

**Cinematic Terms (basic and highly selective: see links on Prof. Butt's homepage for more detailed information).**

### **Storyline/Plot**

#### **Mise-en-scene:**

- **Setting:** location where the action takes place; studio sets/location shooting
- **Costume:** contemporary, fantastic, period
- **Lighting:** lighting is characterised by quality (hard/soft), direction (front, side, back, under), and source (key, fill)
- **Colour:** colour was initially not primarily used to create realism but to create effects of fantasy and emotional emphasis (musical, epics)
- **Sound** (either as part of the story – characters talking, singing songs etc. – or else extra-diegetic, for instance voiceover not belonging to a character in the story, music that is not part of the world of the story)

#### **Shots:**

- **from extreme close-up to extreme long shot**
- **tracking shot:** camera placed on tracks or a dolly to create smooth movement
- **subjective camera:** camera changes position to consistently take the perspective of one of the characters

#### **Transitions:**

- **jump cut:** gives the impression of the camera jumping between two unmatched scenes
- **cross cut:** usually denotes simultaneous events in different places
- **dissolve:** two images mix (soft transition, signalling passage of time, initiating flashbacks)

## **Things to look out for when watching Bollywood films... (selective)**

- **Images of India: sense of national unity/unity in diversity?**  
**“Orientalist” stereotyping, or new myths of India replacing more traditional ones?**
- **Language(s): indicating, among other things, religious affiliations (Hindu/Muslim/Sikh/Christian); see in particular status of English, and code-switching (between different indigenous languages, or between them and English)**
- **Religion: pervasive influence of religion on Indian society, in everyday life, - religious symbols (for instance statues, family shrines etc.), religious rituals (blessings), and festivals**
- **Religion: impact of, in particular, Hinduism on Bollywood films, for instance borrowings (of topoi and “personnel”) from great epics, - exile/banishment; separation of lovers; intrigues; loci amoeni (“beautiful places”), tensions between feelings and sense of duty**
- **Family/gender relationships: patriarchal society with fixed roles for both men and women (though women’s roles are even more restricted than men’s); importance of the family – respecting one’s elders, and having children (sons) oneself; obsession with marriage**  
**(see Hijras as “in between” groups)**
- **See also clothes, - between “uniform” and “fashion”, Western and traditional styles (and: changes of dress after serious events signalling reorientation towards more traditional life-styles)**
- **See also language and gender: in how far is the language of women (for instance with regard to body language, turn taking patterns etc.) indicative of women’s (lower) social status?**