

# From Horizontal To Vertical Film, Changes In Mise En Scene

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## ABSTRAK (10PT)

A vertical film is a film that has an aspect ratio of 9:16. X&Y vertical film is Indonesia' first vertical film to be uploaded on the Tiktok platform. The purpose of this study used the descriptive qualitative method. Data collection techniques: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. This study uses observation and documentation methods as data collection techniques. The study result indicate that it is different from the horizontal film. X&Y vertical film often maximize top-down framing. The framing logic that changes in X&Y vertical film determines the type of *size shot* used. When applied to the vertical film, the *size shot* on the horizontal film will be different. X&Y film use a lot of *size shot*, such as medium closeup and close up. Using *medium shots* and medium closeup in the vertical film gives the audience a solid and intimate impression. Changes in *shot* size will also affect the composition of the mise en scene elements. In addition, there are also adjustments to mise en scene elements such as *lighting*, *setting*, *properties*, *blocking*, and *actors*. X&Y film uses a lot of composition and top-down *blocking* to take advantage of the height of the vertical framing. The top and bottom spots appear in a vertical *frame*. X&Y movie only on the Tiktok platform. There are not many media that support viewing in a vertical format.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The films that we usually watch are films with a horizontal format. Along with the development of film technology can be framed vertically. Motion image verticalization is not an exclusive phenomenon for mobile video culture. There was a debate about the vertical format not being compatible with the standardized normalization of the horizontal aspect ratio. Aspect ratio is the dimension of the camera frame (safe area that can be recorded) or the relationship between the width and height of the frame. This ratio depends on the format of the recording media. Aspect ratios that are often used in making audio visuals are 4:3, 16:9 and 1.85:1.

In 2012 the Glove and BOOTS video "Vertical Syndrome-A PSA" went viral. This video is of concern to users who support vertical videos. The phenomenon of vertical video is still being debated because it is considered that vertical framing is still amateurish. The growing age of vertically oriented video views on mobile devices increased from 5% in 2010 to 29% in 2015 [1]. The aspect ratio of the vertical format has become a part of human daily experience. They are used to accessing information through mobile screens in a vertical format. Smartphones are the destination of distribution media for meeting works with the audience. This makes vertical films and videos continue to grow

In 2015, social media platforms such as Snapchat emerged that allowed the use of vertical frames. The purpose of the Snapchat application is to encourage users to use it in portrait form in accordance with pre-existing smartphone functions. The use of smartphones is supported by increasingly sophisticated

technological developments. Along with the development of the era, movie streaming platforms have emerged such as Netflix, Disney Hotstar, Iflix, Vidsee, Youtube, and even Tiktok.

The short film entitled X&Y is a short film produced by Studio Antelope. X&Y film is directed by Jason Iskandar. The title of this film presents one of the theories of the X-axis and Y-axis mathematical formulas. This story tells about the love affair between Omar who harbors feelings for Winda, They are trapped in a Friendzone relationship. Film X&Y is the first vertical film from Tiktok Indonesia in collaboration with Studio Antelope. X&Y movie releases on Tiktok in March 2021 [2]. The X&Y film players involve content creators from Tiktok. Tiktok videos are generally short in duration. The X&Y film is divided into 6 chapters with a total duration of 12 minutes.

Lalaland's director, Damien Chazelle, conducted a vertical film experiment. In collaboration with Apple, Damien made a vertical short film called the stunt Double [3]. The vertical film makes the compositional order change. Composition can be defined as the way we arrange image elements to give a complete and harmonious image that focuses the viewer's attention on a part of the frame at a given time [4] The composition of the vertical film frame capture area will be narrower and smaller than the horizontal format film. Vertical film will pay more attention to the top and bottom of the frame. Changing the composition of the vertical film will affect the mise en scene.

Mise en scene which comes from France when pronounced as Meez Ahn Sen, literally means to put in a frame [5] This French term is adapted from stage art which means 'placement on stage'. In film, this stage is limited by frames, Specially only the things that are visible on the camera screen. Mise en scene has several elements, namely, setting, actor, blocking, costume, and lighting. The mise en scene along with the cinematography and film editing affect the truth of the film or the film's belief in the eyes of the audience [6]. Various design elements will help in the expression of the film. Mise en scene elements can create a sense of space, time, feeling, and sometimes convey a character's state of mind.

