

SCREENWRITING – STEP 1

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Here it's a list of main film genres to help you out to create your script:

<p>Main Film Genres Iconic symbols represent the different genres of films</p>	<p>Descriptions of Main Film Genres</p>
<p><u>Action Films</u></p>	<p>Action films usually include high energy, big-budget physical stunts and chases, possibly with rescues, battles, fights, escapes, destructive crises (floods, explosions, natural disasters, fires, etc.), non-stop motion, spectacular rhythm and pacing, and adventurous, often two-dimensional 'good-guy' heroes (or recently, heroines) battling 'bad guys' - all designed for pure audience escapism. Includes the James Bond 'fantasy' spy/espionage series, martial arts films, and so-called 'blaxploitation' films. A major sub-genre is the <u>disaster film</u>.</p>
<p><u>Adventure Films</u></p>	<p>Adventure films are usually exciting stories, with new experiences or exotic locales, very similar to or often paired with the <u>action</u> film genre. They can include traditional swashbucklers, <u>serialized films</u>, and historical spectacles (similar to the <u>epics</u> film genre), searches or expeditions for lost continents, "jungle" and "desert" epics, treasure hunts, disaster films, or searches for the unknown.</p>
<p><u>Comedy Films</u></p>	<p>Comedies are light-hearted plots consistently and deliberately designed to amuse and provoke laughter (with one-liners, jokes, etc.) by exaggerating the situation, the language, action, relationships and characters. This section describes various forms of</p>

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	<p>comedy through cinematic history, including <i>slapstick</i>, <i>screwball</i>, <i>spoofs</i> and <i>parodies</i>, <i>romantic comedies</i>, <i>black comedy</i> (dark satirical comedy), and more.</p>
<p><u>Crime & Gangster Films</u></p>	<p>Crime (gangster) films are developed around the sinister actions of criminals or mobsters, particularly bankrobbers, underworld figures, or ruthless hoodlums who operate outside the law, stealing and murdering their way through life. Criminal and gangster films are often categorized as <i>film noir</i> or <i>detective-mystery</i> films - because of underlying similarities between these cinematic forms.</p>
<p><u>Drama Films</u></p>	<p>Dramas are serious, plot-driven presentations, portraying realistic characters, settings, life situations, and stories involving intense character development and interaction. Usually, they are not focused on special-effects, comedy, or action. Dramatic films are probably the largest film genre, with many subsets. See also the <i>melodramas</i>, <i>epics (historical dramas)</i>, or <i>romantic</i> genres. Dramatic <i>biographical films (or "biopics")</i> are a major sub-genre, as are 'adult' films (with mature subject content).</p>
<p><u>Epics/Historical Films</u></p>	<p>Epics include costume dramas, historical <i>dramas</i>, <i>war</i> films, medieval romps, or 'period pictures' that often cover a large expanse of time set against a vast, panoramic backdrop. Epics often share elements of the elaborate <i>adventure</i> films genre. Epics take an historical or imagined event, mythic, legendary, or heroic figure, and add an extravagant setting and lavish costumes, accompanied by grandeur and spectacle, dramatic scope, high production values, and a sweeping musical score. Epics are often a more spectacular, lavish version of a <i>biopic film</i>. Some 'sword and sandal' films</p>

