DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival for Young Audiences



Teachers' Resource: Saturday Church

Senior Phase

Created by Lisa Welsh

Discovery Film Festival: Sat 20 October - Sun 4 November 2018

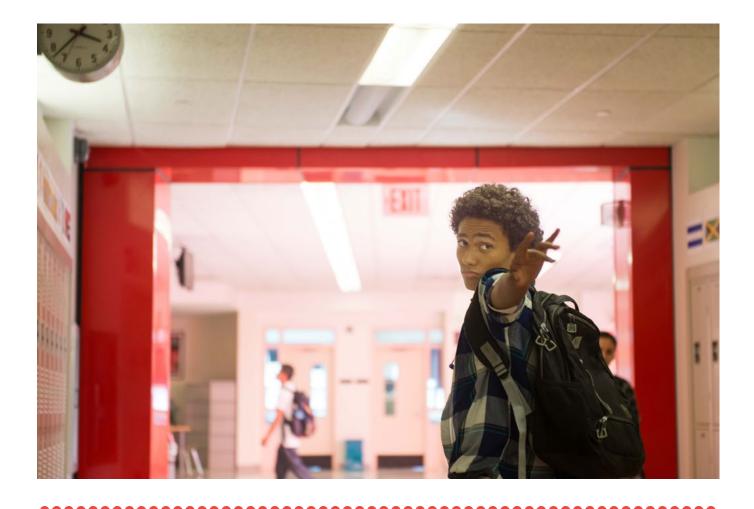
discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk











Introduction

Discovery Learning Resources give you exciting classroom activities to enhance Curriculum for Excellence delivery.

They are created by classroom teachers and education professionals. Each resource aims to:

- support and extend working with film in the classroom
- help prepare teachers for a class visit to a Discovery Film Festival film and to extend the impact of that visit for delivery of CfE
- develop confidence in Moving Image Education approaches and working with 21st Century Literacy / moving image texts

Each resource is free and available to download from www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk/resources



Saturday Church

Dir: Damon Cardasis USA 2017 / 1h23m

Synopsis

Saturday Church centres around Ulysses as he struggles with gender identity and sexuality in a conservative household after the death of his father. He is bullied at school and becomes more isolated as his mother works to provide for him and his younger brother. His aunt looks after them while his mother works but she is deeply religious and disapproving of Ulysses' choices. Ulysses finds comfort in Saturday Church where he encounters a supportive transgender community. The film is a musical coming-out/coming-of-age story.

Advisory: The film opens with the funeral of the main character's father. Locker room bullies taunt the main character and throw his gym clothes in a dirty toilet. The main character steals a porn magazine and then masturbates (nothing graphic shown) to a picture of a naked man's bottom. There is discussion of prostitution and a suggested act of prostitution. The main character is exploited after he leaves home for a few nights. He runs away away from home after a violent encounter with his homophobic aunt. Language is very strong. There is reference to drug use.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAra4mxDRYs

Awards: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5654600/awards

Review: https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/11/movies/saturday-church-review.html

Level: Higher and National 5 Media

As part of the new exam, N5 and Higher students are expected to analyse an unseen poster, advert or front page of newspaper/magazine. The analysing poster task will prepare them for this.

If a pupil's final product for their Assignment is to create a poster then this can also be included in their research and planning section.

This film could also help introduce the pupils to the key aspect of Society.

Before watching the film

Activity 1

Look at the poster for Saturday Church.

In pairs think who the target audience is and what the purpose of the poster is.

It should be established that most posters are used to promote the film and persuade audiences to go and see the film. The target audience must be justified with evidence from the text.

How has the creator of the poster achieved their purpose?

Use the **Analysing Poster** grid to take notes on the different aspects of the poster. If the pupils are able to pick a specific example from the text and explain how this persuades and targets the audience then this could be practice for the exam. It could also be a small part of the research for their Assignment for both levels.

A range of additional promotional materials are included in **Appendix 1**. These include an alternative poster and some images that were selected and prepared as part of a social media campaign.



Analysing Poster						
	Example from poster	How does this persuade the audience to go and see the film?	How is this targeting a particular audience?			
Representation	Gender					
Language						
Narrative						
Institutions						
Society						
Categories						

••••••••

Activity 2

This task should highlight the lack of representation of the LGBTI community in mainstream media and therefore why *Saturday Church* is an important film.

This task should be done over several lessons because of the research the pupils will need to conduct.

This discussion should highlight how attitudes have changed and that film can reflect that. Try and get them to think about attitudes towards young people, LGBTQ community, women, men, mental health issues. What has changed? What caused the change? Were there any major changes in law or attitudes?

Research LGBTI rights and history in UK.

