

MAKING A SCENE

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PLAY

A Scene is...?

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- A subdivision of an ACT

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- A subdivision of an ACT
- A unit of continuous action

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- A subdivision of an ACT
- A unit of continuous action
- An interaction that culminates in an EVENT

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a Writer breaks Story into

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a Writer breaks Story into

- ACTS

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a Writer breaks Story into

- ACTS
- SCENES

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Scene Structure
mirrors

Act Structure

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mirrors

Story Structure

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- **STATEMENT OF A GOAL**

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- STATEMENT OF A GOAL
- DEVELOPMENT OF CONFLICT

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- STATEMENT OF A GOAL
- DEVELOPMENT OF CONFLICT
- FAILURE TO REACH GOAL

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A Scene must be copyright barnet kellman 2013 Dramatized

the DELIVERY SYSTEM
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of DRAMA is...

The
TRANSFER
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of
EMOTION

in a DRAMATIC SCENE:

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in a DRAMATIC SCENE:

- SOMETHING MUST BE DONE

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in a DRAMATIC SCENE:

- SOMETHING MUST BE DONE
- SOMETHING MUST HAPPEN

THE EVENT

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an **EVENT** is...?

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- the central **EMOTIONAL OCCURRENCE**
of the Scene

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- the central **EMOTIONAL OCCURRENCE** of the Scene

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- something **EMOTIONAL** that **HAPPENS** to the central character

Incidents

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Events

A Scene is...

an INTERACTION

that

CULMINATES

in an

EVENT

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THE DIRECTOR'S JOB
IS TO
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MAKE THE EVENT
HAPPEN

Are there scenes
without events...?

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Are there scenes without events...?

- EXPOSITORY

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Are there scenes without events...?

- EXPOSITORY
- ILLUSTRATIVE

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Directing the Dramatic

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Scene:

a Director breaks Scene into

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a Director breaks Scene into

- MOMENTS

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a Director breaks Scene into

- MOMENTS
- BEATS

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A Moment is...?

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Why do we need
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beats...?

WHAT IS A BEAT???

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3 Ways of thinking about BEATS

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3 Ways of thinking about BEATS

- A MUSICAL PHRASE

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3 Ways of thinking about BEATS

- A MUSICAL PHRASE
- A DOWN IN A FOOTBALL POSSESSION

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3 Ways of thinking about BEATS

- A MUSICAL PHRASE
- A DOWN IN A FOOTBALL POSSESSION
- A PLACE WHERE THE SCENE WOULD
END...if nothing changed

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VOCABULARY

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TIME OUT

“BEAT”

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COMMON CONFUSIONS AND
MISUNDERSTANDINGS

is it:

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is it:

- **beat - as in a rhythmic hit?**

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is it:

- beat - as in a rhythmic hit?
- beat - as it "bit" ...a piece or unit?

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is it:

- beat - as in a rhythmic hit?
- beat - as in "bit" ...a piece or unit?
- beat - as in pause or silence?

is it:

- beat - as in a rhythmic hit?
- beat - as in "bit" ...a piece or unit?
- beat - as in pause or silence?
- beat - as in point on an outline?

“Beat”

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A TERM THAT HAS BEEN MULTI-PURPOSED

Consider the Purpose of a “BEAT”

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Consider the Purpose of a “BEAT”

- TO A WRITER

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Consider the Purpose of a “BEAT”

- TO A WRITER
- TO AN ACTOR

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Consider the Purpose of a “BEAT”

