

"The Mummy" widescreen

These are the same frame from the same film and are displayed as they would be shown on a standard TV.



"The Mummy" pan and scan

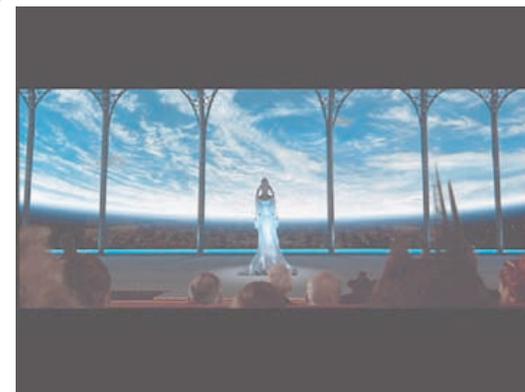
**Wider is better.
Get the whole picture!**

Compare the film examples on the left and right to their respective counterparts. **These examples show roughly 40% of the original widescreen image is discarded due to pan and scan cropping!**

Letterboxed films may appear smaller and may not fill the entire screen but they preserve the movie's original theatrical composition. When seeing a letterboxed film, many people assume that the black bars on the top and bottom are covering up part of the picture, but as we can see from the examples, they are nothing more than unused space.

Presenting movies in their original theatrical format offers several advantages. *It ensures that all characters that should be present in a shot can be seen.* This is especially important if two characters are interacting with each other at opposite sides of the screen. This is apparent in "The Mummy" P&S example where the character on the left was completely cut out! *It also preserves the composition the filmmaker's intended.* Often with a P&S version, a close shot of one or more actors can seem unnaturally tight. Widescreen allows for some breathing room, so that we can also see the space around an actor. *A third advantage is that it allows you to see visual effects in their entirety.* As we can see in the example from "The Fifth Element", the entire scope and majesty of the performers stage is not experienced without widescreen.

The next time you rent or buy a DVD make sure you're getting the whole picture, insist on widescreen video.



"The Fifth Element" widescreen

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"The Fifth Element" pan and scan

To learn more about Widescreen Advocate and our Why Widescreen? education campaign please visit: www.widescreenadvocate.com