**Single Camera Production**

The single camera technique began back in 1910 in Classic Hollywood and has continued to be used in film and television. The use of single camera set ups in television especially, made them look more like feature films and made it easier for special effects to be accomplished like appearing and disappearing magically like in *Charmed.* Single camera setups are exactly what it sounds like; a single camera is used to capture all the footage from different angles needed to create a motion picture or television show.

For a scene in which two characters are speaking to one and other, the camera will face one of the actors and shoot shots 1,3,5,7 and then the camera will shoot the other actor and film shot 2,4,6,8 and so on. Then in postproduction it will be edited together to appear in sequential shot order 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8. 

This is another example of single camera setups. Each ‘position’ is the same camera and the same scene will be shot multiple times from different angles. The first position is a Master Shot and the second and third are close-ups. By filming the scene from different angles, in postproduction it is possible to cover up technical glitches that may occur during one take by cutting to another and show the ‘action-reaction’ that occurs between two characters. Actors have to be careful however not to make different movements during each take as it will cause a continuity error in the scene.

Single camera productions have many advantages despite only using the one camera. Firstly it is cheaper to use the one camera than have multiples set up. The director has more control over each shot, allowing lighting and staging to be adjusted accordingly to fit the shot. Scenes can be shot again and again until the director is satisfied; making each shot the best possible one for the film. In editing, it is possible to cover up mistakes made during the shoot, either from the actor or something on set. In almost all films, multiple locations are used throughout. Single camera productions allow for all scenes to be filmed in the desired location, even if it is not in sequential order. Same goes for the entire script, many films are shot out of sequence to accommodate actors other commitments, set builds or availability of actors, sets and props throughout. Stanley Kubrick famously filmed *The Shining* in script order, meaning all every soundstage in Elstree was used, built on, ready and lit during the entire shoot ready to be used.

However, this style of filmmaking does come with its problems. The first is that it is time consuming. Setting up the camera and lighting for every shot and angle correctly is time consuming. The infamous ‘shower scene’ in *Psycho* used 70 camera set ups, took seven days to shoot out of the 30 to shoot the entire film and was only 45 seconds long, featuring over 90 splices throughout. Only one angle can be filmed at a time, meaning that the duration of the shoot will be longer due to numerous set ups. Also during it is possible for continuity errors to be made when repeating the same scene from another angle. For example in *Ted* the two main characters are talking in bed, one angle shows Mark Wahlberg’s arm across his chest while the next angle shows it behind his head, switching between the two positions during the scene. It takes longer to edit footage together as finding the correct place to cut in two different takes can be difficult, especially if actors change what the are doing on screen, creating continuity. Actors also have a large amount of pressure on them to act in the exact same way in one take as they did in the previous in order to make the scene flow errorless.

Single camera setups have helped advance Television shows over the past decade or so. Single camera is usually reserved for prime-time dramas, made for TV movies and commercials. The multi-camera setup is commonly used in sitcoms, soap operas and chat shows. The dominant reason single camera setups are not used in weekly shows is because of the editing process and the lengthy process it takes to edit single camera productions wouldn’t allow for each episode to be ready every week when needed. Many Television sitcoms such as *Friends, Cheers, Will & Grace* and *Two and a Half Men* use multi camera set ups as they take place in a single location i.e. Flat, Coffee House or a different room in a house and because they are shown ever week and it can be filmed faster than on single cameras.

However, because editing software has become significantly upgraded and multiple editors can work at the same time, the use of a single camera set up in Television has allowed for shows to become more adventurous. Specifically in the locations they use, allowing for cast to move through streets, like on *Girls*, which are not sets. Also because few shows now are filmed with a live audience, the need to shot chronologically is unnecessary. TV shows like *Glee* use single camera set ups, allowing for complex scenes and dance sequences to be filmed with more camera angles and look like feature film sequences.