Chapter 13: Assignment 13

1. In actuality, who storyboarded and directed the infamous shower scene in Psycho? Why was it so effective?

Saul Bass storyboarded and directed the shower scene in Psycho. The storyboard was effective in communicating visually the look and tone of a scene without having to film it and Alfred Hitchcock liked what he saw so he allowed Saul Bass to direct the scene.

2. Why are storyboards so important?

Storyboards provide a visual representation of the movie and allows the director to communicate to others the camera angles and timing such as the cast and crew. They also help the director determine the budget, running time and production requirements.

3. Who created storyboards and what were they initially called?

The Disney animator Webb Smith is credited with the initial idea of storyboards and he called them 'Story Sketches'.

4. How did the Wachowskis get their start and how did they meet Steve Skroce?

The Wachowskis got their start making comics and met Steve Skroce while scripting the Marvel book Ecto kid.

5. Compare and contrast Ridley Scott's storyboards for Alien and Martin Scorcesse's storyboards for Taxi Driver?

Ridley Scott's storyboards for Alien were very detailed as they captured the camera movements, the beats of the story as well as the tone and the atmosphere. Martin Scorsese's storyboards are created by Martin Scorsese, who draw very simplistic "chicken scratches" but give people enough of an idea what type of shot he is looking for.

One could argue that Ridley Scott's films require his level of detail as he is usually shooting futuristic, sci-fi films which do not have a standard shot or characters, whereas Martin Scorsese's films are more character-driven, filled with drama. Therefore, Martin Scorsese could get away with "chicken scratches" whereas Ridley Scott does need to be more specific to fill out his fantasy world.

Even though they approach the development of storyboards in different ways, they both ultimately do the same thing in communicating enough information to the cast and crew as to what the director's vision is.