

# The Main Feature



Season 31 - Issue 7 (screening 9.12.10)

## A Touch of Class

UK 1973 Cert 12 106 minutes

Director & Producer Melvin Frank  
Screenwriters Melvin Frank and Jack Rose  
Editor Bill Butler  
Music John Cameron

Cast  
George Segal Steve Blackburn  
Glenda Jackson Vicky Allesio  
Paul Sorvino Walter Menkes  
Hildegard Neil Gloria Blackburn  
Cec Linder Wendell Thompson  
K Callan Patty Menkes

The film won the Academy Award for Best Actress (Glenda Jackson) and was nominated for Best Music, Original Dramatic Score, Best Music, Song (for George Barrie and Sammy Cahn for "All That Love Went to Waste"), Best Picture and Best Writing, Story and Screenplay Based on Factual Material or Material Not Previously Published or Produced. Both Segal and Jackson won Golden Globes for Best Actor and Best Actress in a Musical Or Comedy.

The lead role of Steve was originally offered to Cary Grant, with a promise by Frank to rewrite the script to play up the age difference between Steve and Vicky. However, Grant opted to remain in retirement from filmmaking, and he turned the role down. He did remain connected to the film, however, as it was produced by Fabergé's Brut Productions, and Grant was on the board of directors for Fabergé.

Jackson and Segal have great chemistry, but the script mostly asks them to constantly yell at each other, slam doors, and bug their eyes out, and there is a large amount of slapstick humour. The movie improves when the pair return to London, and Steve makes excuses to met his lover.

With hindsight the film may seem rather dated – Segal is rather oily and boisterous, but it seems that guys like this were considered "ladies" men" back in the „70s, How actors like Segal and Ryan O'Neal (for example) were ever considered romantic leads is a question better left to the scientists.

One internet reviewer asked "Perhaps you need to remember the year 1973 to understand the equation of "adultery = hilarity"?"

On the other hand, it is nice to watch a romantic comedy where the leads are in their thirties, and the climax has a wistfully truthful air.





Although filmed in 1973, this script feels like a screwball romantic comedy from the 1940's, but with profanity and sex added to make it modern. Let's hope it is not as dated as the wallpaper in the above photo!



Glenda Jackson retired from acting in 1992 to stand for Parliament - in her words "You can't be a part-time MP anymore than you can be a part-time actress!"

She was first elected as MP for Hampstead & Highgate in 1992. She served as a junior minister under Tony Blair, but stepped down in 1999 to unsuccessfully contest the nomination for Labour candidate for London mayor. As a high profile backbencher she became a regular critic of Blair culminating in October 2005 when she threatened to challenge the Prime Minister as a stalking horse candidate in a leadership contest if he did not stand down within a reasonable amount of time.

On 6 May 2010, Jackson was elected as the MP for the new Hampstead and Kilburn constituency with a margin of 42 votes. She had the second smallest majority of any MP in the 2010 election.

Perhaps something less well known about Ms Jackson is that she is the President of Chertsey Film Society!

Iain McGlashan

Every Friday at 2pm Radio 5 broadcasts the Mark Kermode and Simon Mayo Film Review show for two hours. It's a fun review of new films with the two often bickering about the others viewpoint.

Having appealed to listeners for their pet hates/issues regarding watching movies at the cinema, they have devised the following *Code of Conduct* for moviegoers – happily I see no need to introduce it at our club!

## No Eating...

...of anything harder than a soft roll with no filling. No one wants to hear you crunch, chew or masticate in any way. Nachos cause special offence and are of the devil.



## No Slurping...

...of drinks. You've already drunk a 5 litre flagon of pop, you really don't need the melting ice too. You are not six years old.



## No Rustling...

...of super high density, rustle-o-matic, extra rustle bags. No foraging of any kind, if you're going to need it during the film, get it out before hand.



## No Irresponsible Parenting

Your five-year-old does not want to come to see the latest 12A certificate: you are using the cinema as a babysitter. Your child's moaning, whinging and crying is your fault and a profound annoyance to everyone else. Your interrupted sleep caused by your child's nightmares is also your fault and serves you right.



## No Hobbies

This includes knitting, drug dealing, model aeroplane assembly, fighting, having sex and updating Facebook.



## No Talking

You're in a cinema – you have come here to watch, not to discuss. Or 'engage', or 'participate', or 'explain' or whatever. More importantly, no-one in the cinema has paid £8.50 to hear your director's commentary on the movie. Just sit down and shut up.



## No Mobile Phone Usage

At all. Not even on 'flight mode'. This isn't an aeroplane, it's a cinema. Even if you're not yapping, you're still creating light pollution. Put your thumbs away. NB: includes BlackBerries, Palm Pilots, iPads - whatever.



## No Kicking of Seats

The area of floor directly in front of your seat is yours, and is there to put your legs in. The back of the seat in front of you belongs to someone else; do not touch, interfere with, or otherwise invade their space with your feet, knees, or other bodily appendages.



## No Arriving Late

Like Woody Allen in Annie Hall, you're supposed to watch movies from the very beginning to the very end. If you turn up late, tough: go see something else - The Sorrow and the Pity, perhaps.



## No Shoe Removal

You are not in your own front room. Nor are you in Japan (unless you are, in which case, carry on). A cinema is a public space: keep your bodily odours to yourself.



## Mark Kermode & Simon Mayo's Film Review

Fridays, 2pm to 4pm on BBC Radio 5 live

BBC  
RADIO

5 live

Follow us on [twitter](#)  
@wittertainment

Get our free podcast  
[bbc.co.uk/5live](http://bbc.co.uk/5live)

Many thanks to all witterers out there who contributed to our Code. We couldn't have done it without you. And hello to Jason Isaacs.

## Reactions to ...Kongekabale (*King's Game*) – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

<b>Score</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Votes</b>	~	~	~	~	1	2	3	9	19	2	~

**Total received – 36**

**Average Score – 7.36**

### Your Comments

An excellent choice of film

Good lesson in politics

A great film, but I didn't like all the smoking!

Remarkable similarities with our own actual political scenario

Powerful well made film, convincingly authentic – confirms one's worst fears about politicians!

Gripping but typical of politics?

Good atmosphere and tension – let's have more Danish films!

A bit too close to home but very well done

Gripping!

As the "Ancient World" tv programme demonstrated, Greek politics 2500 years ago was much the same – brilliant.

Great film but not as good as the Ghost one last time!

Famous Danes included on your slips – King Canute; Victor Borge; Hans Christian Andersen; Ole Kirk Christiansen (aka "Mr Lego") – very well done all (however Birgitte Nielsen, one time Mrs Sylvester Stallone, was not as high brow a nomination!)

Position	Film	Average Score
1 <sup>st</sup>	An Education	7.83
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Le Premier Jour de reste de ta vie	7.54
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kongekabale ( <i>King's Game</i> )	7.36
4 <sup>th</sup>	The Hurt Locker	7.09
5 <sup>th</sup>	Ushpizin	5.94
6 <sup>th</sup>	Paranormal Activity	2.75

MORGAN FREEMAN MATT DAMON  
**INVICTUS**  
 His people needed a leader.  
 He gave them a champion.

Our next presentation at 8pm on  
 Thursday 13 January:

# INVICTUS

Directed by Clint Eastwood, this dramatises the inspiring true story of how Nelson Mandela joined forces with the captain of South Africa's rugby team.

*"He was a prisoner who became a president. To unite his country, he asked one man to do the impossible."*

**Repropoint**

sponsors photocopying of *the main feature*

