Shakespeare Was a Hack

THE STRUCTURE OF FILMS

We are going to continue to look at film as a medium by considering some more of the "rules" that films generally follow (though not always!). By the time we are done, you should grasp some of the basic structural constraints of film, and the extent to which those constraints can be violated.

What film does each of these leading title cards come from?

1996; JOEL AND ETHAN COEN, DIRS.

THIS IS A TRUE STORY.

The events depicted in this film took place in Minnesota in 1987.

At the request of the survivors, the names have been changed.

Out of respect for the dead, the rest has been told exactly as it occurred.

2000; RIDLEY SCOTT, DIR.

IN THE WINTER OF 180 A.D., EMPEROR MARCUS AURELIUS' TWELVE-YEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BARBARIAN TRIBES IN GERMANIA WAS DRAWING TO AN END.

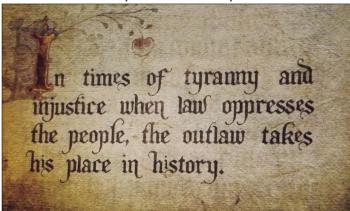
JUST ONE FINAL STRONGHOLD STANDS IN THE WAY OF ROMAN VICTORY AND THE PROMISE OF PEACE THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE.

2009; QUENTIN TARANTINO, DIR.

Chapter One

Once upon a time... in Nazi-occupied France

2010; RIDLEY SCOTT, DIR.



1977; GEORGE LUCAS, DIR.

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away....

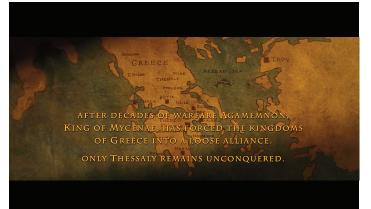
1939; VICTOR FLEMING, DIR.



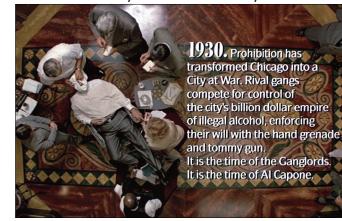
1983; BRIAN DE PALMA, DIR.

In May 1980, Fidel Castro opened the harbor at Mariel, Cuba, with the apparent intention of letting some of his people join their relatives in the United States. Within seventy-two hours, 3,000 U.S. boats were headed for Cuba.

2004; WOLFGANG PETERSEN, DIR.



1987; BRIAN DE PALMA, DIR.



2010; TOM HOOPER, DIR.

1925

King George V reigns over a quarter of the world's people.

He asks his second son, the Duke of York, to give the closing speech at the Empire Exhibition in Wembley, London.

2008; BEN STILLER, DIR.

In the Winter of 1969 an elite force of the U.S. Army was sent on a top secret assignment in South East Vietnam.

2018; ADAM MCKAY, DIR.

The following is a true story.

Or as true as it can be given that Dick Cheney is known as one of the most secretive leaders in history.

But we did our fucking best.