

RAISON ET SENTIMENTS

de Ang LEE

FICHE TECHNIQUE

Titre original : Sense and sensibility

Pays : USA

Durée : 2h15

Année : 1995

Genre : Comédie dramatique

Scénario : Emma THOMPSON d'après le roman de Jane AUSTEN

Directeur de la photographie : Michael COULTER

Décors : Ian WHITTAKER

Costumes : Jenny BEAVAN, John BRIGHT

Montage : Tim SQUYRES

Musique : Patrick DOYLE

Coproduction : Columbia Pictures / Mirage

Distribution : Columbia TriStar Films

Interprètes : Emma THOMPSON (Elinor Dashwood), Kate WINSLET (Marianne Dashwood), Hugh GRANT (Edward Ferrars), Alan RICKMAN (Le colonel Christopher Brandon)

Sortie : 14 février 1996

SYNOPSIS

In this literary adaptation of Jane Austen's comedy of manners, the film follows the romantic paths of the Dashwood sisters, two relatively poor young ladies of marrying age. Common-sensical Elinor and passionate and romantic Marianne give the story its name. But in a society where desirability is usually conferred by money and birth, romance meets many barriers. And before finally finding happiness, Elinor and Marianne must learn that sensibility has always to be mixed with sense.

Dans cette adaptation de la comédie d'amour écrite par Jane Austen, le film suit les chemins romantiques empruntés par les sœurs Dashwood, deux jeunes femmes peu fortunées en âge de se marier. La raisonnable Elinor et la romantique Marianne illustrent le titre de l'histoire. Mais dans une société où le charme vient surtout de la naissance et des finances, l'amour doit affronter de nombreux obstacles. Et avant de trouver le bonheur, Elinor et Marianne apprendront que raison et sentiments ne peuvent être séparés.

AUTOUR DU FILM

Comments on the film

The film has received a relevant series of Awards : for best writing and best leading actress to Emma Thompson, best performance by an actress in a supporting role to Kate Winslet and best director to Ang Lee, to name only some of them. This success is linked to the screenplay, faithful to the spirit of the book, to the excellent cast and to Ang Lee's understanding of the social scene in Austen's England.

Le film a reçu un nombre important de récompenses : prix du meilleur scénario et de la meilleure actrice décernés à Emma Thompson, Meilleur Second Rôle pour Kate Winslet, et prix de la meilleure mise en scène décerné à Ang Lee, pour n'en citer que quelques uns. Ce succès tient au scénario, fidèle à l'esprit du roman, aux acteurs, excellents, et à Ang Lee qui a su capturer l'atmosphère de la scène sociale dans l'Angleterre de Jane Austen.

Jane Austen (1775-1817)

Born in Hampshire (England), Jane Austen can be regarded as the first major English woman novelist. The daughter of a country rector, she led a particularly uneventful life with her family and never married, though she had several suitors. In her novels, she portrays social life in small provincial communities and satirizes with subtlety and delicacy romance and the good conventional society at the time. Jane Austen only published six books, all of which have become classics and are still widely read today.

Née dans le Hampshire en Angleterre, Jane Austen peut être considérée comme la première romancière anglaise. Fille d'un pasteur de campagne, elle mena une vie parfaitement ordinaire avec sa famille et resta célibataire, malgré quelques prétendants. Dans ses romans, elle dépeint la vie sociale des petites communautés de campagne et se moque avec subtilité et délicatesse de l'amour et de la « bonne » société de l'époque. Jane Austen publia seulement six romans. Tous sont devenus des classiques de la littérature et ont encore beaucoup de succès aujourd'hui.

Jane Austen's novels :

- *Northanger Abbey* (published posthumously in 1818)
- *Sense and Sensibility* (1811)
- *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)
- *Mansfield Park* (1814)
- *Emma* (1816)
- *Persuasion* (published posthumously in 1818)

PISTES PÉDAGOGIQUES

Some themes developed in the story :

- Danger of excessive sensibility and superiority of sense
- Courtship and dating games as a main issue of the time
- Gulf between romanticism and materialism

Classroomwork (lycée, classes de terminale ou classe de première L)

- Pre-watching activities
 - Can you name famous love stories in literature or movies ?
 - Describe this engraving illustrating the novel and guess about its content.
 - Austen Jane, *Sense and Sensibility*, Wordworth Classics, 1994 : Chapter 1, page 6, characterization of the two sisters : who embodies sense/sensibility ? (words networks, dual heroines : contrast)
 - What did the life of women use to be at the beginning of the 19th century ?
- Classroom activities
 - Decide whether the two actresses in the film are faithful to Austen's portrait of Elinor and Marianne.
 - Compare the lives of the Dashwood sisters to the lives of modern young women today.
 - Both Elinor and Marianne have to face a love disappointment. After reading these two extracts, contrast their reactions. (Austen Jane, *Sense and Sensibility*, Wordworth Classics, 1994 : extract 1 : chapter 23 page 115 ; extract 2 : chapter 29, page 154). Express differences and similarities. Now guess about Jane Austen's opinion concerning love affairs.
 - What's the morale of the story ?
 - Debate : for or against marriage ?
- Written work
 - After extract 1 : Marianne writes a letter explaining the situation to her mother.
 - After extract 2 : Elinor has decided to reveal the truth about Edward to Marianne. Write their dialogue keeping in mind the character of each sister.
 - Essay : What's a 'successful marriage' according to Austen's society's standards ? According to your own standards ?
- Enlarging
 - Courtship today.
 - Matchmaking : arranged marriages in India.
 - Women's rights in the world.

BIBLIOGRAPHIE

- Austen Jane, *Sense and Sensibility*, Wordworth Classics, 1994.
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