

# Ubuntu network



**Teacher Education for Sustainable Development**  
Integrating Development Education into Initial Teacher Education



## **Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges**

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**NUI MAYNOOTH**  
Scoil na nÉireann Mhánuist

**Dialogue day 5**

**February 28<sup>th</sup> 2011**

# Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

## Context

Initial teacher education (PGDE) in NUI Maynooth

Tradition of focusing on development education at end of semester 1

Limited intergration into classroom teaching

How much do the students know about development?

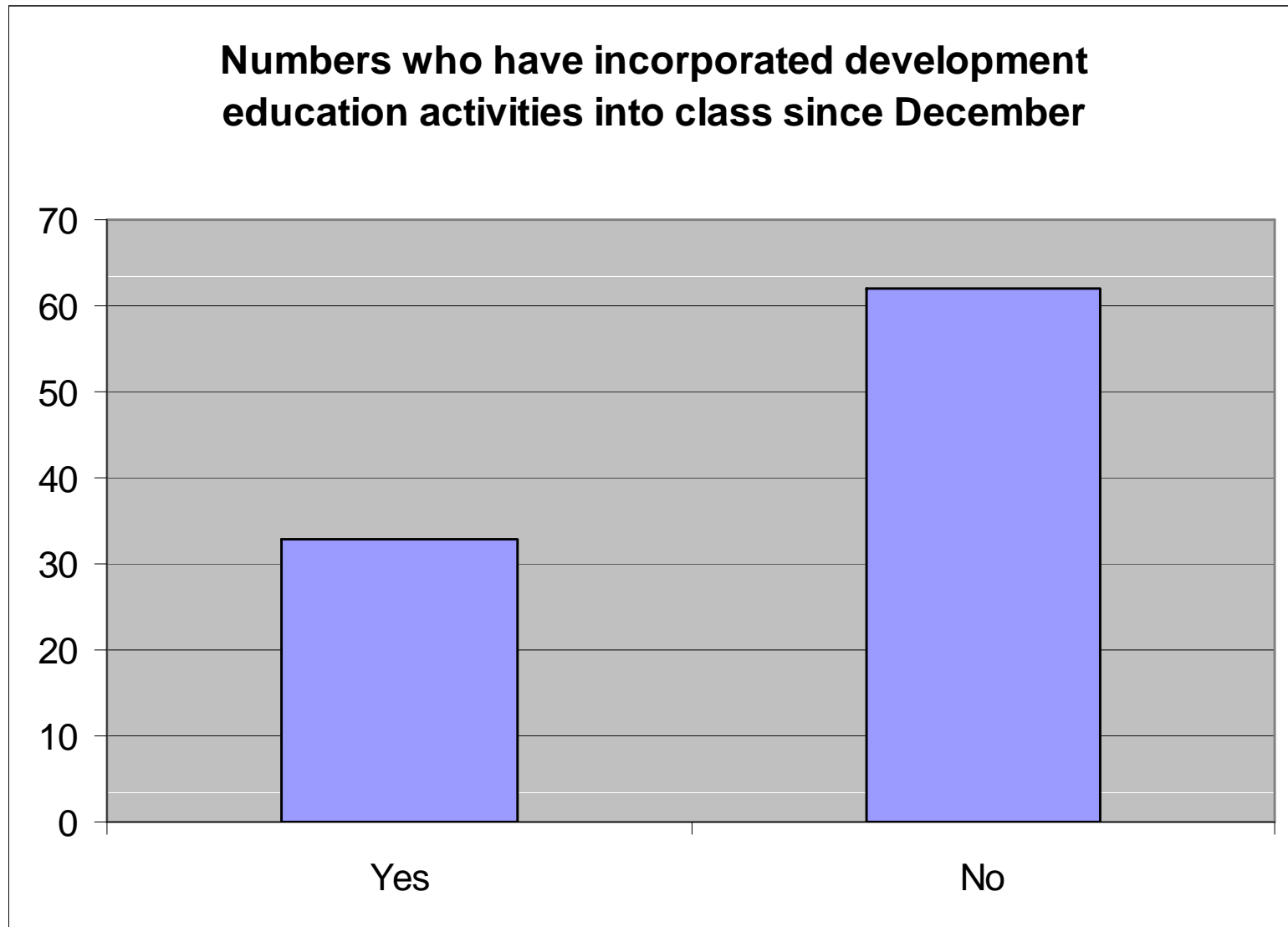
What perspectives on Africa from the movies?