The research that discusses the mise en scene studied by Dyan 'Sya, Triadi, and Evi Oktiana with the title "Analysis of Mise en scene in the film Parasite". This research has a common location, namely they both discuss the mise en scene in the film. The difference in the research conducted by the researchers is that the research film format is vertical and will analyze how the changes in the mise en scene occur when applied in a vertical frame. In this research, the researcher focuses more on the analysis of changes in the technical aspects of cinematography such as aspect ratio, composition, and vertical mise en scene format which include; Settings, costumes, actors, blocking, and lighting shown in the frame.

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1 Research Methods.

This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods. This study aims to analyze how the changes in the mise en scene in X&Y vertical films. Qualitative descriptive research is research with a method to describe a research result. Qualitative descriptive research aims to provide a description, explanation, and validation of the phenomena that have been studied

### 2.2 Data Collection

This study uses observation and documentation methods as data collection techniques. Observations were made by watching X&Y movies. After finishing watching, the researcher will analyze the changes in the mise en scene in the X&Y vertical film

## 3. THEOROTICAL FAMEWORK

Making a film must understand 2 important elements such as composition, and mise en scene. Composition refers to the way the elements of a scene are arranged in the camera frame. Shot composition refers to the arrangement of visual elements to convey the desired message [7]. All of this must be planned properly. Composition aims to display an attractive image. This makes the viewer focused on capturing the essence of the story. There are several applications of composition that make the film more interesting, including; Rule of thirds, Headrooms, Noserrooms, deep space composition, leading lines, and symmetrical composition. These compositional elements will help in framing the scene. Film makers must know the size of the frame used. According to Blain framing an image is not only a matter of telling a story, but also a matter of composition, rhythm, and perspective [8]. The frame size is also known as the aspect ratio. Aspect ratio is the dimensions of the camera frame (safe area that can be recorded) or the relationship between the width and

height of the frame [9]. Aspect ratio has a different size on each recording media. The aspect ratio size also determines the choice of camera, camera lens, camera position, and shot size.

After the composition, has been determined, the element that is no less important is the mise en scene. According to Robert Edgar, et al. Mise en scene comes from France. If pronounced 'Meez Ahn Sen'. It means putting in the frame [10]. Mise en scene has several elements including; Lighting, costume, setting, actor, and blocking. The contents of the camera frame are related to each other by actors, settings, and also related to the camera. 1. Lighting is the art of regulating light by using lighting equipment. Lighting aims so that the camera is able to see objects clearly. Lighting can create an illusion so that the audience gets the impression of distance, space, time and atmosphere from an event that is shown in a film [11]. The use of lighting can help create images such as color balance, creating depth of character dimensions, highlighting objects from the background, exposure, and others. 2. Costumes in films are designed with the aim of providing information about a particular role. Setting is the entire background with all its properties [12]. Costumes can have a variety of special functions in the overall form of the film. Costumes can play a casual role in the plot of the film [13]. Makeup or makeup in general has various functions, namely describing age, wounds or bruises on the face, resemblance to a character, unique human figures, to non-human figures [12].

3. Film actors work with cameras that are executed and recorded by paying attention to the mise en scene. The camera will capture facial expressions, actor actions, and movements with closeup, medium closeup, full shoot, longshot, and more. 4. Blocking is the performance of actors in a show. Blocking that is captured by the naked eye by composition (lens choice and camera placement along with camera movement). Blocking is the cinematographer's way of moving the composition in a shot [14]

#### 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study were conducted to obtain any changes in the mise en scene in the X&Y vertical film. Its purpose is for reference material for film students, the film industry, or other audiences. To find out the application of mise en scene cinematography into vertical film format. It is hoped that it can bring up creative film ideas with new and unique styles

##### A. *Composition in X&Y film*

The first thing that determines any composition adjustment is the camera. According to Nicholas, the camera as the narrator of the film is the language used to tell stories, and the narrator of those stories [15]. Film X&Y uses the smaller and more compact a7s mirrorless camera. In X&Y movies, you can't use a cinema camera. Cinema cameras do not have vertical rigging. This was stated by X&Y film director Jason Iskandar, who delivered in an interview on August 23, 2022:

“Actually, cinema cameras like ARRI ALEXA or RED cannot be used for vertical because there is no rigging. All cinema camera rigging is in the form of a horizontal volume. We use smaller and more compact cameras like Sony mirrorless. The mirrorless rigging camera is already available on rental in vertical volume.”

