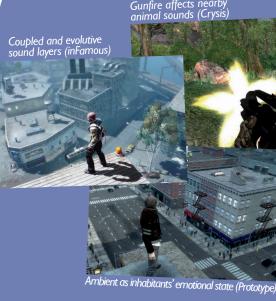


Info and resources at soundingames.com v2.0, Oct 2011

Sound Design in Games

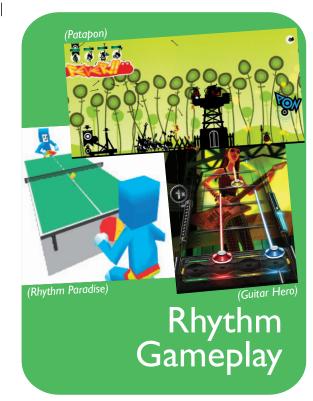


Acoustic Ecology



Minimalist acousmatic composition (Limbo)



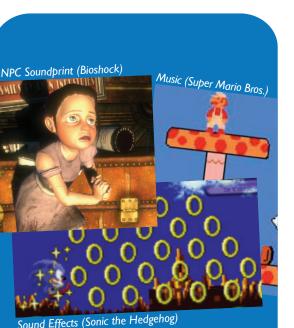




Variety in such as of



Signature



Signature

Creating a distinctive and memorable association with a sound

May relate to: Identification

May use many, including: Aesthetics, Sound Effects, Character Soundprint, Footsteps, Grunts, Music



Aesthetics

Defining artistic characteristics common to all sounds

Context: Acoustic Ecology



Acoustic Ecology

Designing sound in a holistic way, as influenced by the discipline of Acoustic Ecology

Contexts:

Ambiance, Foley, Sound Effects, Music, Dialogue, Foley Music, Diegetic Music, Chitchat, Character Soundprint, Identification

May use: Aesthtetics



Variety

Triggering alternate sounds not to compromise the experience

Contexts: Foley, Sound Effects, Ambiance, Music, Dialogue, Identification



Entrainment

Changing the player's internal rhythms through acoustic stimulation, eventually inducing emotions and behaviour

Contexts:

Emotional Script, Trance, R-A-E-D Iterations, Relaxation, Anticipation, Engagement, Decay, Window of Opportunity, Hurry Up!

May use: Heartbeat, Breath, Footsteps, Music, Rhythm Gameplay, Foley, Ambiance



Rhythm Gameplay

Acting in sync with a rhythm

Contexts: **Consequent Sound, Entrainment**

May call for: Sound Visualization, Sound Input, In-game Feedback, Levelled Performance



Often uses: In-game Feedback, Sound Visualization, Levelled Performance

Sound Design in Games

A deck-based approach to a Pattern Language for Sound Design in Games, strongly influenced by Acoustic Ecology and subject to the principle that Sound Design in Games benefits from being embedded in the overall Game Design



Pitch Gameplay

Exploring the tonal accuracy of the player's voiced input

Uses: Sound Input

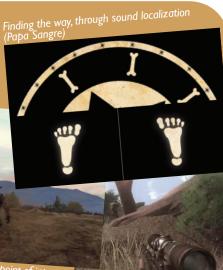




Buttons (Patapon)

Locating a point of inte (Read Dead Redempti

Directionality



Sound Input



Menu of sounds (Aquaric

Speech (Tom Clancy's End War)

Pitch (SingStar)

Sound Input

The way sound enters the gameworld

Contexts include: Consequent Sound, Pitch Gameplay, Rhythm Gameplay, Make Sound not War, Address Others, Sing to Act

May relate to: Sound Visualization

May call for: Levelled Performance, In-game Feedback



Menus Sounds in game menus

Peers: Title Screens, Cutscenes

Often uses: Music, Contextual Music, Sound Effects

May use: Foley



Cutscenes Sound of cinematic pieces

Contexts: Narrative, Emotional Script

Peers: Title Screens, Menus

Peers: Menus, Cutscenes



Directionality

Exploring the identification of the direction of a sound source

Context: Awareness

May relate to: Beacon Locator, Shout and Yell, Unaware NPC, Suspicious NPC



Sound Visualization

Graphical perception of the occurrence of sound

May relate to: Sound Input, Rhythm Gameplay, Pitch Gameplay

May use: Subtitles and Captions



Levelled Performance

The progressive sophistication of sound related performative actions

Contexts: Sound Input, Rhythm Gameplay, Pitch Gameplay, Narrative

Relates to: In-game Feedback



Relates to:

