

## History of Motion Pictures

### Script Draft

[On phone call walking thru hallway]

well, you know I read somewhere online that since 2008 the average attention span of humans has dropped to only 8 seconds. I know, im assuming its because of the smart phones every baby is born with now, and the fast internet speeds. well yeah youre right, pretty much all media is created with the idea of instant gratification in mind. Why do you think Birdman won so many awards? Because our newly devolved millennial minds were blown--- you haven't seen birdman?! With Michael Keaton?- hold on im gonna lose you im getting on the elevator. One sec,

[rides elevator in silence and gets off on desired floor]

can you hear me? Okay, well yeah, I mean its hard to captivate an audience for a full length feature film without one single cut while every other movie changes angles every time we blink. Hell, its hard to do it for 30 seconds [winks at camera]. No, its not only about challenging the human body to pay attention, long takes actually evoke more emotion, and they dissolve the line between the audience and the story. But it's obviously not going to be successful without a good director and a highly skilled cinematographer. --- im boring you? Oh, im sorry. This is literally all ive been studying for the past 4 weeks of my life. This is what I was talking about though, kids these days with their short attention spans. Okay, alright, bye.

[Walks into apt]

[Clip from Birdman]

What you just saw was a cinematic technique called the “long take” and it may or may not have seemed like a new experience to you. My first introduction to this technique was 2 years ago when I watched “Birdman” aka “The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance”, which is what you’re seeing now. This film is actually said to be a one-shot feature film, however it is only edited to seem that way. However, there are actual films that have been shot in one take such as “Timecode” or foreign films you may not recognize such as “Russian Ark”,

[Russian Ark Poster]

“Immortality”,

[Immortality Poster]

and “Victoria”

[Clip from Victoria]

These films give a sense of real time and don’t rely on distractions in order to pass the time like this clip from (Dark Knight)

[Clip from Dark Knight]

As you can see, they enter the tunnel during the day and exit it at night. This is where our 8 second attention span is taken advantage of in order to carry the story along. Which poses as a problem when studios are attempting “long-takes” and full on “one-shot” films. For they are forced to resemble the true passage of time as much as possible, because something like this would not go unnoticed in this “Slow-cinema” form.

[show clip from “Rope”]

With this difficulty comes less attempts at such a feat. Not many studios have created such masterpieces because the execution must be precise and take much longer to produce. Long-takes, however, have become very popular in modern cinema, but date all the way back physical film in which the long take was limited to the amount of film a camera could hold. What you're seeing now is the Alfred Hitchcock film from 1948 called "rope", debuted way before the time of digital video which was introduced in 1986. The presence of the continuous shot in "rope" helps to break the barrier between scene and audience and ultimately feel exactly what the criminals endure throughout their time in this limited setting the film takes place.

[Clip from the revenant]

This technique serves the same purpose in the new film "the revenant" starring leo dicaprio. The long-take shows every ounce of emotion this "tribe" is going thru as their base is raided and many of their friends and family die. The prolonged cinematography creates more anxiety and allows time for the full emotion of the scene to settle in and become attached to what is happening. This artistic technique is more prominent in dramas for obvious reasons, but was well fit in this particular action thriller.

[multiple Ok Go Music Videos]

Although it may be satisfying to watch, films use this technique mostly to evoke the emotion that wouldn't be as strong without the one take, because that what a film's purpose is, to make you feel something, but many musicians use it purely for aesthetic and trend such as ok go. More and more artists are catching wind of the

awe this type of performance captures, so the frequency of this type of music video is definitely on the rise.

[Montage of Movies with Long Takes]

As long as its been possible, the long-take has captured a validity of emotion, time, aesthetic, and inspiration. The makers behind this successfully executed technique can only be described as renowned. The vision, the performance, and the cooperation of the long shot is what makes it the beautiful things that it is, for it is one of the easiest to fail, and one of the hardest to achieve.