A PAKISTANI FILMMAKER'S GUIDE TO NARRATIVE EDITING

Editing is the last and perhaps most important act of authorship in the making of a film. Working in collaboration with the director, the editor must use the footage given to her/him to shape the audience's experience of the film. The editors work is part technique and part artistry. This is where performances are sculpted, production errors fixed, narrative arcs reinforced and a new film comes into being which is greater than the sum of its parts. In many ways the editor's invisible fingerprints on the film can have a larger impact on the finished piece than almost any other individual involved in the making of the film.

Why is it then, that both Pakistani narrative film and television so frequently get this key part of the filmmaking process wrong. The goal of this master class is to reinforce broad editing principles that should be part and parcel of any filmmaker's editing arsenal. Using examples from both Pakistani and international films and television, the class will look at some of the most commonly made editing mistakes, as well as strategies and conceptual tools for avoiding these pitfalls.

ARTIST’S BIO

Bilal is a Pakistani born filmmaker, screenwriter, educator and multi-disciplinary artist. Over a career spanning two decades he has produced, directed and written commercials, television shows, films, shorts, documentaries and has penned lyrics. His work has appeared in Pakistan and abroad on television networks, festivals and in cinemas.

Bilal was a Fulbright scholar to the U.S. at Ohio University for his MFA in Film. From 2010-12 he worked for Partisan Pictures, NYC on content produced for NatGeo, Discovery and the History Channel. In 2013 he collaborated with the acclaimed Pakistani music producer Mekaal Hasan on a short documentary titled 'Dhun' which was featured at the Alchemy Festival at the Southbank Centre, London in 2016. From 2013-16 Bilal taught filmmaking at the School of Television, Film & Theatre at Beaconhouse National University, heading the department in his last year there when he also was charged with redesigning both the undergraduate and the graduate programs in Film, Television and Theatre.

'Dobara Phir Se' Bilal's first commercial Pakistani feature which he wrote and co-produced for director Mehreen Jabbar was released worldwide in November 2016 to critical acclaim. In the same year 'Stories We Tell' - a public art project that he undertook with the renowned artist Rashid Rana, came to a conclusion with a publication and an exhibition at the Alhamra Arts Council, Lahore. In 2018 Bilal helped produce the Karachi based crime thriller titled Laal Kabootar which opened to critical and commercial acclaim in 2019.

From 2018-20 Bilal headed the New Media department at Geo Entertainment Television in Karachi, establishing their partnerships with Netflix, Zee5, VU Clip and Amazon, as well as heading their syndication, adaptation and social media departments. Bilal now lives in London and is working on a feature length narrative film and a documentary series.

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