Title Screens

Sound during the presentation of a game product

^{Contexts:} Signature, Emotional Script

Often uses: Music, Sound Effects



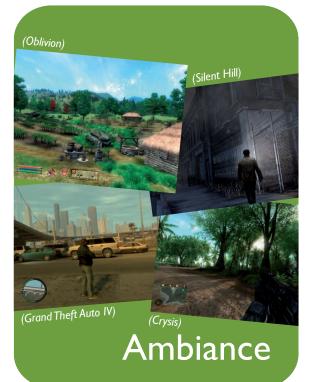
In-game Feedback

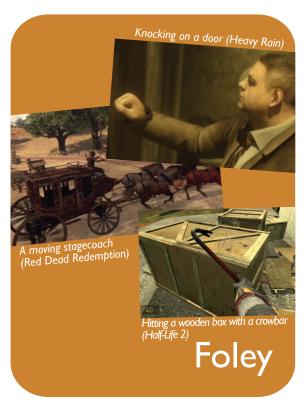
Providing indicators on the player's acoustic performance

Contexts: Sound Input, Rhythm Gameplay, Pitch Gameplay, Awareness, Emotional Script

Levelled Performance



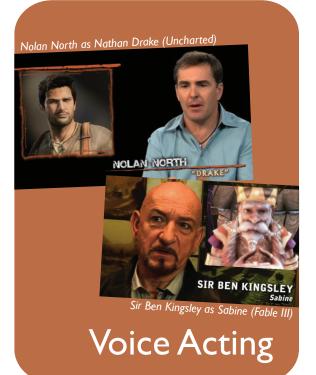






Cut the Rope (Haft Life 2) Pinogogo Interface Pinogogo Interface</









of Carter Blake (Heavy Rain)



Dialogue All kinds of conversation

Many contexts, including: Narrative, Emotional Script, Character Soundprint, Narrator, Thoughts, Helper Voice, Audio Logs, Chitchat, Seeking for PC, ...

Relates to: Acoustic Ecology

Calls for: Variety

May call for: Subtitles and Captions

Sound Effects

Sounds that make abstract or imaginary objects concrete

Many contexts, including: Engagement, Achievement, Failure, Beacon Locator, Window of Opportunity, Menus, Signature, ...

Close to: Foley

Relates to: Acoustic Ecology

Calls for: Variety



Foley

Many contexts, including: Engagement, Character Soundprint, Footsteps, Grunts, Sound Decoys, ...

Close to: Sound Effects

Relates to: Acoustic Ecology



Dubbing

Replacing original voices, to adapt to other language

^{Context:} Dialogue,Voice Acting, Narrative, Character Soundprint

May call for: Subtitles and Captions



Voice Acting

Performing and recording voices for characters and/or narrators

^{Context:} Dialogue, Narrative, Character Soundprint

May call for: Subtitles and Captions, Dubbing



Sounds of ongoing actions

Calls for: Variety

Say that Again Allowing the PC/player to request to hear again

Context: Dialogue

May call for: Address Others, Variety

Makes use of: Dialogue



Relates to: Dubbing

Ambiance

Sounds of the environment

Contexts: Relaxation, Emotional Script, Narrative, Entrainment

Relates to: Acoustic Ecology

Calls for: Variety



Subtitles and Captions

Text that represents occurring sound

Context: Sound Visualization, Narrative, Dialogue, Foley, Sound Effects, Voice Acting









Contextual Music

Music specific to particular contexts or levels

Contexts: Narrative, Emotional Script

May relate to: Diegetic Music

Makes use of: Music



Foley Music

Music exploring sounds of objects or actions

Context: Music

Makes use of: Foley, Acoustic Ecology



Affected Hearing

Simulating hearing impairment

Contexts: Awareness, Emotional Script, Imminent Death

May relate to: Ouch!



Noise The purposeful use of noise

Contexts: Aesthetics, Acoustic Ecology, Emotional Script, Awareness

Often Uses: Ambiance, Foley



Diegetic Music Music happening in the game world

Context: Narrative, Emotional Script

May relate to: Contextual Music, Musical Outcome

May use: Radio

Makes use of: Music, Acoustic Ecology



Silence Inducing the perception of the absence of sound

Contexts: Aesthetics, Acoustic Ecology, Emotional Script, Awareness, Anticipation

Uses: Ambiance



Many contexts, including: Entrainment, Relaxation, Anticipation, Engagement, Decay, Emotional Script, Trance, Narrative, Window of Opportunity, Diegetic Music, Contextual Music, Musical Outcome, Signature, ...

