

NEW NATURALISM AND WRITING A NEW FILM PRODUCTION MANIFESTO

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SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN THE ART AND CRAFT OF CINEMATOGGRAPHY.

Can 'New Naturalism', with its emphasis on natural light, lead to more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in cinematography?

**Could New Naturalism and its expanded interpretation,
completely without intention, contain the formula for
sustainable practices for cinematography embedded within it?**

‘New Naturalism isn't just about the cinematic form, but also about the films' content. A recurring theme in Malick's films is that human encounters with nature are transformational, transcendent events.’

B, 2021

**What is New Naturalism and
what are its creative restraints?**

New Naturalism

The Dogme

- Shooting exclusively in natural light by day
- Using existing lighting in dark interiors and nights
- Favouring backlight to create continuity between shots from different times and places
- Shooting with wide-angle prime lenses, sometimes very close to the actors, to give a sense of immersion
- Seeking resolution, avoiding filters, seeking depth of field
- Handheld and Steadicam cameras movements defining space in depth (in the “Z axis”)
- A constant desire to embrace serendipity... a willingness to stop everything to shoot a butterfly
- Article “E”, for “Exception”, to acknowledge that all good dogmas are made to be broken upon occasion.

‘Data analysis shows that one average tentpole film production – a film with a budget of over US\$70m – generates 2,840 tones of CO2e, the equivalent amount absorbed by 3,709 acres of forest in a year. Within this, transport accounts for approximately 51% of carbon emissions, mains electricity and gas use accounts for around 34%, and diesel generators for the remaining 15%.

BFI, 2020

**The Manifesto, taking a visual driving
force & focusing on sustainability**

Rule Following

Lone Scherfig's *Italian For Beginners* - Hjort (2010)

1. Sincere submission to the rules
2. Rule-following within reason
3. Rule following when it suits
4. Rule following as a cynical ploy

Rule Following

For my manifesto

1. Sincere submission to the rules is the desirable, or perhaps a must
2. Rule-following within reason is possible only when ignored rules are balanced out
3. Rule following when it suits is not possible
4. Rule following as a cynical ploy is possibly dangerous

New Naturalism

Presented as a manifesto

1. Natural or available light preferred. No more than 2 powered light source per location if there is no other option. Favour reflected or bounced light using a Dedolight DPB70 or similar when required.
2. All on screen must be sustainable. (Note. What does that mean?)
3. Local production & locally sourced (cast?). Being carbon neutral and balanced.
4. No fossil fuel generators - Prioritize eco-friendly production practices, such as using renewable energy sources and minimizing waste.
5. The exit strategy – What do you do with consumables? What could be used instead?
6. Community focused - Work with local communities to minimize the impact of filming on the environment and support sustainable development.
7. Do not engage with projects that do not practice sustainability at its core, especially in the screenplay
8. Educate audiences about sustainable filmmaking practices and the importance of environmental stewardship.

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