The Evolution of an Idea: Scripts & Scripting
Who is the script for?

- **Actors and crew** -- talent gravitates to a good script (voice is talent)
- **Investors** -- selling your story
- **Yourself** -- a good script directs itself
Script Format

- **1:1 ratio** -- 1 page equals 1 minute of screen time
- **12 pt. Font** -- Courier New
- **Spacing** -- done in [www.Celtx.com](http://www.Celtx.com)
Celtx Overview

“I’m a Ute and I’m a Cougar #2 (Real Cougar)”
EXT. FOREST - NIGHT
The moon shines on the pale, serene face of ELEANOR SAWYER.

ELEANOR
(softly)
Midnight.

She mounts a horse and rides into the darkness, the hoof beats muffled by the leaves and flora on the forest floor.

*Extracted from “The Screenwriter’s Bible” by David Trottier*
Script format

• **EXT.** (when outside), **INT.** (when inside), or **EXT./INT.** (when moving from inside to outside like with a car)

• **CAPS** for first intro of character

• **CAPS** for sound effects

• **Voice Over (V.O)**—for narration

• **Off Screen (O.S.)**—for character not visible

• “**MONTAGE**”, “**SERIES OF SHOTS**”, and “**BACK TO SCENE**”
Script Grammar

• **Subject-Verb-Object (S-V-O)**
  - ex.- “Jack and Jill walk up a hill.”

• **Simple present tense (mostly)**
  - ex.- “Jack and Jill walk up a hill.” Not “Jack and Jill were walking, or walked, or might walk”, just “walk” works. (watch for gerunds)

• **Active voice (not passive)**
  - ex.- “Jill hit Jack.” Not “Jack was hit by Jill.”

• **Action verbs (use a Thesaurus)**
  - ex.- “Jack and Jill bound up a hill.”
Script Writing

- Descriptive adjectives/adverbs—impressionistic rather than elaborate; the essence of a person or place
  
  - ex.—“Stale pizza and Rock Band” in a dorm room captures the essence of a college student instead of listing everything in the room and on the walls

- Beats of action, or units of action—not a shot, but two or three

- Keep paragraphs short

- Spec script—not about camera yet
Script Guidelines

• **Show don’t tell**—if it’s not an action, you can’t show it

• **Read out loud**

• **Keep the flow** of the story

• **Let your own voice** and the **style** of the piece come out

• **Finding the right word** is like hitting the right note; **take time with it**

• **Writing is rewriting**
Celtx

“I’m a Ute and I’m a Cougar #2 (Real Cougar)"
“Cute”
an original piece written in class

little guns are cute
big guns are cute
girls are cute
may be a guy’s cute
bigger guns are even more cute, cuter
or most cutestest

“Shitty first draft” or “child’s draft” -- Anne Lamott