Calls for: Variety

Music

All kinds of music heard during the game

Relates to: Acoustic Ecology



Musical Outcome

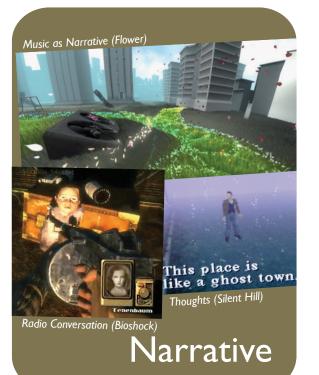
Music generated as a by-product of in-game actions

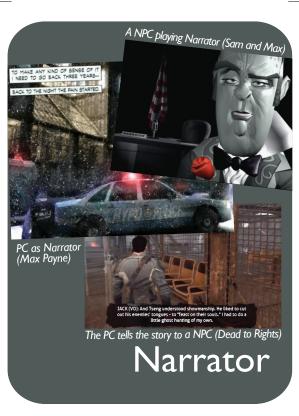
Context: Emotional Script

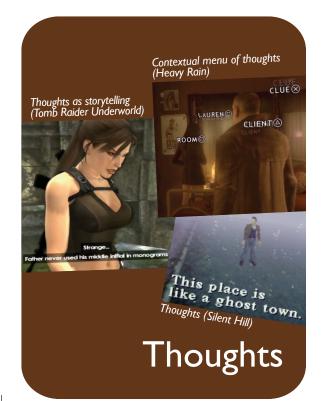
May relate to: Contextual Music, Diegetic Music

Makes use of: Music



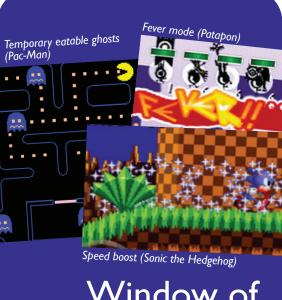




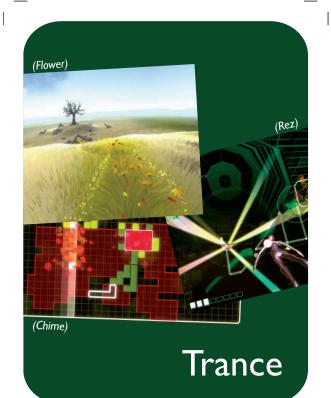




Emotional Script



Window of Opportunity







R-A-E-D Iterations

Audio Logs

Dialogue recordings, frequently scattered through the gameworld

Context: Narrative

Possibly with: Beacon Locators

May relate to: Helper Voice, Radio

Makes use of: Dialogue



Thoughts

Revealing what a character is thinking of

Contexts: Narrative, Emotional Script

May relate to: Narrator, Helper Voice

Often uses: Dialogue



R-A-E-D Iterations

Iterations of the sequence: Relaxation Anticipation Engagement Decay

Context: Emotional Script

Parts: Relaxation, Anticipation, Engagement, Decay

Makes use of: Entrainment



Trance

Sound contributing to experiencing flow or deep immersion

Context: Emotional Script

Often uses: Music, Entrainment



Narrator

Resorting to an actual narrator to convey the narrative

Context: Narrative

Differs from: Helper Voice

Uses: Dialogue

Narrative The contributions of sound to unfold the game's story

Relates to:



Context:

Includes:

Often uses: Sound Effects, Entrainment

Window of

Opportunity Enhancing the perception of a temporary possibility or favourable state

Awareness, Emotional Script



Relates to: Emotional Script

May use many, including: Dialogue, Cutscenes, Narrator, Thoughts, Audio Logs, Radio, Eavesdropping, Contextual Music, Levelled Performance



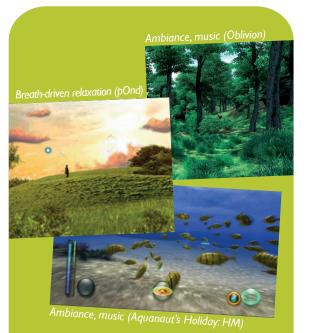
Emotional Script

Sound designed to elicit emotions along the experience

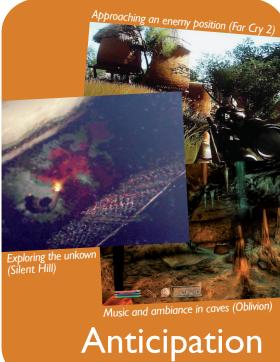
Narrative

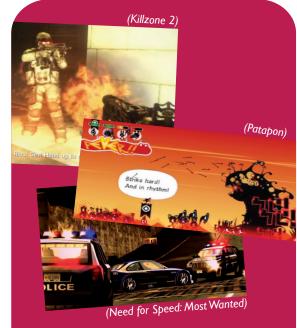
May use many, including: R-A-E-D Iterations, Cutscenes, Window of Opportunity, Music, Contextual Music, Achievement, Failure, Grunts, Ouch!, Imminent Death, Trance, Entrainment, ...



