

## The Screenplay Form

Screenplays are written in a very precise format that includes information for the actor, the director, and the camera people.

### ACTION:

Describe what's happening on-screen.

Capitalize and center the **CHARACTER** name over their dialogue.

**SLUG LINES** tell where and when each scene takes place. Use a new one whenever time or location changes. "INT" is used for interior scenes, and "EXT" for exterior. Time is usually DAY or NIGHT.

Capitalize **SOUND EFFECTS** to be added to the sound track.

Indent **DIALOGUE** to set it apart from the action.

Put **STAGE DIRECTIONS** for the actor in parentheses.

INT. BIG TOWN THEATER-DAY ●  
● Shy Understudy paces across the stage, shouting into her cell phone. Behind her, a carpenter is building the set, HAMMERING. ●

● SHY UNDERSTUDY  
● Mom, I can't believe Wanda is sick! She won't be back for three whole weeks. ●

(listens) ●  
● My big chance? Yeah, but everyone will be watching me. I wish I'd never agreed to be an understudy. Why did you make me?

STAGE MANAGER