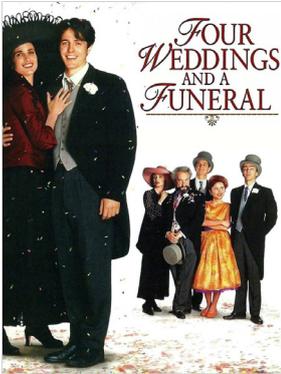


SAMPLE FILM MATERIALS

A brief sample of the kinds of material available in the worksheets



FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL

QUESTION:

- Q** Which adjectives would you use to describe Charles' character?
- A** Possible answers: Charming, unpunctual...

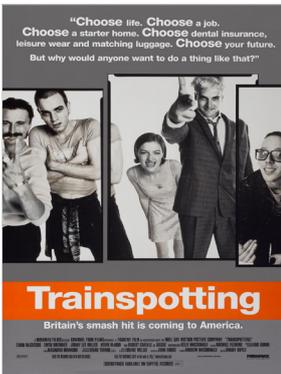
SOME COMMENTS FROM THE CRITICS

"the film displays a fascination with the upper classes, featuring numerous ceremonies at which they, their clothes and possessions are on full display. Yet in the film there is little sense of the underlying social contradictions and rifts which were suggested in many of the heritage films of the 80s..."

Sarah Street, British National Cinema (1997)

SUGGESTED FURTHER ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

Using some of the vocabulary from the list, describe exactly what Carrie or Fiona ('Fifi') is wearing at any one of the weddings...



TRAINSPOTTING

QUESTION:

- Q** Renton's "choose life" speech (as narrator on the soundtrack) both opens and closes the film. Why is it used twice in this way, do you think?
- A** The audience can see and judge Renton's life at both ends of this period in his life. At the start we feel...

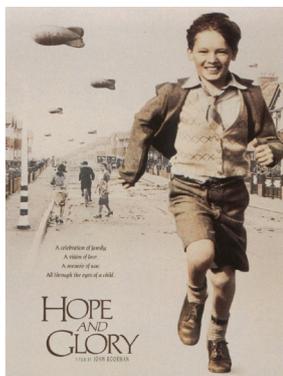
SOME COMMENTS FROM THE CRITICS

"... though Trainspotting's box-office earnings were less than half those of Four Weddings, it could be seen as innovative and different, a harbinger of real renaissance in British film production. As Tom Charity told his Time Out readers, "Trainspotting is the movie we have all been waiting for, the first British film of the '90s generation to speak to the way we live here and now".

Robert Murphy (2000)

SUGGESTED FURTHER ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

Once Renton has arrived in London and settled into a new job and flat, he writes to his parents to tell them about his new life. Mention....



HOPE & GLORY

QUESTION:

Q A major theme of the film is that after 3rd September, 1939, “nothing would ever be the same again”. How is this shown in the film to be true of:-

A i) family life: it is disrupted, e.g.

SOME COMMENTS FROM THE CRITICS

“Boorman (the director) deliberately refuses to have Billy see even a wounded soldier as it would compromise what he was trying to suggest in the film, and would invariably tread the same territory as films that focus only on death and destruction. Boorman seems to be saying that the war didn’t dehumanize people, rather, in the face of extra danger, it’s love and outlook that matter.”

Sam Juliano (2009)

SUGGESTED FURTHER ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

At the end of the school year, Billy’s Headmaster (whom we know from the film) has to write a report on Billy, his progress and ...



THE QUEEN

QUESTION:

Q The death of Princess Diana underlies the whole film: what alternative views of her are presented in the film?

A	The Queen’s view:	She feels that Diana...
	Tony Blair’s:	His view is that Diana ...

SOME COMMENTS FROM THE CRITICS

“Stephen Frears’ hugely enjoyable film... aided by a cracking impersonation of the Queen by Helen Mirren... The best moments of the film are probably the opening scenes, before the great crash, and also the final autumnal encounter between Blair and the Queen after the cataclysm has died down – when the Queen is not at bay, when she is extrovert, droll, forthright and very, very good at putting people not at their ease.”

Peter Bradshaw (2006)

SUGGESTED FURTHER ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

It is rumoured that the Queen keeps a daily diary...

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