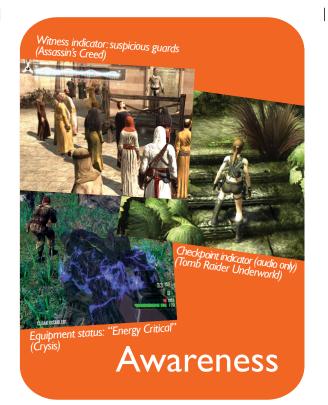


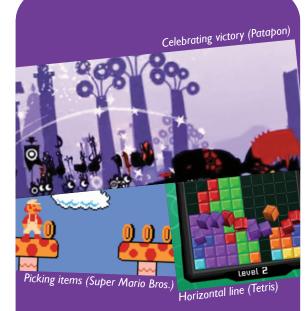
Relaxation



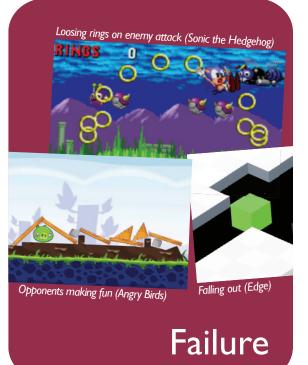


Engagement





Achievement



Pc reaction possible



Decay

A phase of gameplay of reestablishment after an engagement

Contexts: Emotional Script, R-A-E-D Iterations

Peers: Relaxation, Anticipation, Engagement

May use: Music, Dialogue, Entrainment



Engagement

A phase of gameplay of explicit conflict

Contexts: Emotional Script, **R-A-E-D** Iterations

Peers: Relaxation, Anticipation, Decay

May use many, including: Foley, Special Effects, Music, Dialogue, Entrainment, Seeking for PC, Shout and for PC, Shout and Yell, Sonic Weapon



Anticipation

A phase of gameplay anticipating an engagement

Contexts: Emotional Script, R-A-E-D Iterations

Peers: Relaxation, Engagement, Decay

May call for: Stealth

May use: Music, Entrainment, Heartbeat



No Can Do

Signalling something impossible

Awareness

Failure

Makes use of: Sound Effects, Foley, Dialogue



Failure Signalling something negative

Context: Awareness, Emotional Script

Includes the parts: Ouch!, Imminent Death, Death

Contrasts with: Achievement



Achievement Signalling something positive

Context: Awareness, Emotional Script

Contrasts with: Failure



Relaxation

A phase of gameplay promoting a restful state of mind

^{Contexts:} Emotional Script, R-A-E-D Iterations

Anticipation, Engagement, Decay

Often uses: Ambiance, Music, Entrainment



Awareness

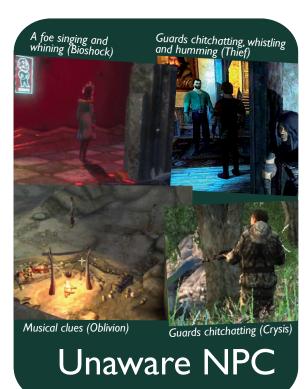
Sound signalling some relevant aspect of gameplay

Relates to: Emotional Script, Narrative

May use many, including: Character Soundprint, Failure, Achievement, No Can Do, Window of Opportunity Hurry Up!, Beacon Locator, Identification, Ouch!, Imminent Death, Seeking for PC, Suspicious NPC, Unaware NPC, ...