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	(Biblical epics or films occurring during antiquity) qualify as a sub-genre.
<u>Horror Films</u>	Horror films are designed to frighten and to invoke our hidden worst fears, often in a terrifying, shocking finale, while captivating and entertaining us at the same time in a cathartic experience. Horror films feature a wide range of styles, from the earliest silent Nosferatu classic, to today's CGI monsters and deranged humans. They are often combined with <i>science fiction</i> when the menace or monster is related to a corruption of technology, or when Earth is threatened by aliens. The <i>fantasy</i> and <i>supernatural</i> film genres are not usually synonymous with the horror genre. There are many sub-genres of horror: slasher, teen terror, serial killers, satanic, Dracula, Frankenstein, etc.
<u>Musicals (Dance) Films</u>	Musical/dance films are cinematic forms that emphasize full-scale scores or song and dance routines in a significant way (usually with a musical or dance performance integrated as part of the film narrative), or they are films that are centered on combinations of music, dance, song or choreography. Major subgenres include the <i>musical comedy</i> or the concert film.
<u>Science Fiction Films</u>	Sci-fi films are often quasi-scientific, visionary and imaginative - complete with heroes, aliens, distant planets, impossible quests, improbable settings, fantastic places, great dark and shadowy villains, futuristic technology, unknown and unknowable forces, and extraordinary monsters ('things or creatures from space'), either created by mad scientists or by nuclear havoc. They are sometimes an offshoot of <i>fantasy</i> films, or they share some similarities with <i>action/adventure</i> films. Science fiction often expresses the potential of technology to destroy humankind and easily overlaps with

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	<i>horror</i> films, particularly when technology or alien life forms become malevolent, as in the "Atomic Age" of sci-fi films in the 1950s.
<u>War (Anti-War) Films</u>	War films acknowledge the horror and heartbreak of war, letting the actual combat fighting (against nations or humankind) on land, sea, or in the air provide the primary plot or background for the action of the film. War films are often paired with other genres, such as <i>action</i> , <i>adventure</i> , <i>drama</i> , <i>romance</i> , <i>comedy</i> (black), <i>suspense</i> , and even <i>epics</i> and <i>westerns</i> , and they often take a denunciatory approach toward warfare. They may include POW tales, stories of military operations, and training.
<u>Westerns</u>	Westerns are the major defining genre of the American film industry - a eulogy to the early days of the expansive American frontier. They are one of the oldest, most enduring genres with very recognizable plots, elements, and characters (six-guns, horses, dusty towns and trails, cowboys, Indians, etc.). Over time, westerns have been re-defined, re-invented and expanded, dismissed, re-discovered, and spoofed.

◆ **Genre Categories:**

They are broad enough to accommodate practically any film ever made, although film categories can never be precise. By isolating the various elements in a film and categorizing them in genres, it is possible to easily evaluate a film within its genre and allow for meaningful comparisons and some judgments on greatness. Films were *not* really subjected to genre analysis by film historians until the 1970s. All films have at least one major genre, although there are a number of films that are considered crossbreeds or hybrids with three or four overlapping genre (or sub-genre) types that identify them.

◆ **The *auteur* system** can be contrasted to the genre system, in which films are rated on the basis of the expression of one person, usually the director, because his/her indelible style, authoring vision or 'signature' dictates the personality, look, and feel of the film. Certain directors (and actors) are known for certain types of films, for example, Woody Allen and comedy, the Arthur Freed unit with musicals, Alfred Hitchcock for suspense and thrillers, John Ford and John Wayne with westerns, or Errol Flynn for classic swashbuckler adventure films.

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<p>Main Film Sub-Genres Iconic symbols represent the different sub-genres or types of films</p>	<p>Descriptions of Main Film Sub-Genres</p>
<p><u>Biographical Films (or "Biopics")</u></p>	<p>'Biopics' is a term derived from the combination of the words "biography" and "pictures." They are a sub-genre of the larger <i>drama</i> and <i>epic film</i> genres, and although they reached a hey-day of popularity in the 1930s, they are still prominent to this day. These films depict the life of an important historical personage (or group) from the past or present era. Biopics cross many genre types, since these films might showcase a western outlaw, a criminal, a musical composer, a religious figure, a war-time hero, an entertainer, an artist, an inventor or doctor, a politician or President, or an adventurer.</p>
<p><u>'Chick' Flicks</u></p>	<p>Often considered an all-encompassing sub-genre, 'chick' flicks or gal films (slightly derisive terms) mostly include formulated romantic <i>comedies</i> (with mis-matched lovers or female relationships), <i>tearjerkers</i> and gal-pal films, movies about family crises and emotional catharsis, some traditional 'weepies' and fantasy-action adventures, sometimes with foul-mouthed and empowered females, and female bonding situations involving families, mothers, daughters, children, women, and women's issues. These films are often told from the female P-O-V, and star a female protagonist or heroine. This type of film became very prominent in the mid-80s and into the 90s. Their counterpart films for males are termed <i>'guy' films</i> (see below).</p>
<p><u>Detective & Mystery Films</u></p>	<p>Detective-mystery films are usually considered a <u>sub-type or sub-genre</u> of <i>crime/gangster</i> films (or <i>film noir</i>), or <i>suspense or thriller</i> films that focus on the unsolved crime (usually the murder or disappearance of one or more of the</p>

