

## Hints on writing technique

1. Avoid making or implying sweeping, unsupported judgements such as:

... is the best film of its type ever made.

The director/actor/make-up artist achieves his aim magnificently.

2. Keep your language plain, but formal. Avoid slang and very informal expressions. For instance, to write that in *Flesh and the Devil* "the woman slurps the wine", or to refer to the protagonist of *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* and *Sunset* as the "psycho" or the "Macho man," is quite unacceptable.

3. Learn to structure sentences correctly, if this is a problem for you.

The most common error is the comma splice. This occurs where two or more short sentences are joined with a comma, but without any other signal.

Jane is startled out of her sleep, the music becomes louder, more fierce and hasty, this makes the audience gasp with fright and symbolises Jane's fear and adrenalin.

The opposite is also common - successive short sentences that are not linked to show their relationship to one another, such as the following.

The chase is on. The music becomes heroic. Trumpets are sounded throughout as the men rush to save her.

Compare these with the original:

When Jane is startled out of her sleep the music becomes louder, more fierce and hasty. This makes the audience gasp with fright and symbolises Jane's fear and adrenalin. Later, when the chase is on, the music becomes heroic, with trumpets being sounded throughout as the men rush to save her.