

# 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](http://discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk)

**DCA**

Dundee Contemporary Arts

  
EUROPA CINEMAS  
MEDIA-PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

  
DUNDEE  
ONE CITY, MANY DISCOVERIES

  
CREATIVE LAND  
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## 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](http://www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk/resources)



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## 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 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.

# SATURDAY CHURCH

«A MASTERFUL SUCCESS»  
AWARDS CIRCUIT

«AS VIBRANT AS IT IS VITAL»  
VARIETY

«A SPLASHY DIRECTORIAL DEBUT...  
A SURE CROWDPLEASER»  
INDIEWIRE

«SWEET AND SOULFUL...  
A CHARMER»  
THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

«SPECTACULAR»  
PASTE MAGAZINE

«LA LA LAND MEETS MOONLIGHT»  
FILM JOURNAL



SPRING PICTURES ROUND FILMS PRESENTS  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH TESHAI PRODUCTIONS SATURDAY CHURCH  
LUNA KAHN MARGOT BINGHAM REGINA TAYLOR MARCOUS RODRIGUEZ  
MI RODRIGUEZ INDYA WIDYEA ALEXIA GARCIA  
SCREENPLAY BY HENRY RUSSELL BERKELEY U.S.A. MUSIC SUPERVISOR LINDA COHEN MUSIC BY MATTHEW LARSON  
COSTUME DESIGNER MEGAN SPITZ PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMESA AZOLA EDITOR AGO JAY KOWITZ  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY HILLARY FIVE SPERA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KEVIN MICHAEL FELLOWS  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SHARON CHANG LUIGI CAVALA ISABEL HENDERSON LIA MAYER-SOMMER KIRBY MOIR  
PRODUCED BY HANBY TAGGER BROCKEY AND ZEPHANI DAMON CARABASIS REBECCA MILLER  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DAMON CARABASIS





## Analysing Poster

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



## 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](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/>



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## 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, dominant 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				

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## 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









# SATURDAY CHURCH

"AS VIBRANT AS IT IS VITAL"  
- Peter Debruge, *Variety*


"A TENDER COMING-OF-AGE STORY"  
- David Rooney, *The Hollywood Reporter*

"A SPLASHY DIRECTORIAL DEBUT"  
- Jude Dry, *IndieWire*

"IT FINDS BALANCE IN POETIC STILLNESS AND EXUBERANT MOTION"  
- Jacob Oller, *Paste Magazine*

"A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY"  
- Pajiba

"BREATHTAKING... INSTANT CLASSIC"  
- Justin... *Geeks Out*



AVAILABLE ON DEMAND & DIGITAL  
JANUARY 12

"BALLADS THAT WOULD BE RIGHT AT HOME ON EITHER NEXT YEARS OSCAR BALLOT OR NYC VOGUE BALL PLAYLIST"  
- Peter Debruge, *Variety*

"SWEET AND SOULFUL"  
- David Rooney, *The Hollywood Reporter*

"A SURE CROWD PLEASER"  
- Jude Dry, *IndieWire*

"SPECTACULAR... A BOLD DEBUT"  
- Jacob Oller, *Paste Magazine*

"A MASTERFUL SUCCESS"  
- Clayton Davis, *Awards Circuit*



# SATURDAY CHURCH

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND & DIGITAL  
JANUARY 12





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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:sarah.derrick@dca.org.uk)