

Opening task: viewing and note-making

Look at the following link to ScreenSlam.Com, a film blog site. Watch the interviews with film stars Miles Teller and J.K. Simmons, as well as the one with Damien Chazelle.



Task 1 – Group Task

Discuss the benefits that a star can bring to a film. You should consider the following points:

- attracting finance from investors
- distributing and advertising the film
- attracting audiences
- creating hype and status for the film.

Create a display that identifies the ways in which casting a film star can help a film production. Use your own examples of stars and films to support the points you make.

If you have worked on the other films in the units – *Gravity*, *The World's End* and *The Machine* – compare the importance of the stars for each of those films. Are there different kinds of stars?

Task 2 – Individual Task

Research the past careers and performance reviews of Miles Teller and J.K. Simmons and answer the following questions:

1. What status can these two stars give *Whiplash* and what audiences might they attract?
2. How do the interviews on this blog help to 'sell' the film?
3. How might the film help the careers of these two stars?