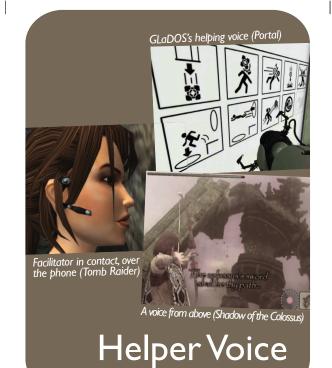


Suspicious NPC



Beacon Locator







the PC (Crysis)

Seeking for PC



Seeking for PC NPC's manifestations of active chasing of the PC

Contexts: Awareness, Engagement, Anticipation

May use: Dialogue, Shout and Yell, Grunts

May relate to: Stealth, Character Soundprint, Sound Decoys

Actual radio receivers with relevant

Narrative, Helper Voice, Awareness, Diegetic Music

May relate to: Sound Suppressing, Stealth

Contrasts with: Unaware PC,

Radio

emission

Contexts:

Relates to: Audio Logs



Suspicious NPC

Suspicious NPC

Awareness

Anticipation, Directionality



Unaware NPC

NPC's behaviours evidencing that the PC remains unnoticed

Context: Awareness, Anticipation

May use: Chitchat, Grunts

Relates to: Stealth, Character Soundprint, Sound Suppressing, Sound Decoys

Contrasts with: Suspicious NPC, Seeking for PC



location

Contexts:

Helper Voice

Conveying guidance through the voice of disembodied or remote entities

Context: Awareness

May relate to: Narrative, Audio Logs, Radio

Differs from: Narrator

Uses: Dialogue







Contributing for the sense of urge in completing something

Hurry Up!

Context: Emotional Script, Awareness, Window of Opportunity

May relate to: Imminent Death

Often uses: Special Effects, Music, Entrainment

Identification

Promoting the recognition of entities through their distinctive soundprints

Context: Awareness

May call for: Signature, Character Soundprint, Beacon Locator, Variety, Acoustic Ecology

Should not compromise: Variety



Beacon Locator

Items that emit sound to ease their

Awareness, Identification

Often uses: Sound Effects, Directionality





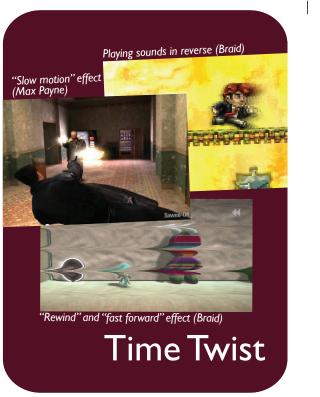
Entering a Surprising scenario (Crysis)

Revelation











Character Soundprint Heartbeat (Uncharted 2)

Affected hearing heartbeat (inFamous)

HEV suit voice, grunts, sound effects (Half-Life 2)

Imminent Death

h



Death Portraying death

Context: Failure, Emotional Script, Awareness

Peers: Imminent Death, Ouch!

May use: Grunts, Foley, Sound Effects, Dialogue



Imminent Death

Urging a change of behaviour to avoid death

Context: Failure, Awareness, Emotional Script, Window of Opportunity

Peers: Death, Ouch!

May relate to: Hurry Up!

May use: Heartbeat, Grunts, Affected Hearing Foley, Sound Effects, Dialogue

Grunts

Utterances associated to physical actions or conditions

Many contexts, including: Character Soundprint, Awareness, Ouch!, Shout and Yell, Emotional Script, Signature, ...

May Relate to: Breath, Footsteps

Compromises with: Stealth

Makes use of: Foley, Dialogue



Footsteps

Contexts: Character Soundprint,

May Relate to: Breath, Grunts



Ouch! Signalling a painful or damaging interaction

Contexts: Failure, Awareness, **Emotional Script**

Peers: Imminent Death, Death

May use: Grunts



Character Soundprint

The set of sounds of a PC or NPC

Context: Awareness, Identification, Signature, Émotional Script

May Use:

Footsteps, Grunts, Breath, Heartbeat, Chitchat, Dialogue, Foley, Sound Effects, Acoustic Ecology

May Relate: Stealth, Unaware NPC, Seeking for PC



Emotional Script, Awareness

Differs from: Achievement

Context:

Revelation



Time Twist

Using sound to enhance the perception of time manipulations

Awareness

May relate to: Emotional Script

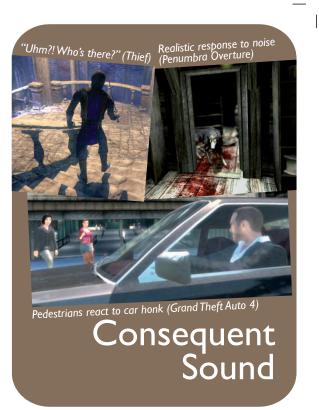






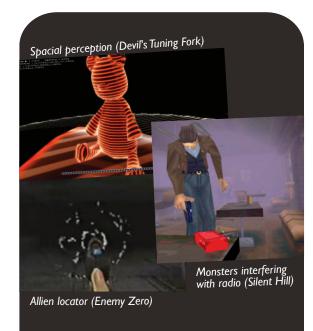


Chitchat





Address Others



Echolocation





Exuberant opponents (inFamous,

Shout and Yell



Shout and Yell Loud manifestations of hostility

Contexts: Awareness, Engagement, Emotional Script, Character Soundprint, Seeking for PC

