



The Main Feature

Season 42 – Issue 3 – Screening 13 October 2022

Mandela and de Klerk

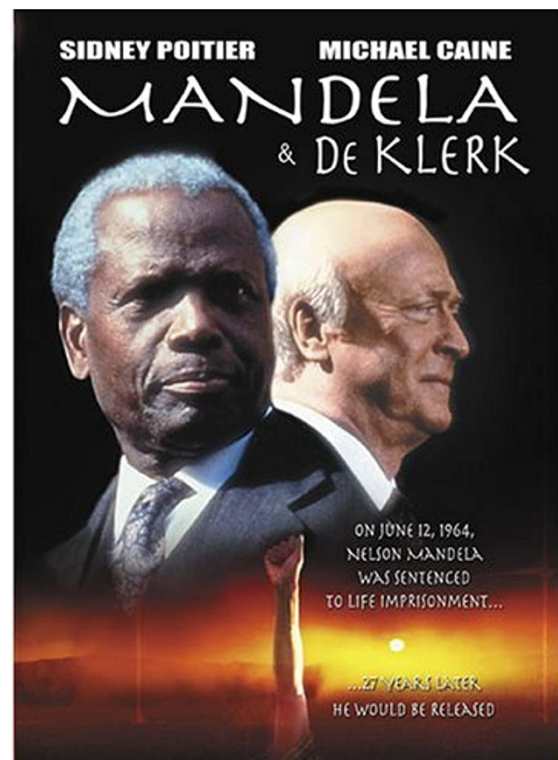
US 1997

114 mins Certificate 15

Director	Joseph Sargent
Screenplay	Richard Wesley
Music	Cédric Gradus Samson
Photography	Tobias A Schliessler

Cast

Sidney Poitier	Nelson Mandela
Michael Caine	F W de Klerk
Tina Lifford	Winnie Mandela
Gerry Maritz	P W Botha
Ian Roberts	Kobie Coetsee
Ben Kruger	James Gregory
Jerry Mofokeng	Walter Sisulu
John Carson	Willem de Klerk



Mandela and de Klerk looks at the events leading to the end of apartheid in South Africa. The film was originally made for television, and stars Sidney Poitier as Mandela, Michael Caine as de Klerk (both of whom won Emmys for their portrayals) and Tina Lifford as Winnie Mandela.

The two main protagonists could not have come from more different backgrounds though they both studied law. F.W. de Klerk was born into a political family: his father was Senator Jan de Klerk, a leading politician, who became minister in the South African government. His brother Willem was a liberal newspaperman and one of the founders of the Democratic Party. He was educated as a lawyer and was elected to Parliament as National Party member for Vereeniging.

In 1978, F.W. de Klerk was appointed Minister of Posts and Telecommunications and Social Welfare and Pensions. In the following eleven years, he held a series of ministerial posts culminating with Internal Affairs and Education. As Minister of National Education, F.W. de Klerk was a supporter of segregated universities, though he led moves in 1982 against the extreme right wing of the party, before being elected as leader of the National Party in the

Transvaal. He was not known to advocate reform. In February 1989, de Klerk was elected leader of the National Party and in September 1989 he was elected State President.

Nelson Mandela's father was Hendry Mphakanyiswa of the Tembu Tribe. Mandela himself was educated at University College of Fort Hare and the University of Witwatersrand where he studied law. He joined the African National Congress in 1944 and was engaged in resistance against the ruling National Party's apartheid policies after 1948. He went on trial for treason in 1956-1961 and was acquitted in 1961.



After the banning of the ANC in 1960, Nelson Mandela argued for the setting up of a military wing within the ANC. In June 1961, the ANC executive considered his proposal on the use of violent tactics and agreed that those members who wished to involve themselves in Mandela's campaign would not be stopped from doing so by the ANC. This led to the formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe. Mandela was arrested in 1962 and sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour. In 1963, when many fellow

leaders of the ANC and the Umkhonto we Sizwe were arrested, Mandela was brought to stand trial with them for plotting to overthrow the government by violence. On June 12, 1964, eight of the accused, including Mandela, were sentenced to life imprisonment. From 1964 to 1982, he was incarcerated at Robben Island Prison, off Cape Town; thereafter, he was at Pollsmoor Prison, nearby on the mainland.

During his years in prison, Nelson Mandela's reputation grew steadily. He was widely accepted as the most significant black leader in South Africa and became a potent symbol of resistance as the anti-apartheid movement gathered strength. He consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom.

Allomovie liked the film: 'This low-profile production earned high praise from critics for its outstanding acting and faithful recreation of an important turning point in South African history (...) Sidney Poitier portrays [Nelson Mandela] with dignity and unyielding resolve as [he] rises from imprisoned *persona non grata* to leader of all of South Africa. In the role of Mandela's foil-turned-peacemaking partner, Frederick Willem de Klerk, is Michael Caine. His performance aptly depicts the altruism and pragmatism that induce de Klerk to surrender to destiny and, with Mandela, turn South Africa into a democracy in which blacks and whites are equals.'

