**Single Camera Drama**

Single camera dramas have become very popular recently, opposed to he usual multi-camera set ups. By having single camera television shows, many more genres have been able to be put on the small screen, opposed to the big screen. Musicals, horror and action series have become increasingly popular in using single camera techniques. Single camera shows allow for the show to explore more creative techniques, from lighting and sound to visuals and sets.

In contrast to the single camera production, there is the multi camera production. Multi-camera shows tend to be for more sitcoms and shows like *Strictly Come Dancing* or *The X-Factor.* Using multiple cameras allows for more footage to be shot at the same time and from different angle. For a sitcom like *Friends,* there will usually be 3 cameras; one for wide shot, one for a medium shot and one for close ups. However, for game shows and some crime series like *QI* and *Castle* there will be between 6-8 cameras. Most of the cameras will be reserved for close-ups and medium shots on panel members and the remaining cameras used in wide shots and establishing shots of the set/panel. Multi camera shows, popular for filming live sitcoms and panel shows like *Mock the Week* and *Frends*, restrain the creative aspects of shows but require less intensive editing afterwards.

An example of a single camera production is *American Horror Story. American Horror Story* is a serial anthology based television show created by Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk in 2010. While predominantly being a horror show, recurring themes of erotica, religion, homosexuality and the supernatural appear in all the series so far. The show features strong bloody violence, sexual violence, strong nudity, frequent language and frightening images. For this reason, the show is rated 18 in the UK and Tv14 in America, with a ‘Viewer Discretion Is Advised’ placed before each episode. The show has been praised for its unique anthology format. Unlike many shows on TV, which becomes repetitive and predictable, this format allows a fresh story each time while keeping the cast that the audience grow to enjoy. Each season is set in a different location, time, based on a different set of characters in a completely new story.

From a technical aspect, the series adopts conventions from film, rather than TV. For example, lighting. On a film, lighting is set up for each shot. This makes sure that each shot is lit to how the director wants it to be. Lighting here can be used to create mood and atmosphere opposed to multi camera productions. Single camera productions would need more set-ups than a multi camera show but less time actually setting it up. Another film convention adopted by this show, would be the use of set and location. A single camera production allows for more sets and locations to be used, as there is no live audience. By not having an audience, sets don’t have to be built around where the audience will be positioned. American Horror Story uses many sets and locations, which would be unsuitable for shooting with an audience behind it.

In contrast to the single camera production seen in *American Horror Story*, sitcoms like *The Big Bang Theory* adopt the multi camera set up. *The Big Bang Theory* is a family friendly (in contrast to the adult content of *American Horror Story)* comedy sitcom. The show revolves around Sheldon Cooper and Leonard Hofstadter, 2 scientists who share an apartment. Across the hall lives Penny, a ditsy aspiring actress who be friends them both and their 2 friends Raj and Howard, also fellow scientists. The series follows a traditional sitcom storyline; the daily lives of a group of friends as they navigate through their lives seeking friendship, romance and success.

Each episode has a 3-act structure, which is common in almost every sitcom. The show will open with a teaser, setting up the story for the episode to follow. Then Act 1 will then set up the dilemma of the episode. Act 2 will develop and expand the dilemma the cast must overcome and Act 3 will resolve the dilemma, usually ending positively. The show is filmed in front of a live audience, meaning that the sets for the show are constructed in a way that has the action facing the audience; giving the set a 2D look about it. Each set is lit so that all the lights are