



Scotland Film

This handout was originally made for use in an Area and Cultural Studies Scotland class at Konstanz University, with the focus on contemporary writing and film. It contains a list of 'Scottish' feature films available in the university library, a list of Scottish film directors and actors, and some information on other material available for viewing in the Language Institute (Sprachlehrinstitut). As with all the other topics in the Area Studies Scotland class, the university library offers an excellent range of materials.

(1) Feature films available.

This is a list of the feature films currently available in the university, almost all of them in the library. Those with an asterisk* can be viewed only in the Language Institute, where you will also find a "Scotland" folder with details of all the feature films on this list and of other materials available (documentaries, TV series etc.).

So what's Scottish about them?

It could be the director, the actors (with or without Scottish accents), or the setting (the themes, the story, the location). It could be all three of these. Most of them have Scottish actors in them.

I have not included any description of the contents, for good reason. In class, as an introduction to the range of topics in the films, I give the students a set of titles and a set of very brief descriptions, and ask them to try matching them. Some examples of brief descriptions:

A mother hires a young man to play the part of the father of her son for a couple of important days. The son is deaf, thanks to the violent treatment from his real father.

A young Muslim of Pakistani origins meets a young Irish Catholic music teacher. The background is contemporary Glasgow.

A young man who is set on a career has to rethink his life when his mother can no longer look after his sister, who has Downs Syndrome.

A teenager wishes to have good accommodation ready for his mother who is due to be released from prison. The way he gets the money to do this is the problem.

A young Scottish doctor is coerced and charmed into working for the Ugandan dictator, Idi Amin. Youth and naivety meet charisma and brutality.

******(The answers are at the end of this list of titles!)

Ae Fond Kiss (2003) also called "Just a Kiss"

- Scottish setting and actors

Afterlife (2003)

- Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Alison Peebles

Angel's Share (2012)

- Scottish setting and actors

Another Time, Another Place (1985)

- Scottish actors and setting, based on the novel by Jessie Kesson

Being Human (1994)

- Scottish director Bill Forsyth

Big Tease, The (1999)

- partly Scottish setting, Scottish actor Craig Ferguson

Blinded (2004)

- Scottish actor Peter Mullan

Braveheart (1996)

- Scottish setting and actors

Breaking the Waves (1996)

- Scottish setting and actors

Carla's Song (1999)

- Scottish setting and actors

Chariots of Fire (1982)

- Scottish main character, partly Scottish setting

Comfort and Joy (1984)

- Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Bill Forsyth

Complicity (1995) (also marketed as "Retribution")

- Scottish actors and setting, based on the novel by Ian Banks, Scottish director Gavin Millar

Deacon Brodie (1996)

- *Scottish setting and actors*

Dear Frankie (2005)

- *Scottish setting, actors and producer*

Debt Collector (2001)

- *Scottish setting and actors*

Edge of the World (1937)

- *Scottish setting and actors*

For those in peril (2013)(not yet available in the library)

- *Scottish setting, actors and director Paul Wright*

Girl in the Café (2005)

- *Scottish actress Kelly Macdonald*

Gregory's Girl (1980)

- *Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Bill Forsyth*

Gregory's Two Girls (2000)

- *Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Bill Forsyth*

Gunpowder, Treason and Plot (2004)

- *Scottish theme and actors*

Hallam Foe (2006)

- *Scottish setting, Scottish director David Mackenzie*

Heavenly Pursuits (1986) (also marketed as "Gospel according to Vic")

- *Scottish setting and actors*

Hideous Kinky (1992)

- *Scottish director Gillies MacKinnon*

Hitler. The rise of evil (2003)

- *Hitler is played by the Scottish actor Robert Carlyle*

Housekeeping (1988)

- *Scottish director Bill Forsyth*

I know where I'm going (1945)

- *Scottish setting and actors*

Inaccessible Pinnacle (2008)

- *Scottish setting and actors, language Gaelic*

In the Loop (2009)

- *Scottish actor Peter Capaldi*

Just a Kiss (2005)

- *Scottish setting and actors*

Late Night Shopping (2002)

