Soundscape: Foley Artists

Students will use skills of inference to analyze and describe verbally and through sounds the content of a painting, poem, story…

Students will use their background knowledge as well as context clues to draw conclusions related to a painting, poem, story…

Guiding Question: How does the soundtrack of a movie affect your involvement in the story?

Goal:

• Students will identify sounds depicted or implied in a painting, poem, story…

• Students (Foley artists) will create a soundscape (sound effects and sound background) to convey the feelings and mood.

• Students will listen to soundscapes created by others in order to describe the scene depicted through sound.

From Wikipedia:
The Foley artist on a film crew is the person who creates and records many of the natural, everyday sound effects in a film, in contrast to the production of special (audio) effects, which is generally left to the sound designer. The roles of Foley artists, sound designers, editors, and supervisors are highly specialized and are essential to producing a professional-sounding soundtrack that is suitable for distribution and exhibition.

Sound effects are rarely recorded at the same time as dialogue and action, because the sound mix is difficult to balance. Instead, effects are created and added later by the Foley artist, who listens to the dialogue track for the (usually quite faint) sounds of footsteps, doors slamming, or other incidental environmental sounds and recreates them, with enhanced clarity, onto a new track (known as the Foley track) that is synchronized with the onscreen action. Sound effects such as these may also be drawn from pre-existing recorded libraries, but many directors prefer the direct involvement of the Foley artist.

The Foley artist also adds sounds that may not exist at all on the original track: for instance, enhancing the sounds of a fistfight may require thumping watermelons or cracking bamboo. Many Foley artists take pride in devising their own sound effects apparatuses, often using simple, commonly-found materials. Contrasts between the sophistication of the action on the screen and the simplicity of the methods behind the effects can be striking.

The term "Foley artist" is named after Jack Foley, one of the earliest and best-known Hollywood practitioners of the art. Foley began his career in the film industry as a stand-in and screenwriter during the silent era, and later helped Universal make the transition from silent movies to "talkies".

Because Foley refers to a person, the term is usually capitalized. However, because it is a person's name and not the trademark of a machine or process, no ™ or ® symbol is used.