Specific initiatives to promote film as a resource for development

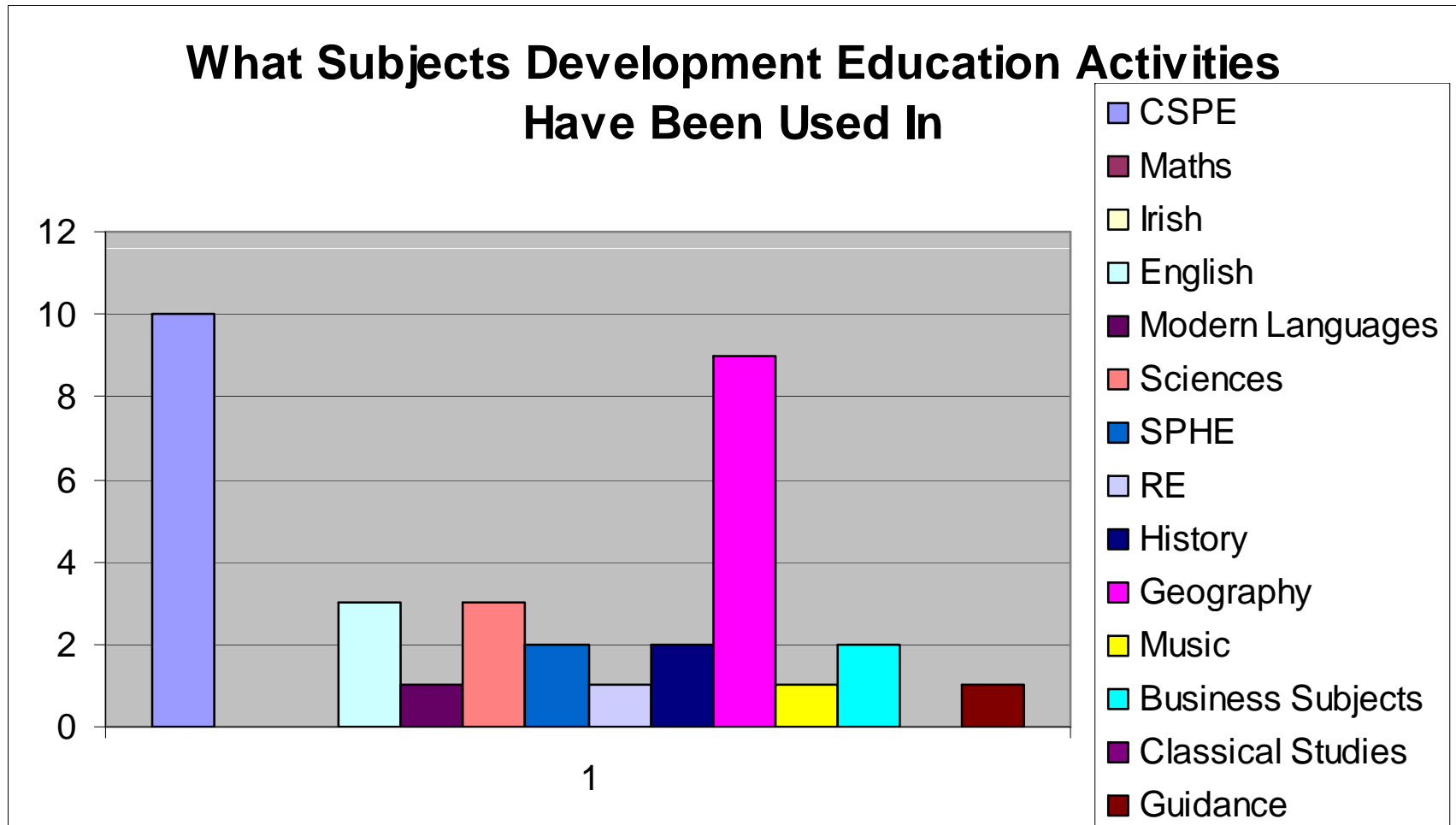
Practical guidelines for classroom applications

