

Director Trademark

Wes Craven: [Establishing] Wide, establishing exterior shots of Casey's home.
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0117571/trivia?ref=tt_trv_trv

FILMMAKING NARRATIVE & STRUCTURAL TECHNIQUES

Bob Foss

1992

Silman-James Press

" There is no magic behind the various rules of filmmaking- just a set of principles that are a result of a hundred years of trial and error on the part of filmmakers attempting to communicate with their audience. No rules are sacred - there are absolutely no rules that cannot be broken. **But you'd better know what you are doing and why.** Breaking rules because they limit you is one thing; breaking rules because you have no idea of structure is something entirely different.

Bob Foss, p. vi (own emphasis)

The *Plane of Events* -content of the film

The *Plane of Discourse* -form of the film ... (the) narrative devices that a filmmaker uses to communicate...to the audience. Unlike the Plane of Events, the elements on the Plane of Discourse are imperceptible to the characters in the film. The various elements...(such as camera angle, shot composition, etc.) do not belong to the factual or fictional world constituted by the plane of events... **They often act as a comment on or interpretation of what happens on the Plane of Events; they express the filmmaker's attitude toward his subject.**

- **SCAN** Page 3 example and description of an opening sequence that deals with Plane of Events and Discourse. A car crash is used to suggest the end of the middle classes.

"...the neutrality or objectivity...of the filmmaker is at best very limited and sometimes very deceptive. Still, the filmmaker decides what to *exclude*, what to highlight, how to edit the material, he is still the ruler of the films Plane of Discourse. As such, he cannot avoid putting his subjective mark on what he presents to the audience, no matter how dispassionately objective he purports to be." P.7