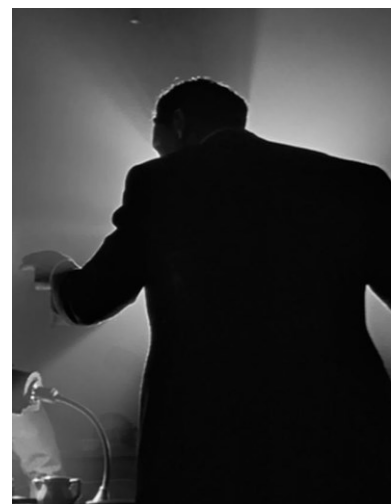
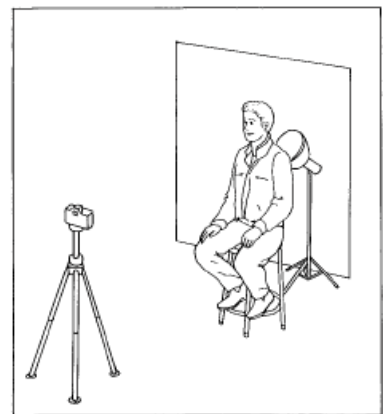
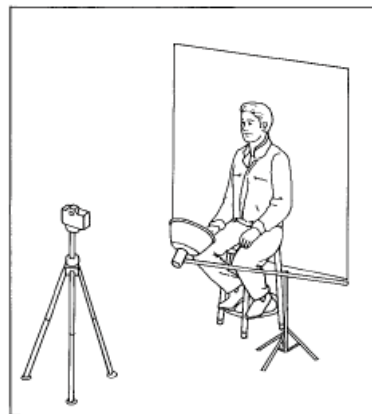
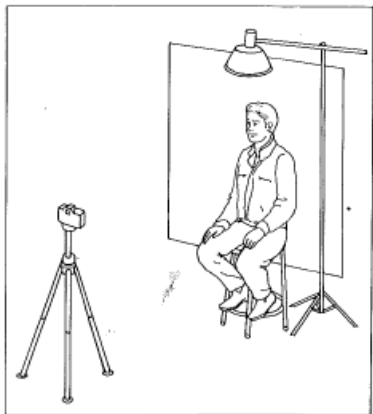
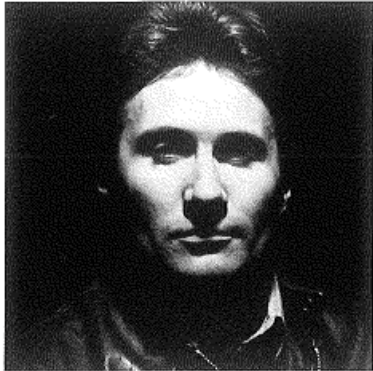


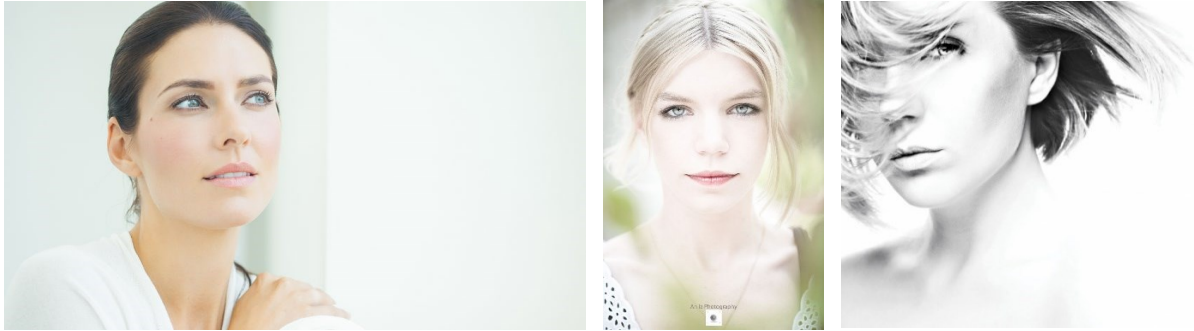
## 5. MISE-EN-SCENE

**Mise en scene** – a French term, which literally means 'put into the frame'. When analysing a sequence the term refers to the different elements used to stage the scene (props, costume, lighting, colour, makeup etc.)

**Lighting (general)** – can be used to set the mood of a scene as well as to highlight important characters or actions in the shot.



**High Key Lighting** – A bright and well-lit scene with very few shadows. Often used to make a location or character seem friendly, happy and safe.



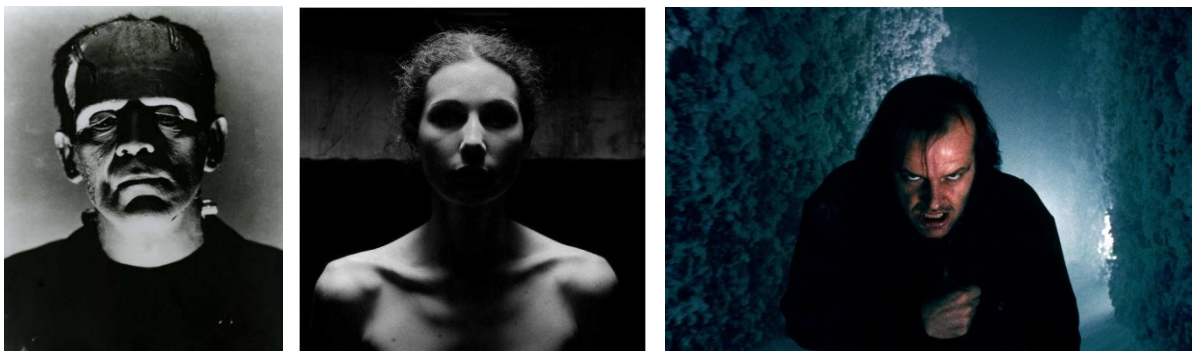
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUvkWkxFb2M>

**Low key Lighting** – a dimly lit scene with lots of shadows. Often used to make a location or character seem shady, untrustworthy, dangerous and unsafe.



