration
• B. Dialogue

• what is said is essential to meaning
• how said also shapes meaning
• interpretation is function of director and performer
1. Direct Narration--describes what is being seen or heard

- Storyteller
- Straight news reports
Isabel Allende--Chilean Author Storyteller
Isabel Allende--Chilean Author
Storyteller

Why does this work?

- personality
- interpretive skill
- quality of the message
- humor (makes fun of self)
- phrasing
- repetition (Passion)
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
Propaganda 2 by Wil Youmans
the Iron Sheik

◆ "Israel only acts defensively
and targets terrorists exclusively
see Israel's the only democracy in the region
if you're truly grieving the Holocaust,
you gotta support the Jewish state
if you criticize, it's cuz you're full of hate
we made peace, but the Arabs rejected
playing the victim, they perfected it
it's not our fault they fled in 48'
when Arab armies tried to terminate our little state
in a sea of Arab rage
we just want a little tiny sliver piece of land
we'll deliver peace when Arafat meets our very small demands
trust me, we're the ones who want peace
the terrorists are a wretched disease
trying to drive us to the sea
Israel's America's friend in the Middle East
fighting the same enemies"
Contrapuntal Narration
non-fiction
from Arabs, Jews, and the News

- Uses rap lyric as a foil to scenes of destruction
- what we see is ironical juxtaposition with the lyric
- Ken Waltzer
  - Israel justified
  - explains
- Rap lyric
  - Israel acts defensively
  - terrorists exclusively
  - Hot button words
    - Holocaust
    - democracy
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