- *Scottish director Saul Metzstein, filmed in Glasgow, one well-known German actress!*

Last Great Wilderness (2003)

- *Scottish setting, actors and director David Mackenzie*

Last King of Scotland (2006)

- *Scottish actor James McAvoy, Scottish director Kevin Macdonald*

Local Hero (1983)

- *Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Bill Forsyth*

Magdalene Sisters (2003)

- *Scottish director Peter Mullan*

Mary Queen of Scots (1971)*

- *Scottish setting*

Mary Reilly (1997)

- *based on Robert Louis Stevenson's book Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Morvern Callar (2001)

- *based on a book by a Scottish writer, Scottish setting, Scottish director*

Mrs Brown (1998)

- *Scottish setting and actor Billy Connolly*

My Childhood (1972)

- *Scottish setting, Scottish director Bill Douglas*

My Name is Joe (1998)

- *Scottish setting and actors*

Needle, The (1981)

- *Scottish setting*

(Neverland, The story of J M Barrie, the writer of Peter Pan and Wendy)

New town killers (2008)

- *Scottish actors Alastair Mackenzie, Dougray Scott*

On a Clear Day (2004)

- *Scottish actors, Scottish director Peter Mullan*

Orphans (1998)

- *Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Peter Mullan*

Perfect Sense (2011)

- Scottish actors including Ewan McGregor, Scottish director David Mackenzie, Scottish location and a Scottish producer

Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1969)

- Scottish setting, based on Muriel Spark's novel

Pure (2002)

- Scottish director Gillies MacKinnon

Ratcatcher (2001)

- Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Lynne Ramsay

Red Road (2006)

- Scottish setting and actors

Regeneration (1997)

- partly Scottish setting, Scottish director Gillies MacKinnon

Restless Natives (1985)*

- Scottish setting and actors

Rob Roy (1995)

- Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Michael Caton-Jones

Rocket Post (2002)

- Scottish setting and actors

Saving Grace (2000) Grasgeflüster

- Scottish actor Craig Ferguson

Shallow Grave (1995)

- Scottish setting and actors

Sixteen Years of Alcohol (2004)

- Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Richard Jobson

Skellig (2009)

- Scottish actress Kelly Macdonald

Small Faces (1995)

- Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Gillies MacKinnon

Sweet Sixteen (2002)

- Scottish setting and actors

(Starter for 10 Scottish actor James McAvoy playing an English part. Compare this with his accent during cast interviews)

That Sinking Feeling (1979)

- *Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Brian Forsyth*

Trainspotting (1996)

- *Scottish setting and actors, based on Irving Welsh's novel*

True North (2006)

- *Scottish actor Peter Mullan*

When Eight Bells Toll (1970)

- *Scottish setting*

Whisky Galore (1948)

- *Scottish setting and actors, "Scottish" director Alexander Mackendrick*

Wicker Man (1973)

- *Scottish setting*

Winter Guest, The (1997)

- *Scottish setting*

Young Adam (2003)

- *Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director, based on novel by a Scottish writer*

1746 The Last Highland Charge (1994)

- *Scottish setting and actors, Scottish director Bob Caruthers*

(Moulin Rouge (2001) - Scottish actor Ewan McGregor with Scottish accent, Scottish composer Craig Armstrong - he also composed the music for "Romeo and Juliet", "The Great Gatsby" (2013), and many more.)

****The answers: Dear Frankie, Ae Fond Kiss, Afterlife, Sweet Sixteen, The Last King of Scotland.**

(2) What else is available

Both in the Language Institute (Sprachlehrinstitut) and in the university library there is much more film material on Scotland – documentaries, TV series, interviews, concerts and ceilidhs, sports events etc. For detailed information please see the Scotland folder in the Language Institute. As with the feature films, titles with an asterisk can be viewed only in the Institute.