Makes use of: Dialogue, Grunts



Chitchat

Dialogue that is not central to the course of action

Contexts: Character Soundprint, Emotional Script, Unaware NPC

Possibly with: Grunts

Makes use of: Dialogue, Acoustic Ecology



Breath Perceptible sound of breathing

Contexts: Character Soundprint, Awareness, Emotional Script, Entrainment

Relates to: Grunts

Makes use of: Foley

Contexts: Character Soundprint, Awareness, Emotional Script, Entrainment, Anticipation, Imminent Death, Engagement

Sonic Weapon

Using sound to inflict damage

Context: Consequent Sound, Engagement

Contrasts with: Make Sound not War

Relates to: Sound Decoys, Sound Suppressing



Echolocation

Using sound to perceive the environment

Context: Consequent Sound, Awareness, **Emotional Script**

May imply: Sound Input



Address Others Enabling the PC to use sound to address NPCs

Context: Consequent Sound

May imply: Sound Input

Often uses: Dialogue, Foley



Heartbeat

Perceptible sound of heartbeating

Makes use of: Foley



Consequent Sound

Designing the gameworld so that is sensitive to sound

May use many, including: Make Sound not War, Sing to Act, Rhythm Gameplay, Echolocation, Address Others, Stealth, Sound Decoys, Sound Suppressing, Sonic Weapon, Eavesdropping, ...

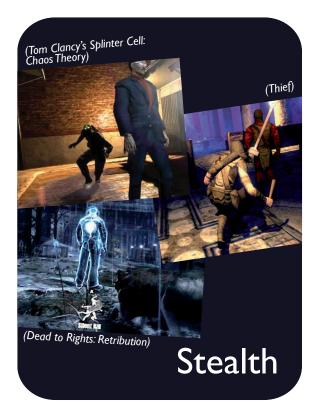
May imply: Sound Input

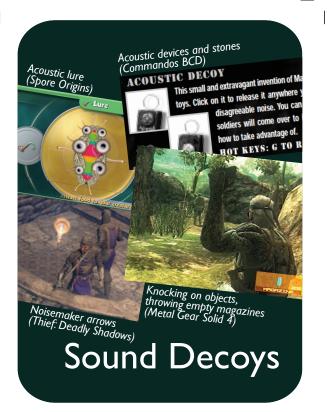




nlocking items (Legend F Zelda: Ocarina of Time) Persuading creatures at Make Sound not War

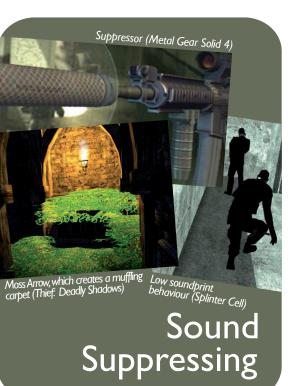








Eavesdropping



Sound Suppressing Enabling the reduction of PC generated sounds

^{Context:} Stealth, Consequent Sound

Relates to: Unaware NPC, Sonic Weapon

Makes use of: Foley



Stealth

Low profile behaviours that include adopting a small soundprint

Context: Consequent Sound, Anticipation, Emotional Script

Includes: Sound Suppressing, Sound Decoys, Eavesdropping

May relate: Genre

Relates to: Footsteps, Character Soundprint, Unaware NPC, Seeking for PC

Sing to Act

Performing songs to achieve a purpose

Context: Consequent Sound, Make Sound not War

May relate to: Genre

May imply: Sound Input



Eavesdropping

Adopting behaviours with intention of gaining knowledge by listening to others' conversations

Context: Stealth, Narrative, Emotional Script

Relates to: Unaware NPC

Makes use of: Dialogue

Relates to: Unaware NPC, Seeking for PC, Sonic Weapon

Often uses: Foley, Sound Effects



Make Sound not War

Exploring sound to create alternatives to conflict

Context: Consequent Sound, Emotional Script

Relates to: Engagement

Includes: Sing to Act, Sound Decoys

Contrasts with: Sonic Weapon

May imply: Sound Input



Sound Decoys Using sound to fool the opponents

Context: Stealth, Consequent Sound, Make sound not War, Emotional Script