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	<p>characters, or a theft), and on the central character - the hard-boiled detective-hero, as he/she meets various adventures and challenges in the cold and methodical pursuit of the criminal or the solution to the crime.</p>
<p><u>Disaster Films</u></p>	<p>Disaster films, a sub-genre of <i>action films</i>, hit their peak in the decade of the 1970s. Big-budget disaster films provided all-star casts and interlocking, <i>Grand Hotel</i>-type stories, with suspenseful action and impending crises (man-made or natural) in locales such as aboard imperiled airliners, trains, dirigibles, sinking or wrecked ocean-liners, or in towering burning skyscrapers, crowded stadiums or earthquake zones. Often noted for their visual and special effects, but not their acting performances.</p>
<p><u>Fantasy Films</u></p>	<p>Fantasy films, usually considered a <u>sub-genre</u>, are most likely to overlap with the film genres of <i>science fiction</i> and <i>horror</i>, although they are distinct. Fantasies take the audience to netherworld places (or another dimension) where events are unlikely to occur in real life - they transcend the bounds of human possibility and physical laws. They often have an element of magic, myth, wonder, and the extraordinary. They may appeal to both children and adults, depending upon the particular film.</p>
<p><u>Film Noir</u></p>	<p><i>Film noir</i> (meaning 'black film') is a distinct branch of the <i>crime/gangster</i> sagas from the 1930s. Strictly speaking, film noir is <u>not</u> a genre, but rather the mood, style or tone of various American films that evolved in the 1940s, and lasted in a classic period until about 1960. However, film noir has not been exclusively confined to this era, and has re-occurred in cyclical form in other years in various neo-noirs. Noirs are usually black and white films</p>

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	<p>with primary moods of melancholy, alienation, bleakness, disillusionment, disenchantment, pessimism, ambiguity, moral corruption, evil, guilt and paranoia. And they often feature a cynical, loner hero (anti-hero) and <i>femme fatale</i>, in a seedy big city.</p>
<p><u>Guy Films</u></p>	<p>Composed of macho films that are often packed with sophomoric humor, action, cartoon violence, competition, mean-spirited putdowns and gratuitous nudity and sex. This category of film is highly subject to opinion, although there are many classic, testosterone-laden 'guy' films that most viewers would agree upon, as demonstrated in the 1998 survey of the "<u>100 Greatest Guy Movies Ever Made</u>" by <i>Maxim Magazine</i> or <i>Men's Journal's 50 Best Guy Movies of All Time</i> list compiled in 2003. Gal films or '<u>chick' flicks</u> are their counterpart for females.</p>
<p><u>Melodrama Films</u></p>	<p>Melodramas are a sub-type of <i>drama</i> films, characterized by a plot to appeal to the emotions of the audience. Often, film studies criticism used the term 'melodrama' pejoratively to connote an unrealistic, pathos-filled tales of romance or domestic situations with stereotypical characters that would directly appeal to feminine audiences ("weepies" or "woman's films"). See the post-modern version of the "woman's film" - gal films or '<u>chick' flicks</u>.</p>
<p><u>Romance Films</u></p>	<p>A <u>sub-genre</u> for the most part, this category shares some features with romantic <i>dramas</i>, romantic <i>comedies</i>, and <i>sexual/erotic</i> films. These are love stories, or affairs of the heart that center on passion, emotion, and the romantic, affectionate involvement of the main characters (usually a leading man and lady), and the journey that their love takes through courtship or marriage. Romance films make the love story the main plot focus.</p>

