



Films on Race and Sexuality/Gender

Presented by Rita and Bill Hadden

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8-week Outline (key film excerpts shown in class)

- 1. The Wedding Banquet (1993)
- 2. Gran Torino (2008)
- 3. The Crying Game (1992)
- 4. The Hate U Give (2018)
- 5. American Beauty (1999)
- 6. Passing (2021)
- 7. The Danish Girl (2015)
- 6. Green Book (2018)
- QUESTIONS?

The Crying Game (1992)

- **Awards / recognition:**

- Won the BAFTA Award for Best British Film as well as the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, alongside Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor for Rea, Best Supporting Actor for Davidson, and Best Film Editing. In 1999, the British Film Institute named it the 26th-greatest British film of all time.

- **Director and Writer:** Neil Jordan.

Unconventional sexual relationships are a recurring theme in Jordan's work, and he often finds a sympathetic side to characters that audiences would traditionally consider deviant.

The Crying Game (2)

- **Director and Writer: Neil Jordan**

- Won an Academy Award, two BAFTA Awards, a Golden Lion and a Silver Bear. He was honored with receiving the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1996.
- He is known for writing and directing acclaimed dramas such as Mona Lisa (1986), The Crying Game (1992), Michael Collins (1996), The Butcher Boy (1997) and The End of the Affair (1999).

The Crying Game (3)

Synopsis:

Irish Republican Army member Fergus forms an unexpected bond with Jody, a kidnapped British soldier in his custody, despite the warnings of fellow IRA members Jude and Maguire. Jody makes Fergus promise he'll visit his girlfriend, Dil, in London. Hounded by his former IRA colleagues, Fergus finds himself increasingly drawn to the enigmatic, and surprising, Dil.

The Crying Game Themes (4)

- A person's nature;
- Sexual identity;
- Gender;
- Nationality;
- International politics.

The Crying Game (5)

SETTING: Laytown, County Meath, Ireland; London's East End, and Burnham Beeches, Buckinghamshire, England.

MAIN CHARACTERS:

- Fergus: Provisional IRA volunteer;
- Jody: Black British soldier kidnapped by IRA unit;
- Maguire: Leader of IRA unit that kidnapped Jody for exchange with imprisoned IRA member;
- Jude: female member of Maguire's IRA unit, who lured Jody to secluded area by promising sex;
- Dil: Jody's girlfriend in London.

DISCUSSION: what would you say The Crying Game is about and WHY?

- The Troubles in Northern Ireland?
- Unconventional sexual relationships?
- Irrepressible human instincts?

The Crying Game (7)

Questions for discussion:

- Who is Dil? What are your first impressions of her?
- In the first part of the film, what is your impression of Jody's sexual orientation?
- How does the relationship between Fergus and Jody develop?
- Where does the relationship between Fergus and Jody start crossing sexual boundaries?
- How does the relationship between Dil and Jimmy begin?

The Crying Game (8)

Questions for discussion:

- Jimmy has an extreme reaction to Dil's "big reveal"? Does this seem real? What does this tell us about Jimmy? About Dil?
- What was implied when Dil said "if you didn't know, what were you doing in the Metro Bar?"
- How does Jimmy continue to develop his relationship with Dil?
- Is this a love story? Why or Why not?
- Does this film say anything about race?

The Crying Game (9)

Questions for discussion:

- Does this film succeed at giving its audience something unexpected and challenging? Why or Why not?
- What does the film title signify?
- What do you think of the acting in this film? Who is convincing and why?
- If possible, give an example of The Scorpion and the Frog in your life experience. (Pass is Ok)



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