A HISTORY OF MYSTERY

"Whodunit?"

Heists: The Fix Is In

- Heists often resemble a typical detective story turned upside-down
- Instead of following the detective as he attempts to solve the crime, we follow the criminal as he attempts to get away with it
- The thief, then, becomes the protagonist
- Often referred to as a "heist" film or novel, as there is always a robbery or "job" involved

- Plot in 3 Acts
  - The Plan
    - Reason—Last Big Job? Recovering Rightful Loot? Revenge?
    - Gathering the Team
    - Reconnaissance—Floor plans, Alarm System, Etc.
    - Assigning Roles—Often according to specialties
  - The Execution
    - Several unexpected obstacles must be navigated
  - The Escape
    - Twists, Turns, and Surprises

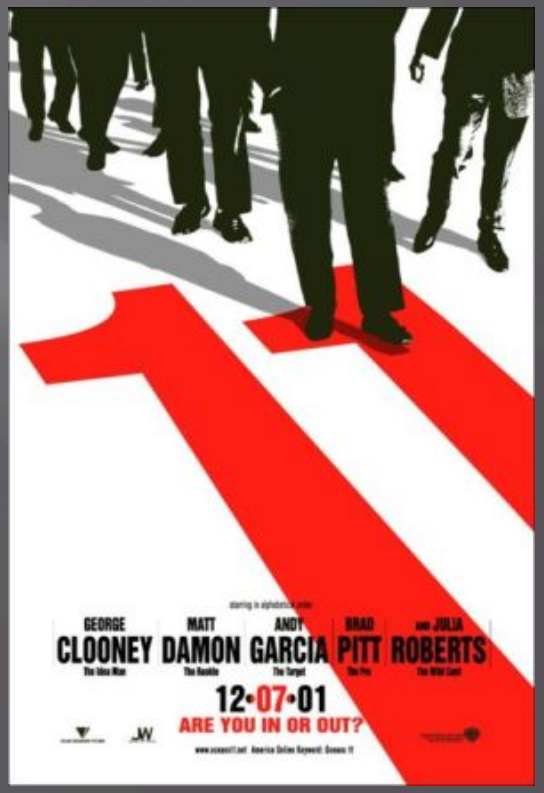
- Setting
  - Urban
  - Interior
    - Because this is a game, an escape act, much of the action—even the chase—often takes place inside buildings
  - Bars, Backrooms, Hotels, and Prisons
    - Where the criminals are
  - Casinos, Banks, Museums, and Wealthy Companies
    - Where the money is

- Character
  - Several Types of Protagonists
    - The "Robin Hood" —*We root for him*
    - The Rogue—*We want to be him*
    - The Criminal Mastermind—*We're fascinated by him*
  - Several Types of Supporting Criminals
    - The Thief
    - The Grifter
    - The Hacker
    - The Thug
  - The Beautiful Woman
    - Often the grifter
  - The Villain
    - Often a wealthy big shot or former partner who must be duped

- Tone
  - Stylish
  - Colorful
  - Fast-Paced
  - Slangy
  - Good and Bad Blurry
  - Right and Wrong Blurry
  - Sometimes Romantic

Ocean's Eleven

- 2001
- Remake of a 1960 Rat Pack film of the same name
- Original Screenplay
- Director: Steven Soderbergh
- The Eleven
  1. Danny Ocean: George Clooney
  2. Rusty Ryan: Brad Pitt
  3. Frank Catton: Bernie Mac
  4. Reuben Tishkoff: Elliott Gould
  5. Virgil Malloy: Casey Affleck
  6. Turk Malloy: Scott Caan
  7. Livingston Dell: Eddie Jemison
  8. Basher Tarr: Don Cheadle
  9. "The Amazing" Yen: Shaobo Qin
  10. Saul Bloom: Carl Reiner
  11. Linus Caldwell: Matt Damon



Children of Poe

- Today the term "mystery" is a loose one
  - Crime (Elmore Leonard)
    - *Out of Sight, Get Shorty*
  - Police Procedurals (*Perry Mason, Law &Order, C*
  - Medical Mysteries (*Quincy, House*)
  - Legal Thrillers (John Grisham)
    - *The Firm, The Pelican Brief, A Time to Kill*
  - Political Thrillers (Tom Clancy)
    - *The Hunt for Red October, Clear and Present Danger*
  - Supernatural Thrillers (M. Knight Shyamalan)
    - *Lost, The Sixth Sense, The Village*
  - Espionage/Spy (John le Carre, Robert Ludlum)
    - *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold, Bourne Identity*