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<p><u>Sports Films</u></p>	<p>Films that have a sports setting (football or baseball stadium, arena, or the Olympics, etc.), event (the 'big game,' 'fight,' 'race,' or 'competition'), and/or athlete (boxer, racer, surfer, etc.) that are central and predominant in the story. Sports films may be fictional or non-fictional; and they are a <u>hybrid sub-genre</u> category, although they are often <u>dramas</u> or <u>comedy</u> films, and occasionally documentaries.</p>
<p><u>Supernatural Films</u></p>	<p>Supernatural films, a <u>sub-genre</u> category, may be combined with other genres, including <u>comedy</u>, <u>sci-fi</u>, <u>fantasy</u> or <u>horror</u>. They have themes including gods or goddesses, ghosts, apparitions, spirits, miracles, and other similar ideas or depictions of extraordinary phenomena. Interestingly however, until recently, supernatural films were usually presented in a comical, whimsical, or a romantic fashion, and were not designed to frighten the audience. There are also many hybrids that have combinations of fear, fantasy, horror, romance, and comedy.</p>
<p><u>Thriller-Suspense Films</u></p>	<p>Thrillers are often hybrids with other genres - there are <u>action</u>-thrillers, <u>crime-caper</u> thrillers, <u>western</u>-thrillers, <u>film-noir</u> thrillers, even romantic comedy-thrillers. Another closely-related genre is the <u>horror</u> film genre. Thriller and suspense films are virtually synonymous and interchangeable categorizations. They are types of films known to promote intense excitement, suspense, a high level of anticipation, ultra-heightened expectation, uncertainty, anxiety, and nerve-wracking tension. The acclaimed Master of Suspense is Alfred Hitchcock. Spy films may be considered a type of thriller/suspense film.</p>

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<p>Non-Genre Film Categories Iconic symbols represent the different types of films</p>	<p>Descriptions of Non-Genre Film Categories</p>
<p><u>Animated Films</u></p>	<p>Animations are <u>not</u> a strictly-defined genre category, but rather a film technique, although they often contain genre-like elements. This section presents an historical overview of these kinds of films, noted for frame-by-frame creation. Also includes <i>claymation</i> (use of clay objects), <i>anime</i> (a style of animation with its roots in Japanese comic books, usually adult-oriented sci-fi and fantasy) or CGI (computer-generated animation). Animated films are often considered <u>kids or family-oriented films</u>, although they may be enjoyed by all ages.</p>
<p><u>Childrens - Kids - Family-Oriented Films</u></p>	<p>These are non-offensive, wholesome, and entertaining films (usually rated G for 'suitable for general audiences') that do not include topics or scenes with violence, foul language and other profanity, religious issues, gratuitous sexuality and so on, and are specifically designed for children 12 and under (or for family viewing). Children's and family-oriented films may actually be suitable for all age groups, and cover a wide range of genre categories (<i>comedy, adventure, fantasy, musicals, etc.</i>). <i>Classic films</i> from Hollywood's 'Golden Era' may be very appropriate for this type of film audience. See a listing of <u>100 Recommended Children's Movies</u>.</p>
<p><u>Classic Films</u></p>	<p>This 'classic films' category, <u>not</u> a film genre, identifies many films from Hollywood's distinguished Golden Era and other 'classics' that have held up over time.</p>
<p><u>Cult Films</u></p>	<p><u>Not</u> a specific genre in itself, since cult films can be science fiction, horror, etc. Cult films have limited but special</p>