The type of prime lens used in the X&Y vertical film is the Zeiss CP 3 lens. This was stated by X&Y film director Jason Iskandar, who stated in an interview on August 23, 2022:

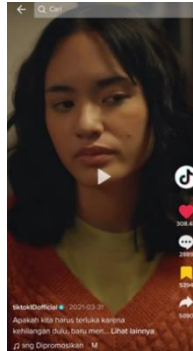
“The Zeiss cp 3 lens is a full frame lens. Zeiss cp 3 lens is compatible with the default lens of the sony a7s camera. When using a lens that is 1/35 automatically does not take advantage of the full sensor of the a7s camera. The Zeiss cp3 lens itself is able to cover the full sensor.

Once the camera selection is complete, it's time to determine the composition. Composition according to Roy Thompson and Cristoper Bowen stated that, composition is the arrangement of visual elements and placement in the overall frame is very important and will convey a certain meaning to the audience [9]. The composition on the vertical film follows the composition rules on the horizontal film. The application of composition in vertical films must be adjusted to the aspect ratio. The aspect ratio of 16:9 changes to 9:16. The aspect ratio of 9:16 causes changes to the size of the shot. The rule of closeup size on horizontal film if applied to vertical film will be a big closeup. Big closeups on vertical films will make the size of the human face on the screen bigger, narrower, and cramped. The size shot in the X&Y film uses a lot of medium shots and medium closeup. The use of the size shot aims so that the image is not too large. Adjusting the size of the shot requires the use of the rule of thirds to be reversed to vertical. The way the rule of thirds works is to map

an image into a T-junction. The division of the T-junction will make some areas look dominant and some as complementary.



MCU On Horizontal Film.



MCU On Vertical Film.

Changes in shot size affect the use of lookrooms. Look room (also called looking room or nose room) is an empty space that we provide in the frame. The empty space between the talent eye and the edge of the opposite face frame [9]. Lookroom changes occur when the scene is shot using a Medium closeup size shot. Omar's line of sight on the left. What happens is that the left-hand field of view becomes narrower as the subject gets closer, bigger, and fills the screen more and more.

### B. *Mise En Scene In X&Y Film*

Composition adjustments on X&Y vertical films affect the application of mise en scene. Mise en scene which comes from France when pronounced as Meez Ahn Sen, literally means to put in the frame [5]. This French term is adapted from stage art which means 'placement on stage'. Mise en scene elements include settings & properties, costumes & makeup, actors, lighting, blocking & staging.

According to pratista Setting is the entire setting with all its properties [12]. The setting used in the X&Y film is a multi-level boarding house. The location of the terraced boarding houses is also very suitable for the life of a student who is wandering and has to live in a boarding house. The layout of the terraced boarding houses is in accordance with the vertical framing which is also up and down. In chapter 1 the X&Y film opens with the initial scene of Omar and Winda chatting on the balcony of the boarding house. With a longshot shot, you can see the layout of the position of Omar and Winda's rooms. The use of the long shot aims to show the audience that Omar and Winda's rooms are indeed close together. There is a large space on the front balcony of the boarding house location. This space is used by DOP to place the camera. It can be clearly described the distance between Omar and Winda's rooms. In accordance with the opinion of Joseph V Mascelli stated that a moving image is made of many shots. Each shot requires placing the camera in the best place to see the performer, setting and action of a particular moment in the narrative [16]. Using the size shot type affects how many properties should be visible in the frame. Indoor sets use dense shots and require few properties. When the shot is solid, the top of the frame must be filled with properties such as ornamental plant shelves, posters, bookcases, and others.

