DFM Elective
St Clair

Sometimes the best way to learn how to do something is to create a pastiche or copy of an original. Take, for example, the artists who sit for hours with their easels in the Louvre recreating Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* or Monet's *Water Lilies*. They do this not out of a desire to simply copy but in order to understand how these artists have created their masterpieces.

The same can be done with filmmaking. By watching a clip from a film and re-creating it shot-by-shot, you can learn a lot about, storyboarding, cinematography, directing, lighting, and editing.

For your next assignment, take a clip from a noir or neo-noir film and recreate it shot for shot. The only part of the original you will be able to use in your film will be the original sound. Here are the specs for this assignment:

- You will work in a group of 4 and choose one of the clips I have provided (no two groups may use the same clip).
- If your clip is over 2 minutes long, you will have to cut down your clip to be under two minutes.
- Each group member must reverse storyboard the clip and label the shots to show their understanding of composition, angle, proximity, and sequence.
- The group must determine who will be the director and cinematographer and who will act. The director's job will be to coordinate between the cinematographer and actors.
- Actors must write down their lines so they can practice lip-synching with the original soundtrack.
- The group must determine the best ON CAMPUS locations for filming their scenes.
- The director must complete a call sheet listing times when actors and crew must be on hand and what props and costumes will be needed.
- During the week of December 3, students will film and edit their projects
- Using the storyboards, groups will recreate, to the best of their ability, the film clip using the original soundtrack.
- The completed reverse engineered clip must mirror camera and character movement, angles, and lighting conditions. Actors' lips must synch up to the original soundtrack.
- The clip must also include opening and closing credits.
- Every student must contribute to the editing process but the primary editors should be those who acted in the film and not the director or cinematographer.

Due Date _____

REVERSE ENGINEERING