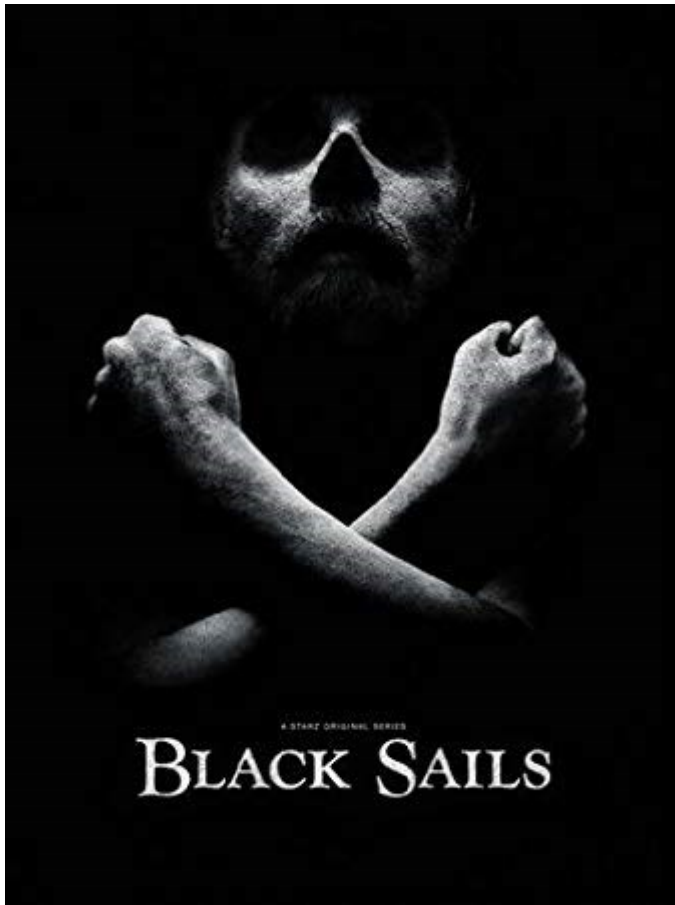
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91gU93J2Q8k&feature=relmfu>

**Chiaroscuro Lighting** – a scene lit with extreme low lighting and high contrast, with lots of shadows and some highlights. Can be used to make a location or character seem very dramatic and unusual.



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SIH\\_uvPuRw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SIH_uvPuRw)

An example of **chiaroscuro lighting** applied to a TV series poster:



By using a **single source of light** placed above the model (so the light, in this case, comes **from above**), this image manages to recreate the “Jolly Roger” pirate flag (skull and bones) as an iconic poster for the pirates TV drama Black

**Props** – The decorative and symbolic elements used in staging a scene, as well as those that a character bears e.g. a gun, a bunch of flowers, etc. They can tell us lots about the type of character or genre of the film.

**Costumes** – Clothes a character is wearing. They tell us lots about a character, their role in the narrative, etc. For example a policeman's or a soldier's uniform connotes the role of the character or the genre of the film. Specific costumes are paramount in period dramas or genre films such as westerns, war films, etc.



**Hair & Make Up** – the appearance of a character bear significant connotations about the character itself, as well as the genre or period of the film.



**Body Shape and Language** – the way a character's body looks and the way they hold their body e.g. confident, slumping down, cowering from someone etc. It tells us what type of person they are and how they feel about others.

**Facial Features and Expression** – the way a character's face looks and shows emotion. For example a shocked expression, sadness or a look of love. Other interesting features such as bad teeth, small, squinty eyes, etc. tell us about the character's personality.



**Voice / Tone** – The way a character speaks defines its personality. Someone who stutters might be nervous; someone who shouts may be angry; someone who speaks softly may be well educated, be in charge or be powerful.

**Colour** – Colours in a scene bear symbolic meanings. Red can connote anger, passion, danger, love. Blue can seem calm and peaceful, sometimes sad. These symbolic connotations will vary depending on the context of the scene.

**Location** – A place where the scene is set. A location can tell us lots about the characters who inhabit it or the genre of a film. For example a dirty, blood stained basement could signify that a character is a villain or a murder has taken place. A messy bedroom might signify that the character who inhabit it is disorganised. Additionally, the location or setting can also establish the genre of the film.



**Breaking the Fourth Wall (Direct Address)** – Describes a time where a character may look directly at the camera and speak to the audience. This is highly unusual but can be seen regularly in shows like the TV series *Malcolm in the Middle* or films such *Amelie* (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001) or *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* (Ethan and Joel Cohen, 2018). This is designed to emphasise that character as the most important, as powerful, and as someone we should be siding with as it helps us feel like we are “one of them” and as though we are one of their friends.



**Task:** Following with the Power Point presentation that you started in the previous lesson, add one slide for each of these aspects of mise-en-scene, adding the **definition** (written) and an **example** taken from a film, TV advert or music video, explaining how does it help to identify narrative or generic aspects of that specific audio visual media text.