

TWELVE ANGRY MEN, corr part 1

1. Where ? - New York city - the facade of the New York Supreme Court House – Court of justice (inside and outside) - in the courtroom -

Inscription : Administration of justice is the firmest pillar of good government

2. Atmosphere ? - extreme upward low-angle shot : imposing and dominating building with neo-classical pillars = justice is **powerful** and crushing

=> right from the beginning we understand the **gravity** / **seriousness** of the film, the **atmosphere is tense** / heavy

3. Who ? - A judge

- Men / jurors sitting in a jury box / only men
- The accused, a young hispanic boy / non-white

4. When ? What moment of the trial ?

- At the end of the court hearing / After the oral pleadings - 1957

5. What is at stake ? Explain the case

- A murder case - The young boy is accused of a premeditated murder / is being charged with a murder in the first degree - The judge is reminding the 12 jurors of what they have to do :

- They have to separate the facts from fancy
- They have to agree on a the verdict unanimously, which means they all have to vote for either GUILTY (no doubt) or NOT GUILTY (reasonable doubt)
- They are faced with grave responsibility, as one man is dead and one man's life is at stake.
- The jury must retreat to deliberate.

6. The judge's attitude ?

- He has a nonchalant attitude, with his head on his hand, his elbow on the desk.
- He seems pretty bored with the whole process.
- He lacks conviction but his speech is grave.

7. Camera movements ? Music ?

- No music except at the end when we see the defendant
- Not any distraction from the judge's grave speech
- When the jury is asked to retire, the camera shifts from the point of view of the judge to the point of view of the young man.

8. What important instructions does the judge give the jurors as they depart to deliberate on the case?

The judge informs the jurors that they are to determine the guilt or innocence of the defendant charged with first degree murder. If he is found guilty, he will be executed.

The decision of the jury must be UNANIMOUS.

If there is reasonable doubt, they must set him free. If there is no reasonable doubt, they must find him guilty.