How to format a script - Handout

SCENE HEADING

CHARACTERS

ACTION LINES

DIALOGUES

PARENTHETICAL

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EXT.FOREST.DAY

DOROTHY, TIN MAN, SCARECROW and TOTO walk through a thick
forest in the Land of Oz. Dorothy carries a basket, the Tin
Man carries an axe and an oil can. The road is paved with
yellow brick and is covered with dried branches and dead
leaves. The Emerald City is seen far in the distance.

                         DOROTHY
             It's really scary in these woods!
They hear a deep growl from wild animals in the trees!

                         DOROTHY
             What was that?
                         SCARECROW
             Hopefully not a beast who likes to
             eat straw!
Toto stands at attention with his ears perked up.
                         DOROTHY
             How much longer before we are out
             of this forest Tin Man? I don't
             like it here!
                         TIN MAN
            I really can't say. I've never been
            to the Emerald City. My Father told
            me that it is a long and dangerous
            journey! I am not worried because I
            have my oil can for my joints.
            Besides, you have the kiss from the
            Good Witch. That will protect us
            from harm!
                         DOROTHY
            What about Toto? We have to protect
            him.
Toto starts to bark and growl at a tree in the forest. We
hear a loud roar and from behind a tree leaps a large LION.
The Scarecrow, Tin Man and Dorothy hide behind each other
while Toto fearlessly starts to nip at the lion. The lion
picks up Toto with his large teeth and shakes him. Dorothy
slaps the lion across the nose. The lion drops Toto.
                         DOROTHY
                         (angrily)
             You should be ashamed of yourself!
             Why don't you pick on someone your
             own size!
                          LION
             Ouch, that smarts. What did you do
             that for? I didn't hurt him!

                         DOROTHY
             Nobody hurts Toto!
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Formatting

The script should have a 2.5cm (1") margin from the top, right, and bottom sides. The left side margin preferably would be 3.9cm (1.5").The font used should be **Courier 12pt**.

When did the films appear?

The history of film began in the 1890s, when motion picture cameras were invented and film production companies started to be established. Because of the limits of technology, films of the 1890s were under a minute long and until 1927 motion pictures were produced without sound.

What is a script?

It's a written version of a play or other dramatic composition; used in preparing for a performance.

What is a silent film?

It's a film with no spoken dialogue. In silent films for entertainment, the dialogue is transmitted through muted gestures, mime and title cards which contain a written indication of the plot or key dialogue.

The best silent movie stars

Greta Garbo (1905-90)
- *Flesh and the Devil* (1926)

Harold Lloyd (1893-1971)
- *Safety Last* (1923)

Charlie Chaplin (1889-1977)
- *The kid* (1921), *City lights* (1931)