

## 'Must-have' DVDs: *Cinema Paradiso: 1989*

Tim Hudson reviews a DVD which every film lover should own.

- 1 *Cinema Paradiso* was directed <sup>1</sup> *by* Giuseppe Tornatore. It stars Philippe Noiret as Alfredo, and Salvatore Cascio, who plays the part of the boy. The film won an Oscar in 1989 <sup>2</sup> Best Foreign Language film.
- 2 The film is set in an Italian village in the 1940s and 50s. It was filmed on location in Sicily.
- 3 The film is <sup>3</sup> a little boy called Salvatore who ends up becoming a famous film director. <sup>4</sup> the beginning of the film, he goes <sup>5</sup> to his village for the first time in thirty years, for the funeral of an old friend, Alfredo. The rest of the film is a 'flashback' about his childhood. <sup>6</sup> his village there is only one cinema, called Cinema Paradiso. Salvatore is crazy <sup>7</sup> films so he spends all his time there. He becomes friends with Alfredo, the man who shows the films, and later he works <sup>8</sup> his assistant. But when he is a teenager he leaves the village and goes <sup>9</sup> work in Rome, and <sup>10</sup> the end he becomes a famous director. He never sees Alfredo again.
- 4 I strongly recommend *Cinema Paradiso*. It makes you laugh and cry, it has a memorable soundtrack, and it is a moving tribute to the magic of the early days of cinema.



- a Look at the title and the photos. Have you seen the film? Would you like to see it?
- b Read the film review. Number the paragraph summaries below in order, 1–4.

Paragraph

The plot

Paragraph

The name of the film, the director, the stars, and any prizes it won

Paragraph

Why you recommend this film

Paragraph

Where and when it was set

- c Read the review again and complete it with the missing words.

about (x2) at as back by in (x2) for to

- d Look at the third paragraph again. What tense do we usually use to tell the story of a film or book?

### Useful language: describing a film

It was directed / written by...

It is set in...

It is based on the book...

It's about...

It stars...

My favourite scene is...

**WRITE** a film review about a film you would recommend people to buy on DVD.

**PLAN** what you're going to write in the four paragraphs. Use the **Useful language** box and **Vocabulary Bank Cinema p.154** to help you.

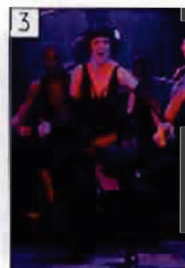
**CHECK** the review for mistakes ( **grammar** , **punctuation** , and **spelling** ).

# Cinema

## 1 Kinds of film

Match the films and film types.

- action film
- comedy
- horror film
- musical
- science fiction
- thriller
- western

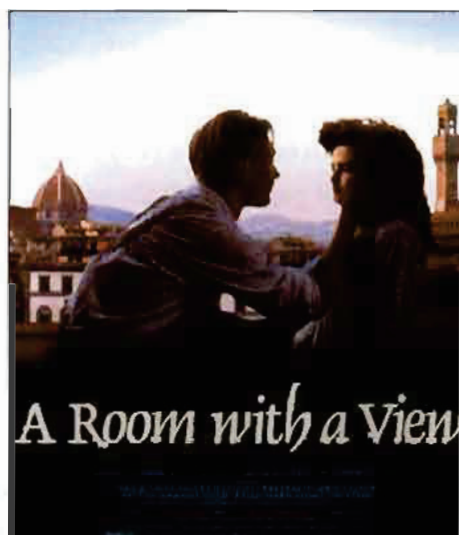


## 2 People and things

Match the words and definitions.

audience /'ɔ:diəns/    cast    director    extra    plot    scene /si:n/    script  
sequel /'si:kwəl/    soundtrack    special effects    star    subtitles

- 1 cast all the people who act in a film
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ the most important actor or actress in a film
- 3 director the person who makes a film
- 4 soundtrack the music of a film
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ the story of a film
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ a part of a film happening in one place
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ the people who watch a film in a cinema
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ a film which continues the story of an earlier film
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ images, often created by a computer
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ the words of the film
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ person in a film who has a small, unimportant part, e.g. in a crowd scene
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ translation of the dialogue of a film into another language



## 3 Verbs and phrases

Match the sentences 1–6 with the sentences a–f.

- 1 The film was set in 19th century Italy and England.
- 2 It was based on a novel by EM Forster.
- 3 It was **filmed / shot on location** in Florence.
- 4 It was directed by James Ivory.
- 5 Helena Bonham-Carter **played the part** of Lucy.
- 6 It was **dubbed** into other languages.

- a He was the director.
- b It was situated in that place at that time.
- c This was her role in the film.
- d The actors originally spoke in English.
- e It was an adaptation of the book.
- f It was filmed in the real place, not in a studio.

Can you remember the words on this page? Test yourself or a partner.

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