- TO A WRITER
- TO AN ACTOR
- TO A DIRECTOR

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Writers' Beats

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Writers' Beats

- **STORY MILESTONE - “Beat Sheet”**

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Writers' Beats

- STORY MILESTONE - “Beat Sheet”
- PAUSE IN DIALOGUE

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Writers' Beats

- STORY MILESTONE - “Beat Sheet”
- PAUSE IN DIALOGUE
- CHANGE IN SUBJECT OF DIALOGUE

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Actors' Beats

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Actors' Beats

- **PAUSE IN DIALOGUE**

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Actors' Beats

- PAUSE IN DIALOGUE
- CHANGE IN SUBJECT OF DIALOGUE

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Actors' Beats

- PAUSE IN DIALOGUE
- CHANGE IN SUBJECT OF DIALOGUE
- BEHAVIORS IN PURSUIT OF A FINITE GOAL OR AGENDA

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Directors' Beats

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Directors' Beats

- **PAUSE IN DIALOGUE**

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Directors' Beats

- PAUSE IN DIALOGUE
- CHANGE IN SUBJECT OF DIALOGUE

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Directors' Beats

- PAUSE IN DIALOGUE
- CHANGE IN SUBJECT OF DIALOGUE
- BEHAVIORS IN PURSUIT OF A FINITE GOAL OR AGENDA

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- **A MUSICAL PHRASE**

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- A MUSICAL PHRASE
- A DOWN IN A FOOTBALL POSSESSION

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- A MUSICAL PHRASE
- A DOWN IN A FOOTBALL POSSESSION
- A SKIRMISH WITHIN A BATTLE

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- A MUSICAL PHRASE
- A DOWN IN A FOOTBALL POSSESSION
- A SKIRMISH WITHIN A BATTLE
- A PLACE WHERE THE SCENE WOULD END...if nothing changed

A Matter of Interpretation

the same scene
may be performed in
four beats, three beats or two beats

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In Order To
Understand
the Way the Scene
Happens...

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ONE MOMENT AT A TIME

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ONE BEAT

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AT A TIME

FOLLOW

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THE

CRUMBS

THIS IS COMMON
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SENSE BUT...

THE SEDUCTION OF THE SURFACE

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What is the PURPOSE of a SCENE...?

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What is the PURPOSE of a SCENE...?

- for a WRITER

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What is the PURPOSE of a SCENE...?

- for a WRITER
 - for an ACTOR
- copyright barnet kellman 2013

What is the PURPOSE of a SCENE...?

- for a WRITER
- for an ACTOR
- for the DIRECTOR

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Writers' Purposes

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Writers' Purposes

- Advance Story

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Writers' Purposes

- Advance Story
- Show Conflict

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Writers' Purposes

- Advance Story
- Show Conflict
- Introduce Character

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Writers' Purposes

- Advance Story
- Show Conflict
- Introduce Character
- Develop Character

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Writers' Purposes

- Advance Story
- Show Conflict
- Introduce Character
- Develop Character
- Create Suspense

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Writers' Purposes

- Advance Story
- Show Conflict
- Introduce Character
- Develop Character
- Create Suspense
- Give Information

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Writers' Purposes

- Advance Story
- Show Conflict
- Introduce Character
- Develop Character
- Create Suspense
- Give Information
- Create Atmosphere

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Writers' Purposes

- Advance Story
- Show Conflict
- Introduce Character
- Develop Character
- Create Suspense
- Give Information
- Create Atmosphere
- Develop Theme

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Actor's Purposes

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Actor's Purposes

- To Create and Maintain Moment to Moment Life

Actor's Purposes

- To Create and Maintain Moment to Moment Life
- To Sustain Belief

Directors' Purposes

By fulfilling the Writers' Purposes while achieving the
Actors' Purposes....

To create an **EMOTIONAL EVENT** that happens to
the Central Character.....

...and, through identification with that character's
emotional experience....

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HAPPENS TO THE AUDIENCE

This EMOTIONAL EVENT causes a

CHANGE in the
character's condition that

MOVES THE STORY FORWARD

The Director's job is to Orchestrate...

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The Director's job is to Orchestrate...

- a **GRAND EVENT (the ACT)**

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The Director's job is to Orchestrate...

- a **GRAND EVENT (the ACT)**
- told thru **SMALLER EVENTS (SCENES)**

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The Director's job is to Orchestrate...

- a **GRAND EVENT (the ACT)**
- told thru **SMALLER EVENTS (SCENES)**
- to a **EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE (STORY)**

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We Begin with the Scene

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We Begin with the Scene

- Moments

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We Begin with the Scene

- Moments
- Beats

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