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	<p>appeal, and are usually strange, quirky, offbeat, eccentric, oddball, or surreal, with outrageous and cartoony characters or plots, garish sets - and often considered controversial. Includes various <i>camp</i> films, B-movies (low-budget, with little-known actors and rough scripts), or other trashy or sleazy selections. Also included in this section is the listing of <i>Entertainment Weekly's</i> choices for <u><i>Top 50 Cult Movies</i></u>.</p>
<u>Documentary Films</u>	<p>Strictly speaking, documentary films are non-fictional, factual works of art. Originally, the earliest documentaries were either short newsreels, instructional pictures, or travelogues (termed <i>actualities</i>) without any creative story-telling or staging. But they have branched out and taken many forms, and have sometimes become propagandistic and non-objective. Mockumentaries are comedic parodies of documentaries. Some documentaries have been considered propagandistic.</p>
<u>Miscellaneous Films</u>	<p><u>Not</u> a genre, but a grab-bag of films to be commended for various features (choreography, classic chase scenes, disaster special effects and crowd scenes, slapstick, visual effects and CGI, and other unique or memorable elements).</p>
<u>Serial Films</u>	<p>One of the earliest forms of film that originated during the silent era and lasted to the 1950s, often episodic in form, that were shown over a period of weeks or years. Included attractive heroines, action heroes, comic-book characters, western figures, and villains in melodramatic sequences that often ended with a cliffhanger.</p>
<u>Sexual or Erotic Films</u>	<p>A <u>hybrid</u> category of sexual/erotic films that focus on themes with either suggestive, erotic or sensual scenes or subjects, sometimes with depictions of human nudity and lovemaking, but not</p>

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	always of an extremely explicit, gratuitous or pornographic nature. A mini-history of <i>Sex in Cinema</i> is included in this category. This category may include films often directed at teen audiences, with gross-out sexual subjects.
<u>Silent Films</u>	Films that have no synchronized soundtrack and no spoken dialogue, until the dawn of the talkies in the late 1920s. Films without dialogue featured titles for dialogue segments, and often were accompanied by live music. For additional information on the silent era, see <i>Film History</i> sections: <u><i>the Pre-20s</i></u> and the <u><i>Decade of the 1920s</i></u> .

An essential hard-cover movie guide published in 1999, **The Guinness Book of Film**, subtitled **The Ultimate Guide to the Best Films Ever**, reviewed the top 1000 movies of the 20th century. The ultimate selection of films was based upon a few criteria:

- sound films that were easily available in video format (with a few exceptions)
- "the movies that have given the most pleasure to the most people."

From the 1000 films, the guide also selected a **Top 100 Films**, "essential recommendations" categorized into a Top 5 for each of twenty different genres (action, biopic, cartoon, comedy, cult, disaster, drama, fantasy, gangster, horror, musical, period, romance, science-fiction, silent, spy, swashbuckler, thriller, war, western), represented below .

Top 100 By Genre Category

<p><u>Action</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)</u></p> <p>Aliens (1986)</p> <p>Die Hard (1988)</p> <p><u>Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)</u></p> <p>Con Air (1997)</p>	<p><u>Musical</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Top Hat (1935)</u></p> <p>On the Town (1949)</p> <p><u>The Sound of Music (1965)</u></p> <p>Grease (1978)</p> <p>Evita (1996)</p>
<p><u>Biopic</u></p> <hr/> <p>The Life of Emile Zola (1937)</p> <p>Lust for Life (1956)</p> <p>Reds (1981)</p> <p>Malcolm X (1992)</p> <p>Shine (1996)</p>	<p><u>Period</u></p> <hr/> <p>Pride and Prejudice (1940)</p> <p>Tom Jones (1963)</p> <p>A Room With a View (1986)</p> <p>Dangerous Liaisons (1988)</p> <p>Sense and Sensibility (1995)</p>
<p><u>Cartoon (Animated)</u></p> <hr/> <p>Pinocchio (1940)</p> <p>Bambi (1942)</p>	<p><u>Romance</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Casablanca (1942)</u></p> <p><u>Now, Voyager (1942)</u></p>