Variety thought it 'a rousing tale, with authentic locations and a spirited cast and, while the storytelling has only slightly more depth than a history pageant, it's a tale deserving wider exposure to U.S. audiences'. It went on 'Much of the acting is a bit stiff, though Caine loosens up a bit. Poitier is convincing enough, if one is willing to believe that Mandela was an almost relentlessly noble character, at least from 1956, when *Mandela and de Klerk* begins'. However, Variety noted Michael Caine's 'uneasy Afrikaans accent'.

Michael Hipkins



We thank Red Eye for subsidising the cost of printing these notes. Red Eye Print, Unit 2D, Lansbury Estate, 102 Lower Guildford Road, Knaphill, GU21 2EP Tel: 01483 772111

A DVD store that has rented films for almost 40 years is closing its doors, unable to compete with online streaming sites.

Flicks in Bournemouth, Dorset, started out in the mid-1980s, when VHS machines were the height of technology. DVDs and videos from the shop will be sold off and any films left boxed up are set to be put into storage. Manager Terry Whitaker said one of his suppliers told him there were as few as 10 DVD rental shops left in the UK now.

He said he liked remembering the "good old days" but people "watch films differently now". When Flicks first opened VHS machines were still in use but DVDs soon took over and now streaming sites rule.

Mr Whitaker began working at the store 27 years ago. "When I started it was part-time, then two years became 10, then 20," he said. "But it never felt like work, I've always enjoyed it here. I found some old VHS machines, they're heavy, bulky things, and we kept a stash of the original Star Wars trilogy hidden away. I also found two old Braveheart posters," the 50-year-old said.

"With a movie like *Crocodile Dundee*, people used to have to wait for it to come out on video, then they'd have to reserve it. *Pretty Woman* was the same. You wouldn't just walk in on the day it was released, you'd have to book or pre-book it before it even came out. Those were the good old days."

Mr Whitaker said streaming had made watching films "less of an occasion, definitely. Back then, you'd come in as a family and pick a film each and sit round, have the build up and watch it as a family and eat popcorn. But people just watch films differently now, on iPads, phones - people will have two TVs in their homes so they'll watch movies separately now", he said.

The store manager said he "wasn't too sure" what he would do once the store closed for good. "I've got a couple of months to close down the company yet, then I'll find something else," he said. "My favourite movie of all time? It changes, but the constant is *Dances With Wolves*."

A reminder of how technology has changed ...

The VHS (Video Home System) standard was first released in 1976 and officially discontinued in 2007. The cassettes are about the size of a hardback book, contain magnetic tape and need a VCR (video cassette recorder) to be played on a TV set.

VHS was the victor of the format wars of the 1980s, beating competing standards such as Betamax. VHS videos could also be used for recording up to three hours of broadcast from the TV.

DVDs (digital versatile discs) were unveiled in the mid 1990s, and released in Europe in 1998. The discs are read by red lasers and could contain 8.5GB on each side, despite looking very similar to CDs which hold 650MB. The first release to top the UK DVD chart was *Mars Attacks!* in July 1998.

The PlayStation 2 was widely credited with helping the rapid adoption of DVDs, as it used the format for most of its games when released in 2000.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-62755261>

Comments and reactions to: **Day for Night**

No of reaction slips received = 14

Average score = 6.57

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	~	~	~	~	~	4	2	5	2	1	~

I've always considered films to be like sausages - best enjoyed without considering how they were made! I'll make an exception for this film - engaging, multi-faceted and fascinating! Never a dull moment. Great fun and serious, too.

Interesting, but far too long for a film in which nothing much happened.

Better than I remembered. Good to see again.

Excellent double sided of same film - clever!

Very cleverly written and scripted film - very entertaining.

Witty, tragic and an entertaining movie about making a movie.

Position	Film	Average score
1	The Duke	7.75
2	Day for Night	6.57

Forthcoming attraction: 27 October 2022 – **Flee (Flugt)**



Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Documentary at Sundance Film Festival, Jonas Poher Rasmussen's feature animation is a powerful study of the impact of trauma. Rasmussen befriended the pseudonymous Amin Nawabi when they were teens in Denmark. Now, as he is getting ready to marry his partner, Amin decides to tell his story. Originally from Afghanistan, he was forced to flee to avoid persecution. Undertaking a perilous journey he made his way via Moscow to Denmark, often suffering the indignity of others' prejudice. Blending a variety of styles, Rasmussen's use of animation allows him to recount Amin's story while keeping his identity a secret. But the film also explores the nature of truth and reality, particularly in a world where one's perceptions of it and the opinions of others, remain in a constant state of flux. British Independent Film Awards