Make a timeline of changes in law, significant events. This article should help: http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/milestones-battle-lgbt-equality-last-five-decades_uk_59787a43e4b0c95f376031bf?ncid=APPLENEWS00001

Additional resources:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p057nmkt/against-the-law

http://cinemajam.com/mag/features/lgbt-cinema

http://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/news-bfi/lists/10-great-lgbt-series

http://www.gaytimes.co.uk/culture/67575/soap-gay-characters-changed-tv/

Activity 3



Research high school/ teen dramas.

Get the pupils to establish the codes and conventions of the genre.

Ask them then to make a timeline starting from 1950s to present day to track the changes in conventions or the focus of the films. The pupils should list as many teen dramas as they can. Get the pupils to discuss the change in characters, themes or style.

Combine both bits of research to show the link between changes in society being reflected in content of mainstream media.

Activity 4

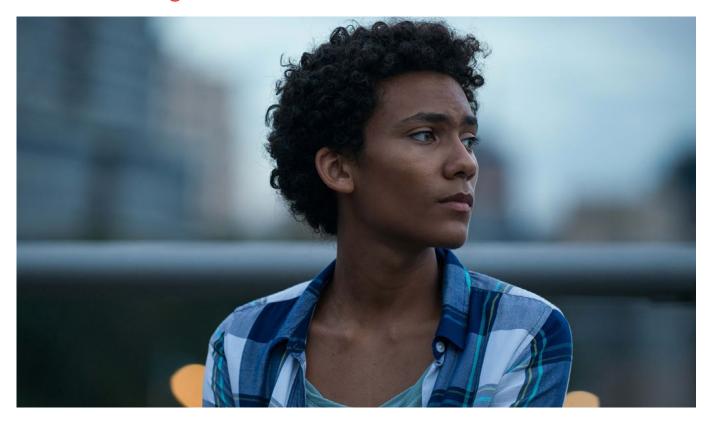
In small groups list all LGBTI characters you know that have appeared in recent films or TV shows. This can include shows on Netflix, Amazon etc.

As a class look at GLAAD Studio Responsibility Index 2017 https://www.glaad.org/sri/2017

Using worksheet titled **Society** combine all the research they have gathered.

Society						
Decade	Films/TV	How does it fulfill or challenge genre conventions?	Major cultural events, domi- nant politics etc	LGBTI characters in example. LGBTI changes in society.		
50s	Rebel Without a Cause		Post war			
60s						
70s						
80s	Heathers The Breakfast Club					
90s						
00s						

After watching the film



Ask the pupils to write a response about how ideas presented in the film are a reflection of society's attitudes towards the LGBTI community.

OR

Ask the pupils to write a response about how ideas presented in the film are a reflection of the changing content in media aimed at teenagers.

Resources

Appendix 1





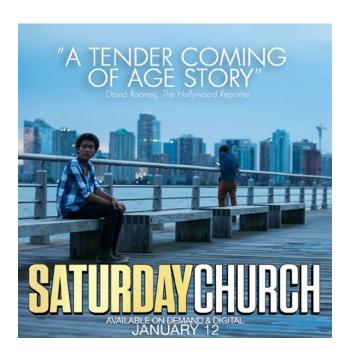


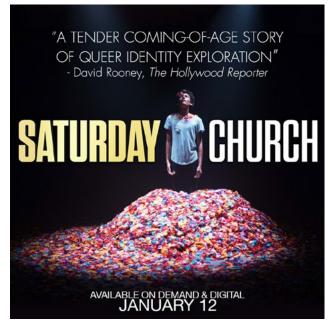


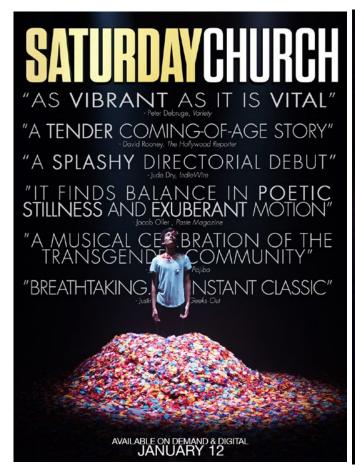
















Evaluating this resource

We hope that you found this resource useful and appropriate.

Please do send us film reviews, letters from your pupils, documentation of classwork and your feedback by e-mailing mike.tait@dca.org.uk

Would you make a good Discovery Film Festival Case Study?

We are seeking a number of simple Case Studies in how teachers have used or are using Discovery films in the classroom across Curriculum for Excellence and across the Levels.

Any case studies that we develop would be intended for presentation on GLOW, the Creativity Portal and on Discovery Film Festival websites. We have a simple template to be completed and are keen to have classwork and documentation included.

If you would like to be a Discovery Case Study please e-mail sarah.derrick@dca.org.uk