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<p>The Jungle Book (1967)</p> <p>Yellow Submarine (1968)</p> <p>Toy Story (1995)</p>	<p><u>Love Story (1970)</u></p> <p>Ghost (1990)</p> <p>The English Patient (1996)</p>
<p><u>Comedy</u></p> <hr/> <p>Monkey Business (1931)</p> <p><u>Bringing Up Baby (1938)</u></p> <p>The Pink Panther (1963)</p> <p>Airplane! (1980)</p> <p>The Full Monty (1997)</p>	<p><u>Science Fiction</u></p> <hr/> <p>Forbidden Planet (1956)</p> <p><u>2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)</u></p> <p><u>Star Wars (1977)</u></p> <p><u>Blade Runner (1982)</u></p> <p><u>E.T. - The Extra-Terrestrial (1982)</u></p>
<p><u>Cult</u></p> <hr/> <p>Barbarella (1968)</p> <p><u>Easy Rider (1969)</u></p> <p><u>A Clockwork Orange (1971)</u></p> <p><u>Badlands (1973)</u></p> <p>Pulp Fiction (1994)</p>	<p><u>Silent</u></p> <hr/> <p>Napoleon (Fr.) (1927)</p> <p>The Wind (1928)</p> <p>Pandora's Box (1928)</p> <p>The Cameraman (1929)</p> <p><u>Modern Times (1936)</u></p>
<p><u>Disaster</u></p> <hr/> <p>Airport (1970)</p> <p>The Poseidon Adventure (1972)</p>	<p><u>Spy</u></p> <hr/> <p>Dr. No (1962)</p> <p>Goldfinger (1964)</p>

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<p>The Towering Inferno (1974)</p> <p>Twister (1996)</p> <p>Armageddon (1998)</p>	<p>The Ipcress File (1965)</p> <p>Three Days of the Condor (1975)</p> <p>Mission: Impossible (1996)</p>
<p><u>Drama</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Gone With The Wind (1939)</u></p> <p><u>Citizen Kane (1941)</u></p> <p><u>On The Waterfront (1954)</u></p> <p><u>The Deer Hunter (1978)</u></p> <p>Titanic (1997)</p>	<p><u>Swashbuckler</u></p> <hr/> <p>Captain Blood (1935)</p> <p>The Prisoner of Zenda (1937)</p> <p><u>The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938)</u></p> <p>The Princess Bride (1987)</p> <p>The Man in the Iron Mask (1998)</p>
<p><u>Fantasy</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>King Kong (1933)</u></p> <p><u>The Wizard of Oz (1939)</u></p> <p>Jason and the Argonauts (1963)</p> <p>Superman (1978)</p> <p>Batman (1989)</p>	<p><u>Thriller</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>The Thirty-Nine Steps (1935)</u></p> <p><u>Vertigo (1958)</u></p> <p><u>Touch Of Evil (1958)</u></p> <p><u>The French Connection (1971)</u></p> <p><u>The Silence of the Lambs (1991)</u></p>
<p><u>Gangster</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Scarface (1932)</u></p> <p><u>Bonnie And Clyde (1967)</u></p>	<p><u>War</u></p> <hr/> <p>The Guns of Navarone (1961)</p> <p>The Great Escape (1963)</p>

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<p><u>The Godfather (1972)</u></p> <p>The Untouchables (1987)</p> <p><u>GoodFellas (1990)</u></p>	<p>Where Eagles Dare (1969)</p> <p><u>Apocalypse Now (1979)</u></p> <p>Saving Private Ryan (1998)</p>
<p><u>Horror</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>The Exorcist (1973)</u></p> <p>Carrie (1976)</p> <p><u>Halloween (1978)</u></p> <p><u>The Shining (1980)</u></p> <p><u>Poltergeist (1982)</u></p>	<p><u>Westerns</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Stagecoach (1939)</u></p> <p><u>High Noon (1952)</u></p> <p>Rio Bravo (1959)</p> <p><u>The Wild Bunch (1969)</u></p> <p><u>Unforgiven (1992)</u></p>