SCREENWRITING FOR SHORT FILMS

BY ADRIAN DEAN

INTRODUCTION

- Kiss Shot Truth or Dare (writer)
- He's Home (writer, director)
- Bomb Squad Bobby (writer, director)
- Jonathan Commits (writer, director)
- White powder (writer)
- Steps (writer)
- Off-his Job (writer, director)
- Duets with the dead (writer, director)
- Night fears (writer, director)

WRITE FOR THE DIRECTOR

- THINK VISUALLY
- THINK ABOUT ALL THE COMPONENTS

STAGE DIRECTIONS

- HIGHLIGHT IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE SCENE
- SHOW DON'T TELL
- DIALOGUE IS SECONDARY

YOU'RE NOT MAKING A PLAY

- USE THE THINGS THAT MAKE FILM UNIQUE
- TALKING, TALKING IS NOT FILM
- FILM SHOULD ALSO BE EFFECTIVE WITH THE SOUND OFF

DIALOGUE

- NOBODY WANTS NORMAL CONVERSATIONS
- LESS IS MORE
- NOTHING SAID IS WITHOUT PURPOSE

IS IT REALLY NECESSARY

NO IT'S NOT, CUT IT OUT

CHARACTERS

- SMALL DETAILS ARE IMPORTANT
- GET TO KNOW YOUR CHARACTERS
- KEEPP THEM UNIQUE FROM YOU AND EACH OTHER

FORESHADOW & SET-UP

- KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING AND LEAVE A TRAIL OF BREAD CUMBS
- NO DEUS EX MACHINA



- CHARACTER GROWTH BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE STORY
- NOT NECESSARY IN ALL SHORT FILMS

EVERYTHING IS THERE FOR A REASON

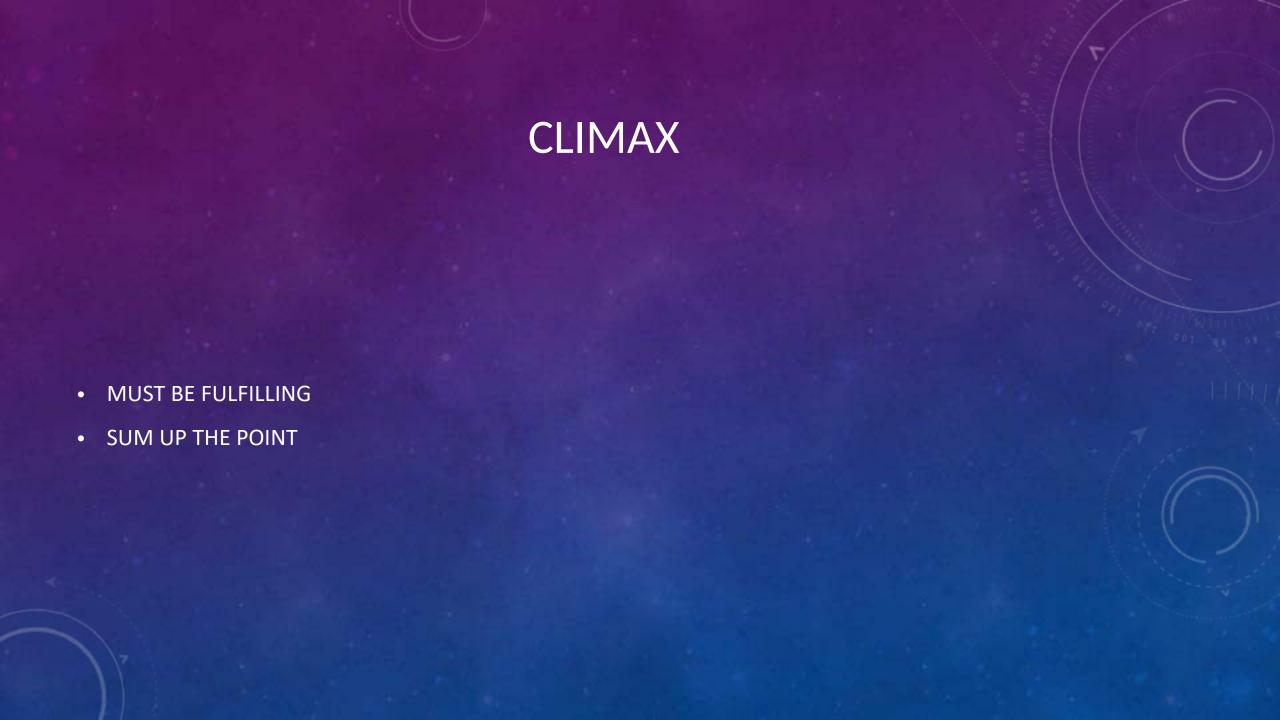
CUT THE FAT

BE THERE WITH THE CHARACTERS

- BE IN THE SCENE
- IDENTIFY WITH THE CHARACTERS
- IMAGINE HOW IT WOULD FEEL FOR YOU

WORLD BUILDING & TONE SETTING

- IS IT NEEDED?
- TRY TO SHOW IT VISUALLY
- STAY FOCUSED ON THE FEELING



CAMERA TRICKS

