

HUGH JACKMAN

RACHEL WEISZ

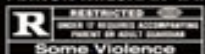
THE FOUNTAIN

A FILM BY DARREN ARONOFSKY

WHAT IF YOU COULD LIVE FOREVER?

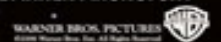
WARNER BROS. PICTURES AND REGENCY ENTERPRISES PRESENT

A PROTOZOA PICTURES/NEW REGENCY PRODUCTION A FILM BY DARREN ARONOFSKY HUGH JACKMAN RACHEL WEISZ "THE FOUNTAIN" AND ELLEN BURSTYN
MUSIC BY CLINT MANSELL COSTUME DESIGNER RENÉE APRIL EDITED BY JAY RABINOWITZ, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES CHINLUND DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MATTHEW LIBATIQUÉ, ASC EXECUTIVE PRODUCER NICK WECHSLER
PRODUCED BY ERIC WATSON ARNON MILCHAN IAIN SMITH STORY BY DARREN ARONOFSKY & ARI HANDEL SCREENPLAY BY DARREN ARONOFSKY DIRECTED BY DARREN ARONOFSKY



thefountainmovie.com

Soundtrack Album on Varese Sarabelli Records



1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2006 2100 2200 2300 2400 2500

THE FOUNTAIN (2006)

ENGLISH 20-1 FILM STUDY



Yesterday, today, tomorrow. Past, present, future. Through time and space, one man embarks on a bold 1000-year odyssey to defeat humankind's most indomitable foe: Death. Hugh Jackman plays that man, devoted to one woman (*Rachel Weisz*) and determined to protect her from forces that threaten her existence. His quest leads him to a Tree of Life...and to an adventure into eternity.

DIRECTOR	GENRE	THEMES	ELEMENTS
Darren Aronofsky	Drama / Romance / Science Fiction	Acceptance Ambition Death Love Science / Religion	Some intense sequences of violent action, some sensuality, and language.
RUNNING TIME	CLASSIFICATION		
96 minutes	14A		

Cast	Character
Hugh Jackman	Tomas/Tommy/Tom Creo
Rachel Weisz	Isabel/Izzi Creo
Ellen Burstyn	Dr. Lillian Guzetti
Mark Margolis	Father Avila
Stephen McHattie	Grand Inquisitor Silecio
Cliff Curtis	Captain Ariel
Sean Patrick Thomas	Antonio
Donna Murphy	Betty
Ethan Suplee	Manny

FILM COMPREHENSION

This film has three intersecting storylines that can best be represented through past, present, and future. Each storyline has individual qualities in regards to plot, characters, and cinematographic elements. Record these details in the charts below to ensure your understanding.



TOMAS

From the past...

PLOT POINTS / DETAILS ABOUT THEIR STORY	CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT <i>(Responsibility for Self)</i>	CINEMATOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS UTILIZED

...the tale of the conquistador...a man seeking vengeance



TOMMY

From the present...

PLOT POINTS / DETAILS ABOUT THEIR STORY	CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT <i>(Responsibility for Self)</i>	CINEMATOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS UTILIZED

...the tale of the scientist...a man seeking the cure



TOM

From the future...

PLOT POINTS / DETAILS ABOUT THEIR STORY	CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT <i>(Responsibility for Self)</i>	CINEMATOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS UTILIZED

...the tale of the astronaut...a man seeking enlightenment

THE FOUNTAIN

POST-VIEWING REMARKS

VIEWING DAY #1	
COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, OBSERVATIONS	CONNECTIONS I MADE TO OTHER IDEAS, MOMENTS, TEXTS, ETC.

VIEWING DAY #2	
COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, OBSERVATIONS	CONNECTIONS I MADE TO OTHER IDEAS, MOMENTS, TEXTS, ETC.

VIEWING DAY #3	
COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, OBSERVATIONS	CONNECTIONS I MADE TO OTHER IDEAS, MOMENTS, TEXTS, ETC.



THE FOUNTAIN

POST-VIEWING CONSIDERATIONS

1. What was your initial reaction to this film? How would you summarize the plot? Which of the three storylines did you find the most engaging?
2. Did you feel that you *understood* the film? Did its ambiguities increase or decrease your enjoyment? Do you think that is it important to find the *right* interpretation?
3. Images of circles and rings occur constantly throughout the film. What do you think that these might symbolize? What other aspects of the film—visually, in the script and in the soundtrack—reflect the same ideas?
4. Who is in the more difficult position, Tommy or Izzi? What allows Izzi to achieve *grace* in the face of death? Do you think that Tommy is right to continue pursuing a cure? Why does Izzi ask Tommy to read and finish her book?
5. Facing your own death or that of a loved one, whose attitude do you think you would be more likely to have? What factors influence our attitudes towards dying? Do you think that the subject is taboo in our culture, and why might this be?

6. **IZZI:** “He sacrificed himself to make the world. What do you think about that idea? Death as an act of creation?”

How does Izzi interpret the Xibalba myth and apply it to her situation? Do you find this a comforting idea? In what ways can death be ‘an act of creation’?

8. Why is the astronaut version of Tommy represented as sitting in the Lotus position in the final scenes? Why does surgeon-Tommy plant a seed over Izzi’s grave? At which moment do you think Tommy finally accepts death, and what allows him to do this?

9. What kind of *immortality* is being pursued by each incarnation of Tommy? Which of them is successful, and why? What philosophical viewpoint do you think that the director is ultimately promoting, or is it unclear?

10. **DARREN ARONOFSKY:** “You’re dealing with these big questions that people have been asking since we’ve been asking questions and there is no way to answer those questions. There are no answers. The victory is that we’re talking about them.”

Do you agree with him? Do you think that The Fountain asks questions to which there can be no answers? Where might we begin to look for answers?

11. **IZZI:** “Is everything alright?”
TOMMY: “Yes. Everything’s alright.”

Do you think that “everything is alright” at the end of the film? Were you satisfied with the conclusions it draws about life, death, and immortality?