Rationale for film in the classroom as a development education strategy

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

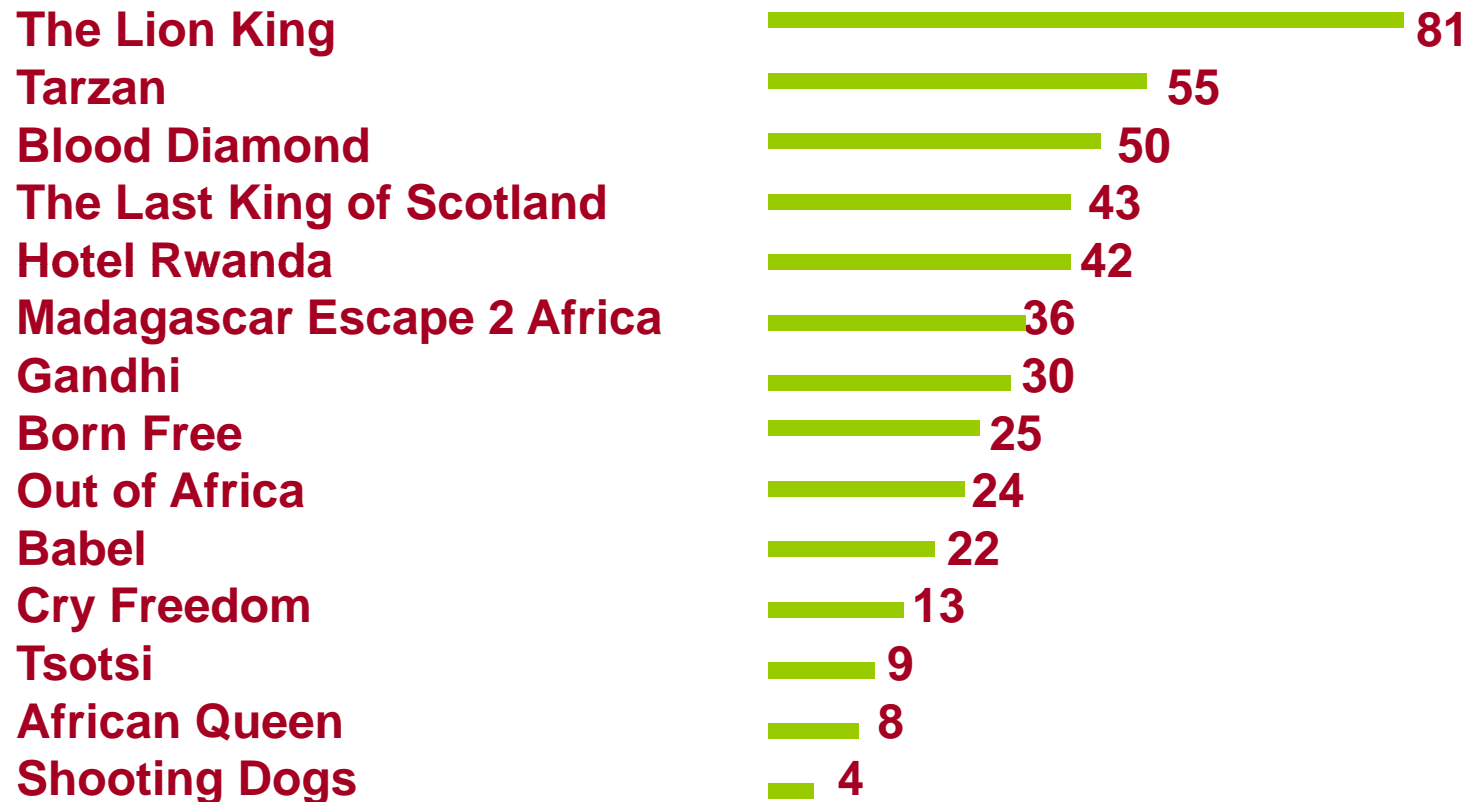
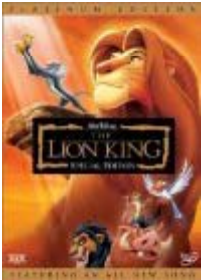


## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges



## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### Films with African themes that PGDE students had viewed



## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

- Reflection leads to change
- Short optional film season
- Less than 10% turnout

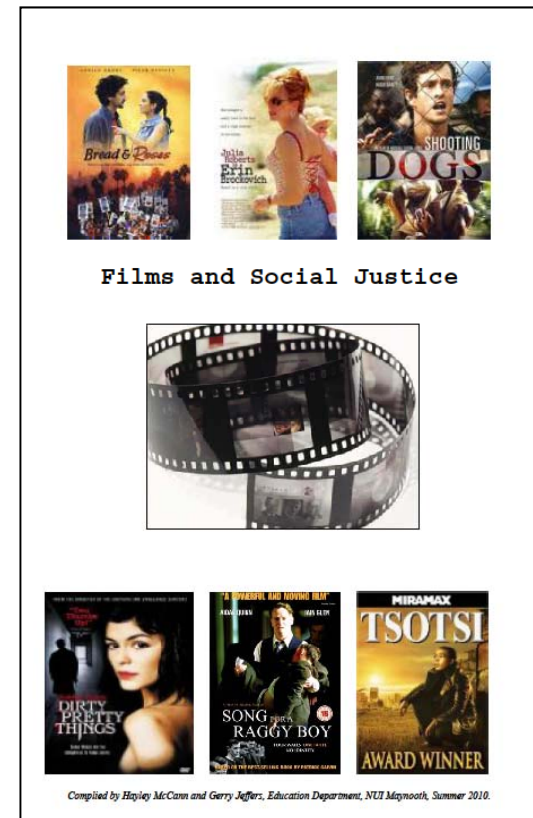


## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

- Next stage: whet studnets' appetite for development education activities with showing of a film the week beforehand
- December 2009 : viewing of *The Constant Gardener* and discussion using *Film Education* study guide

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

Further development:  
develop a resource  
entitled *Films and  
Social Justice*. This  
was produced in  
summer 2010 and  
distributed to PGDE  
students taking CSPE  
methodologies in the  
autumn





## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### Assignment in CSPE Methodologies Semester 1 of current year.