According to Bordwell Costumes in a film are designed with the aim of providing information about a particular role. For example, the character of the King, the character of the poor, the rich, and others. Costumes can give information about a specific place and time period. Just like the setting, costumes can have a variety of special functions in the overall form of the film [13]. The costumes used in the X&Y movie are casual student boarding houses. Winda wears an orange sweater and white shorts. Omar wore a plain navy blue T-shirt with jeans. The costumes used in the X&Y movie are relaxed and natural. The costumes in the X&Y movie also don't use too many accessories. Costumes can give us detailed information on each character. The selection of costumes must also be adjusted to the color palette, because costumes can also

determine the mood and atmosphere of the story experienced by the character. Makeup or makeup in general has a variety of functions. The make-up depicts age, wounds or bruises on the face, resemblance to a character, unique human figures, to non-human figures. The makeup used for the characters of Omar and Winda is also natural, and relaxed according to the X&Y story setting in a multi-storey boarding house. The makeup used is also not thick makeup. The hairstyles for Omar and Winda are also quite simple, Omar with short black hair and Winda with short shoulder-length black hair that is slightly wavy.

The lighting on X&Y vertical films is generally the same as that of normal horizontal films. The difference is the way the lighting is placed. Lighting on the exterior setting can take advantage of the rear space on the location, but for the interior setting the lighting placement must be rigging above it because of the narrow space. The lighting placement that must be rigging above makes the shot taken is a medium closeup shot. Solid shots with camera angles taken are high angle and eye level. The scene of Omar Winda talking does not use a longshot, because if you use a longshot, you will see the top of the frame.

Actor is one aspect of mise en scene that has an important role. Actor will play all feelings, experiences, thoughts into the scene. The use of medium size closeup and medium shots can highlight the facial expressions of the actor. An actor's expression can give a film's message power. The actions of the actors in X&Y are in accordance with Nicholas' theory which states that these actions must be conveyed to the audience in order to fully understand the story [15]. The actions of the actors on the screen are carefully controlled by the director.

The human face in general has a vertical shape. Human framing fits perfectly on vertical films. We can see the entire human body at close range. Films with vertical framing are able to respond to the human body which is naturally dominant in vertical form. framing gives the actor more space to explore more expressions and gestures.

Blocking is a sign for players, cameras, lighting, and art. Blocking is able to provide an understanding to the audience about the role of the player, the purpose of the story, and so on. Blocking on X&Y vertical films is a challenge. vertical film plays more of the area above and below the frame. In chapter 2, Winda sits downstairs in front of Omar while Omar also sits downstairs behind Winda. This blocking method utilizes the back and front rooms of the room. Winda is placed in front and Omar is placed behind. The scene of Omar and Winda talking with the placement of the camera on the side parallel to the actor using camera angle eye level and solid shots. This blocking method shows the condition of Omar's room without using a longshot because it has been covered by Omar Winda's front and back blocking. In accordance with the theory from studiobinder that, there are 3 visual elements in managing blocking, one of which is Space [17]. The use of top and bottom blocking shows the character's position in the scene. Blocking in X&Y takes advantage of space on location. Actor and player movement must be considered. Horizontal films generally contain film narratives that require characters to travel from one place to another. Forward movement is suitable for vertical formats. The non-lateral (side) direction of travel, hallways, stairs, streets can help viewers feel that they are moving through time and space with the characters.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Vertical frames appear because the orientation of the smartphone screen is vertical. The vertical aspect ratio is very different from the general convention of the aspect ratio of a horizontal film. There are social media applications whose content orientation is also vertical. The phenomenon of vertical-based applications is used by filmmakers to make vertical films, one of which is X&Y films. Creating a vertical film requires adjusting the framing logic. There are 4 elements to get effects from the application of vertical frames such as composition, cinematography, mise en scene, and editing. Based on these four elements, it can be concluded that:

1. Using composition on the top and bottom plane areas in a vertical frame. The use of top-down composition shows the character's position, mood, character relationships, and the location used
2. The difference in shot size in vertical and horizontal films. X&Y vertical films use a lot of medium shot and medium closeup sizes. The size shot in the X&Y film emphasizes the actor's expression. The size of the solid shot makes the actor's movement limited
3. Use blocking a lot to respond to top-down framing

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