

MOOD and SOUNDS

In any production, moods are very important and are often hard to control. Sounds help to control and focus moods. This control will bring the audience in and help them to discover the focal point of the production.

Here are some typical moods, and the sounds that characterize them.

HAPPY – fast, sharp, light, excited

Sad – slow, mellow, monotone, flowing

Scared - eerie, sharp, tight, breathy

Anticipating – graduating volume

Nervous – soft, fast, jittery

Anxious – volume going up and down quickly, static

Suspenseful – silence to eerie, confused, off beat, chilling

Wacky/Crazy – fast, out of tune, off beat, abrupt



Other Ways to Create Sounds

Many digital media products come with sound options. Explore them all! Soon you will have a repertoire of natural sounds, music, and digitally-created effects.

*As the children ran with their rubber sneakers on the wooden gym floor, the boy in the hallway heard the **SQUEAKS!***



*When the little boys hair “jumped” off his head the noise that will occur is **BOING!***



*When the pencil was thrown against the metal trash can, a small **DING!** rang through the child’s ears.*



*As the boy fell to the floor, the audience heard a loud **THUMP!***



When making a production like a video or a PowerPoint, the types of sounds that are used affect the entire production.

With an improper or unrealistic use of sound, the production could be misinterpreted, and your project will have less impact.

All production elements need to come together to make dynamic presentations.

MUCH
ADO
ABOUT
SOUND



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The Impact of Sound

Have you ever watched a very scary movie...and listened to all the sound and music going on, especially during the suspenseful or sad scenes?

Have you ever watched a movie with the mute button on, or covered your ears? Was the movie less scary this way?

Well, if you've had such experiences, you'll believe us when we say...



SOUND DRAMATICALLY IMPACTS MOVIES!

The sounds that are included in movie scenes are designed to fit the action, theme, setting, and the characters, to make them more real.

If used correctly, sounds can broaden our perspectives, and enhance our movie-viewing experiences.

Different Types of Sounds

The first type of sound that can be incorporated in your movie is music.

Music is vital in supporting the mood of a project, and adds to the flow and impact of the movie's message. Music helps to establish the overall effect of any production.

Music often describes the events, and can be symbolic of setting, character, and action. For example, if the setting in your movie is a scary and eerie place, spine-chilling and creepy music would be needed to define and describe this setting.

The next type of sound is sound effects. Sound effects are used to define one action, one moment, or a sequence in a production. *For example, "As the crowd watched the basketball game, they ROARED!" An arena full of roaring fans can definitely characterize the moment.*

The final type of sound is silence. It might not seem like much, but when silence is precisely placed, the movie viewer is forced to stop and focus on what just happened, and reflect on what might follow. Silence pinpoints, highlights, emphasizes.

Ways to Think About Sound

It is very important to know a variety of ways to create and incorporate sounds in your movie.

Sounds are all around us. Go ahead, listen!!

Try to identify what is making the sound, and then try to create that sound yourself. How?

You can create sounds and sound effects with your mouth, hands, voice, and even using nearby objects. If, for example, you want to incorporate a *BOING* sound, you may be able to use your voice, or you could try a slinky or a spring to create that sound.

Any sound from the environment can be recreated. Our resources are endless.

Just as there are many different types of sounds, there are many different types of music. Music is defined by genre.

Music sounds different from one genre to the next. If, for example, you are looking for a twang sound, country-western music would most likely be the type of music to listen to, to get your inspiration.

A word of advice—Listen to all the genres of music with an open mind. If you want to enhance the experiences of your viewers, you will need to consider all your musical options.

