



Screenplays & Screenwriters

By Isaac Lui


What are Screenplays & Screenwriters



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A Taste of Screenplays!

Now that we have established the concept of screenplays and screenwriters, let's see an example to gain some experience. The following clips are from the Joker Interrogation scene from the 2008 Batman film, *The Dark Knight*. The scene has been cut into these clips so that I may easily explain a certain concept the scene is depicting.



Does it depress you, Lieutenant, to
know how alone you are?

Gordon can't help glancing at the mounted CAMERA.

THE JOKER (CONT'D)

Does it make you feel responsible
for Harvey Dent's current predicament?

GORDON

Where is he?

THE JOKER

Expression

Observe Commissioner Gordon...

- Joker taunts Gordon about Harvey Dent's kidnapping
- Camera zooms to Gordon's face
- Gordon's expression is poised and serious
- According to the screenplay, Gordon can't help but glance back at the mounted camera



THE JOKER (CONT'D)

Does it make you feel responsible
for Harvey Dent's current predicament?

GORDON

Where is he?

THE JOKER

What time is it?


GORDON

What difference does that make?

Dialogue

Now observe the Joker...

- Gordon asks Joker where Dent is
- Camera places Joker in a medium close-up as he asks Gordon what time it is
- Gordon returns to the cameras attention and asks why it matters
- Joker cryptically answers that “depending on time”, Dent could be in one place or many while give a small smile



Not exactly.

Gordon steps out. The overhead lights COME ON. BATMAN IS BEHIND HIM. The Joker BLINKS in the HARSH WHITE LIGHT.

WHAM! The Joker's face HITS the table- comes up for air-

CRACK! CRACK! To the head. Batman is in front of him. The Joker stares, fascinated. Bleeding.

THE JOKER

Never start with the head... victim gets fuzzy. Can't feel the next-

Action

Now we're getting climatic, let's observe Batman...

- After Gordon leaves, the lights in the interrogation room light up and Batman is behind Joker
- Batman harms Joker in two ways in the scene: smashing Joker's head on the table, then later slamming Joker's fingers with his fists
- Batman responds that he is here as Joker wanted him to



THE JOKER (CONT'D)

Their morals, their code... it's a bad joke. Dropped at the first sign of trouble. They're only as good as the world allows them to be. You'll see- I'll show you... when the chips are down, these civilized people... they'll eat each other.

(grins)

See, I'm not a monster... I'm just ahead of the curve.

What Have You Found?

What expressions can you list out that help build the emotional tension for this genre of film?

What dialogue is important in this scene to establish the upcoming scene?

What actions are done that both establish the shown character and pushes the scene forward?

Thanks for listening!