Some examples:

A History of Scotland (BBC series 2008-2009, with Neil Oliver)*

Writing Scotland (BBC series on Scottish Writers 2004)*

Long way round (motorbike travel documentary 2004) and Long way down (2007) both feature Ewan McGregor

Billy Connolly Live (one-man comedy show 1991)*

Billy Connolly – journey to the edge of the world: North Pole (documentary on Connolly's travels from Nova Scotia to Vancouver Island via the North West Passage, 2009)

A Vision of the Corries (historic concert 1990)

Hamish Macbeth and The Great Loch Dubh Salt Robbery (TV series 1996)

Sportduelle: Scotland v. England; Sportduelle: Rangers v. Celtic (ARTE series 2010)*

Taggart - Death Comes Softly (TV detective series 1992)

The Crow Road (TV serial adaptation 1996 of a novel by Iain Banks)

One Day in September (prize winning documentary by Kevin Macdonald 1999 on the murder of athletes at the 1972 Olympics in Munich)

Monarch of the Glen (long-running TV series set in the Highlands 2000-2005)

Mountain climbing: Munros (BBC 2010)*

Touching the Void (prize winning documentary by Kevin Macdonald 2003 on a climbing disaster in the Andes)

Sea of Souls (a BBC drama series on the paranormal 2004-2007)

Edge of the Land (a BBC series 1995-96 giving a bird's eye view of the Scottish coast)

(3) Some Scottish directors, producers and actors:

Some Scottish directors:

Alison Peebles

Bill Forsyth

David Mackenzie

Elly Taylor

Gillies MacKinnon

John Grierson (1898 - 1972) "the father of the documentary film"

Kenny Glennan

Kevin Macdonald

Lynne Ramsay

Michael Caton-Jones

Paul Wright

Peter Mullan
Richard Jobson
Saul Metzstein

Some Scottish producers:

Andrew Macdonald (e.g. Trainspotting)
Gillian Berrie (e.g. Hallam Foe, Red Road)
Iain Smith (e.g. 1492, Cold Mountain, Seven Years in Tibet)
Nigel Sinclair (e.g. Terminator 3)

Some Scottish actors/actresses:

Alastair MacKenzie
Atta Yaqub
Bill Paterson
Billy Boyd
Billy Connolly
Craig Ferguson
Dawn Steele
Denis Lawson
Dougray Scott
Ewan McGregor
Ewen Bremner
Gerard Butler
Gregor Fisher
Iain Robertson
James McAvoy
Kate Dickie
Kelly Macdonald
Ken Stott
Kevin McKidd
Martin Compston
Paula Sage
Peter Capaldi
Peter Mullan
Robbie Coltrane
Robert Carlyle
Sean Connery
Siobhan Redmond
Tilda Swinton

Some Scottish women behind the scenes:

"(...) more Scots women are influential behind the cameras, as directors, producers and writers. *Lynne Ramsay's "Morvern Callar"* was the best Scottish film of 2002. Even before "*Footballer's Wives*", *Eileen Gallagher* and *Anne McManus* were among the UK's leading independent producers. *Karen Calderwood* moved from drama

production at BBC Scotland to a successful career as a Hollywood executive. Scottish women might not be household names to the public, but if we are examining how the image of Scottish acting is moulded, we have to be honest about who is pulling the strings rather than the faces."

Scotland on Sunday "The Scotsmen taking the lead in Hollywood" 19.10.2003

Since then Scottish women have remained active and successful behind the scenes, and some have also become well-known screen faces.

To finish off with, try this:

One of the actors listed above is Kenny Brogan in Afterlife and Dr Owen in Grey's Anatomy.

Another is Fraser Rowan in Gregory's Two Girls and Sean Ambrose (the villain) in Mission Impossible II.

One of the actresses is Diane in Trainspotting and Margaret Schroeder Thompson in Boardwalk Empire (US TV period drama series) .

One of the actors is Pippin in Lord of the Rings.

One of the actors is Liam in Sweet Sixteen and Mike in the 2012 Swiss film Winterdieb.

Who are they?

And who directed the 2011 film "We need to talk about Kevin"?

NB: This handout will keep on growing! Meanwhile keep your eyes and ears open for the names above. You will probably be surprised.

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March 2006, updated March 2008, February 2014