

## BK – DRAMATIZATION

### DRAMATIZATION

Your job as a director is to figure out how to DRAMATIZE it rather than ILLUSTRATE it.

What is the difference? In a DRAMATIZATION something occurs in front of us (the audience), and INVOLVES US EMOTIONALLY. That is what I want to call THE EVENT. From witnessing that Event we draw a Meaning or a Sense of Meaning.

Why do we DRAW A MEANING? We cannot help ourselves. HUMAN BEINGS ATTACH MEANING TO THEIR EXPERIENCES IN ORDER TO MAKE SENSE OF LIFE AND THE UNIVERSE THEY ENCOUNTER. We do this involuntarily.

In order to influence the audience to draw the meaning she wants to convey, the storyteller must work with the audiences perceptions, emotions, prejudices, appetites, symbol systems, in order to CONTROL THE NARRATIVE and to make the Event happen.

An ILLUSTRATION shows us a picture of what happens -- but DOESN'T ACTUALLY MAKE IT HAPPEN. It's like show and tell. It announces what the author wants us to feel rather than creating the Event that calls forth the feeling.

A ILLUSTRATION is like a Sign Post – a poster that says "Vote for Obama" -- it tells us what to do without involving us in a way that makes us want to do it. Now think of the HOPE poster of Obama. It evoked a feeling. It was designed to make you FEEL HOPEFUL. It made you want to PARTICIPATE in the moment of Obama looking out and imagining better things than exist now. That kind of response is EMOTIONAL rather than DIDACTIC.

The purpose of illustration is to EXPLAIN – to make some something clear, explicit.

The purpose of dramatization is to excavate a meaningful emotional event that marks a change.\*\*\*\*\*