

## ADVICE FOR SHOOTING COMEDY

**Comedy is objective.** Hang back and observe your characters. Don't go deep into their heads or behind the eyes all the time. Save that for marking *The Event*. Give them space. A 35mm lens is good for most things.

Watch *Annie Hall* carefully and see how that's shot. On the one hand you have DP Gordon Willis - one of the all time great cinematographers who also did *The Godfather* - and on the other hand you have one of the greatest comedies of all time. Use that as your template.

### Here are my quick tips:

1. Frame wider than you are probably used to. That means a single of someone is probably framed at the waist. Don't go any closer than the shoulders and use that sparingly.
2. Use many more Two Shots framed objectively 50-50 than you imagine... and stay in them much longer. Let the behavior of the people play out in real time and space together. *Cut in only when really necessary.*
3. Shoot a master of the entire scene and use it more than you normally would