

Film review

2. READING FORM

Point 1: TECHNICAL DATA

TITLE AND GENRE: Tess

DIRECTOR: Roman Polanski

SCREENWRITER: Gérard Brach, John Brownjohn, and Roman Polanski. From Thomas Hardy's novel

YEAR: 1979

PRODUCTION: Renn Productions; Timothy Burrill Productions; Société Française de Production (SFP)

AWARDS: nominated for six Academy Awards including Best Picture, winning three for Best Cinematography, Best Art Direction and Best Costume Design.

Point 2: SETTING AND PLOT

SETTING: Wessex County, England in the Victorian era

PLOT: It is the story of Tess, a young and fascinating country girl. When her parents hear from a local historian that they are the descendants of the aristocratic d'Urberville family which died out because as they lacked male heirs, they send her to a nearby mansion where they know some d'Urbervilles are living. There Tess learns that the family bought the aristocratic name to improve their social position. Tess is raped and left pregnant by Alec, her false cousin. After the baby's death, Tess meets and falls in love with Angel Clare, the son of a parson and an apprentice farmer. On their wedding night Angel abandons her when she confesses her past.

CAST: Nastassja Kinski, Peter Firth, Leigh Lawson

CONCLUSION: She returns to her seducer, murders him and is condemned to be hanged.

At the end of the story, Tess and Angel, finally reunited, flee through the misty countryside and come at Stonehenge. Exhausted Tess stops on a sacrificial alter stone, a victim of the will of the gods or her fatal flaw, neatly tying together the novel's themes of modern development vs. mankind's close relationship with the earth, and contemporary religious belief vs. nature-worshipping paganism.

Point 3: YOUR OPINION

ACTORS:

SCREENPLAY:

DIALOGUES AND DIRECTING:

SOUND-TRACK:

PHOTOGRAPHY:

COSTUMES:

Point 4: EVALUATION

RATING:

(□□excellent; □good ; □ sufficient; □ bad)

RECOMMENDATION:

(*poor ; **sufficient; ***good; ****excellent)