What is the purpose of film as a medium?

- To entertain
- To make money
- To offer escapism
- To educate
- To raise awareness about political and social issues
- To give people a voice
- To make us think

British Film since 1995

Component 1 - Section C

What are the differences between Hollywood and British films?





Which of these apply to Hollywood and which apply more to British films?

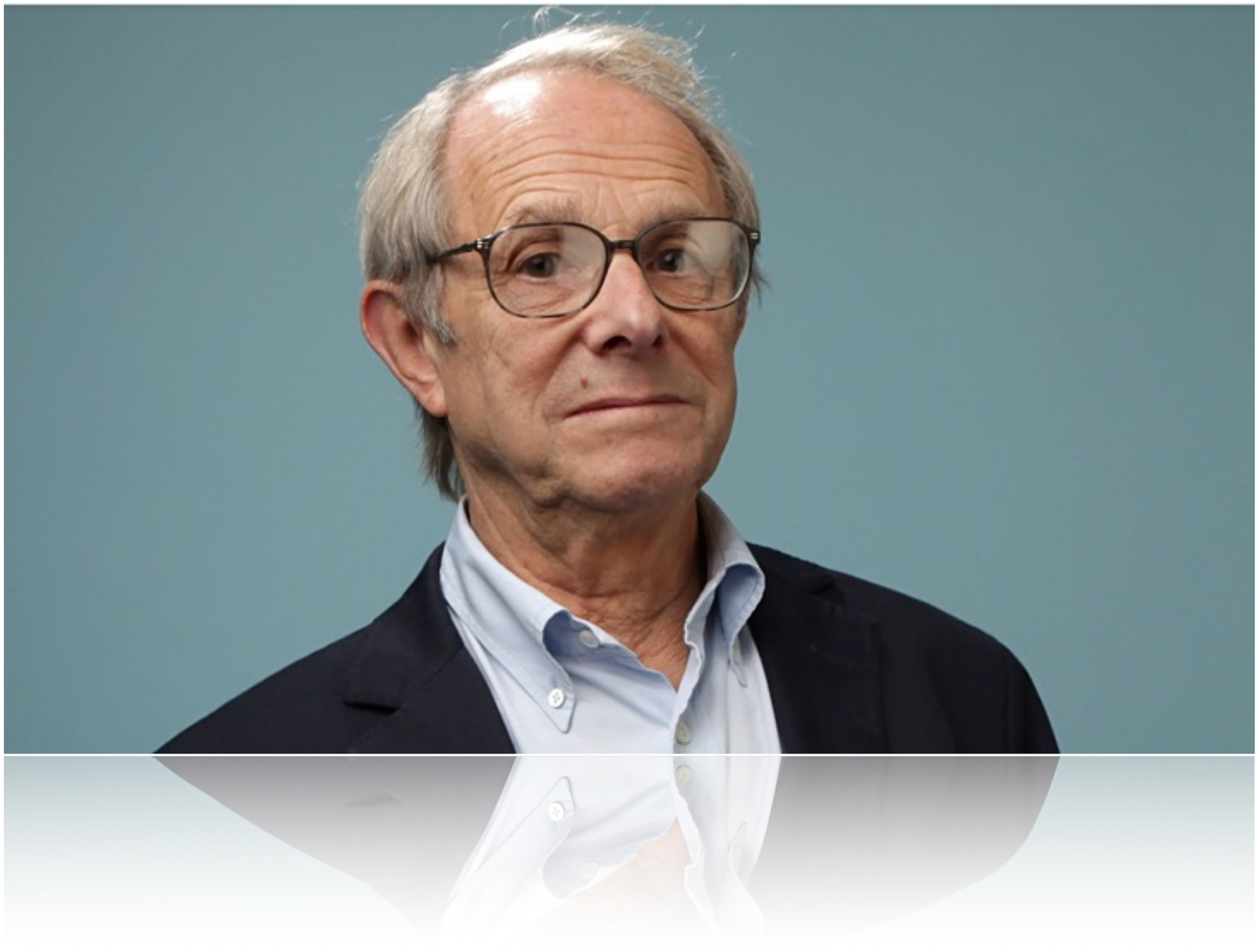
- To entertain
- To make money
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Social Realism

- A term given initially to a group of films made between 1955 - 1963, which portrayed a more gritty form of realism than had been seen in British cinema previously

- These films offered a new openness about working class life, and dealt with previously taboo issues such as abortion and homosexuality

Ken Loach



THE FOLLOWING PREVIEW HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR

APPROPRIATE AUDIENCES

BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

www.filmratings.com

www.mpaa.org

Shane Meadows



This is England
(2006, Shane Meadows)

Winner of BAFTA for Best British Film 2007
Winner of BIFA for Best British Film 2006

Tonight at 9pm on Film 4

Record it!



Key Themes

- Identity
- Class
- Masculinity
- Place
- Conflict
- Growing up



“When people are frustrated and disillusioned that's when you get extremist groups moving in and trying to exploit the situation.”

- Shane Meadows

Context

- The film is set in the summer of 1983

- The year before, the UK went to war with Argentina in the Falkland Islands - 655 Argentine military personnel and 255 British military personnel were killed

- Many believed the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher intended to use the conflict to strengthen her position, as she was behind in the polls at the time

- In the UK, three and a half million people were unemployed

- The film is semi-autobiographical depiction of Meadows' own experiences

Context

- A rise in discrimination against ethnic minorities partly due to the 1981 economic recession which led to greater insecurity within the working classes worried about their jobs and homes.
- Racial divisions were also heightened by the 1981 Brixton riots where the black community were demonstrating their anger at the racist bias of police officers conducting the new stop and search policy.


SUMMER 1983. A TIME TO STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD
THIS IS ENGLAND
A Film by Shane Meadows
18

Representation

How are the three main male characters represented in the film?

Shaun



Woody



Combo



What's required?

- Students will be required to analyse films in terms of two defined critical approaches to narrative. This means that assessment of British Film requires an understanding of story, plot and binary oppositions as well as the core study areas.

Core Study Areas

Area 1 - The key elements of film form: cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound and performance

Area 2 - Meaning and response: how film functions as both a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium

Area 3 - The contexts of film: social, cultural, political, historical and institutional, including production.