- This assignment (1,000 words) is in two parts.
- Firstly, you are invited to view any of the films listed on the handout **Films and Social Justice** (also available on MOODLE) and write a review of 500 words (approximately) stating, in particular, how the film enhanced your own understanding of any of the concepts that are central to CSPE.
- Secondly, building on that experience, you are asked to suggest some pointers (500 words approximately) to guide your own use of films clips/TV clips in the CSPE classroom. You might pay particular attention to 'purpose', 'relevance', 'suitability'. 'time', 'technology' and 'related activities'.

## **Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges**

**Assignment: 43 students selected 25 films**

**The Blind Side (5)**  
**Blood Diamond (4)**  
**Gandhi (4)**  
**Hotel Rwanda (4)**  
**Avatar (3)**  
**Crash (2)**  
**Invictus (2)**  
**My Sister's Keeper (2)**  
**Cry Freedom**  
**Inside I'm Drowning**  
**The Wind that Shakes the  
Barley**  
**Lord of the Flies**  
**Bread and Roses**

**Inside I'm Dancing**  
**Into the West**  
**The Day after Tomorrow**  
**Half Nelson**  
**City of God**  
**Gran Torino**  
**Song for a Raggy Boy**  
**The Kite Runner**  
**Schindler's List**  
**Runaway Jury**  
**Shawshank Redemption**  
**Some Mother's Son**

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### *Suggestions for Classroom Usage*

#### 1. Technology and sources

Check the technology first

YouTube as one source

Store clips on a memory stick

Build a collection of DVDs

Keep clips very short

Use clips made by young people

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### ***Suggestions for Classroom Usage***

#### 2. Context

Consider the value of lead-in activity that generates expectations

Give specific tasks prior to viewing

View from particular perspectives; observe for specifics

Tap into extensive student knowledge base

Remember it's about 'student voice' as much as it's about 'film content'

Ask students to predict what will happen next – and why

Follow-up activities are crucial

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### *Suggestions for Classroom Usage*

#### 3. The time problem

Viewing outside normal class time; in school and outside school

Viewing of short clips within class time

Building on students' previous viewing experiences

Avoid 'electronic babysitting'

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### *Suggestions for Classroom Usage*

#### 4a. Some specific possibilities

Link film as entertainment with 'real life' where possible

Consider the usefulness of : view, discuss, re-view,  
discuss

Think MI - not just visual but soundtrack is so key to film, dialogue, speech patterns, accents, clever scripting e.g. commentary by Morgan Freeman in *Shawshank Redemption*; films directed by Kubrick and Attenborough; the chase scenes in Westerns and *Indiana Jones* films; look at the final credits for soundtrack.

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### *Suggestions for Classroom Usage*

#### 4b. Some further specific possibilities

Interdisciplinary or cross-curricular possibilities need to be explored e.g. *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Erin Brockovitch*, *Silkwood* (Science); *The Blind Side* (PE); *Blood Diamond* (Geography); *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* (History); *La Haine* (French); *The Pianist* (Music); Review writing (*English*);

#### Photographs

The power of the single image; film posters in your classrooms

Biography can be very powerful e.g. *Gandhi* (1982) still relevant

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### *Suggestions for Classroom Usage*

#### 4c. Some further specific possibilities

In CSPE always think 'action by students' as a desirable outcome

Always be open to students creating their own film clips, dramas, photos, campaigns, websites etc

Use parts of film scripts to develop activities

Encourage review writing



## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### *Suggestions for Classroom Usage*

#### 5. Some specific issues

Check age rating on films – and also students' experiences

The lack of familiarity on teachers' part with particular films and the need for trust

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### *Rationale for using film 1*

DVDs, cinema, internet videos are comfort zones for young people as is popular culture generally

They have a lot of knowledge but necessarily skills of analysis ; genres, conventions, traditions, values, critical analysis etc.

Check with colleagues about use of film in this school's context to get an idea of students' likely expectations

## Film in the classroom for development education: possibilities and challenges

### *Rationale for using film 2*

Textbook examples are often outdated, simplistic and boring; film is much more nuanced, especially about choices

Film prompts emotional responses so need to link with cognitive ones

Clips show that 'not everything to do with CSPE involves the government or the third world'!