- USE THE CAMERA TO YOUR ADVANTAGE
- VISUAL AIDS CAN HELP WITH STORY TELLING

NARRATIVE DEVICES

- USE SPARINGLY
- USE EFFECTIVELY

INSPIRATION

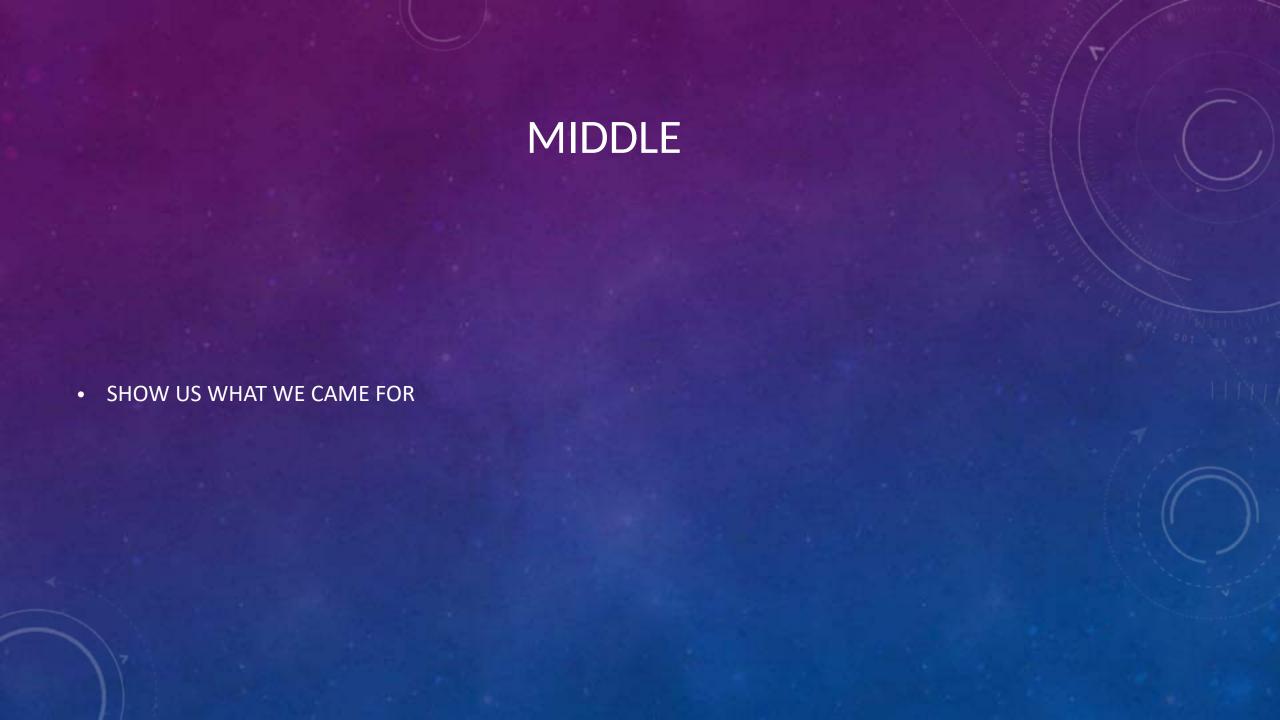
- NOTE DOWN ALL OF YOUR IDEAS
- GET IN THE HABIT OF THINKING OF SCRIPTS

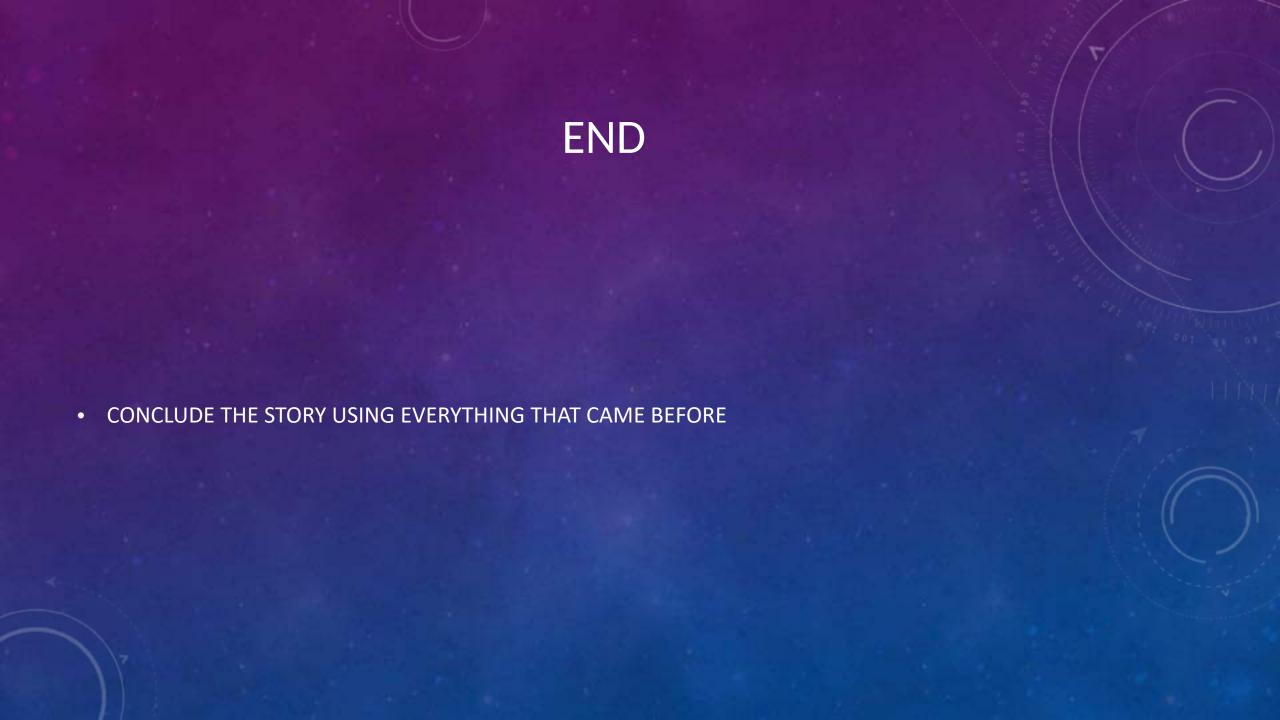
LET YOUR BABY FLY

- THE TIGHTER THE SCRIPT THE LESS THINGS THEY WILL CHANGE
- ALLOW CHANGE TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR WORK

BEGINNING

- SET-UP WORLD
- INTRODUCE CHARACTERS





PULL THEM IN EARLY

- USE MYSTERIOUS CHARACTERS OR CIRCUMSTANCES
- SET THE SCENE IN OBSCURE INTRIGUING WAYS

EXTRAS

- COMEDY IS KING
- STAY IN YOUR LANE
- DON'T BE STUBORN
- MAKE THE EDITORS JOB EASY
- SUBTEXT
- CONCEPT

RESOURCES

- BOOKS
- SOFTWARE
- SCRIPTS
- YOUTUBE