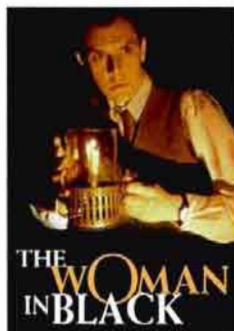


22 I can talk about plays and films

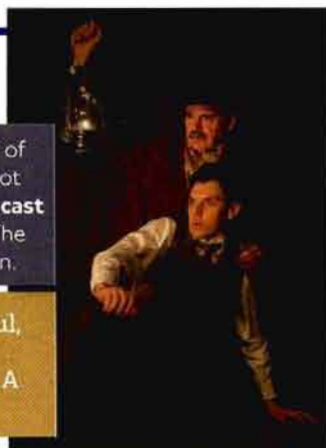
A A fabulous play



'The Woman in Black' is a **spine-tingling ghost story** that will have you **on the edge of your seat** throughout the production. With just a **minimal set** and few **sound effects**, this drama will **scare you out of your wits!**

A **nail-biting adaptation** of Susan Hill's novel. The plot **twists** are brilliant, and the **cast** of two are **sensational!** The **applause** went on and on.

Phenomenally successful, and **unanimously acclaimed** by the critics. A must-see thriller!



Glossary

spine-tingling

very frightening or exciting in a way that you enjoy.

ghost story

a story about the spirit of a dead person that sb hears or sees.

on the edge of your seat

very excited and interested in sth.

set

the scenery and furniture used in a play, film, etc.

sound effects

sounds that are made artificially in a play, film, etc. to make it more realistic, e.g. wind, thunder.

scare sb out of their wits

frighten sb very much.

nail-biting

making you very excited or worried. SYN **gripping**.

adaptation

a book or play that has been made into a film, TV programme, etc.

twist

an unexpected change or development in a story or situation.

cast

(+ SING OR PL V) all the people who act in a play or film.

sensational

INF extremely good; wonderful. SYNS **fabulous**, **brilliant**.

applause

the sound of an **audience** (people watching a play, etc.) showing approval by hitting their hands together. **applaud** v. SYN **clap**.

phenomenally

in a very great or impressive way. SYN **extraordinarily**.

unanimously

in a way that is agreed by everyone. **unanimous** ADJ.

acclaimed

publicly talked or written about in an admiring way. **acclaim** N.

1 Cover the texts and glossary. Circle the correct word.

- 1 I was on the end / edge of my seat.
- 2 There were great sound affects / effects.
- 3 The race had a nail-eating / -biting finish.
- 4 We were scared out / out of our wits.
- 5 There's a great twist / cast in the story.
- 6 We agreed phenomenally / unanimously.
- 7 It's an adaption / adaptation of a book.
- 8 The music was spine-tingling / -tingly.
- 9 Are you keen on ghost / spirit stories?
- 10 Did they applause / applaud at the end?

2 Replace the underlined word or phrase with a word or phrase with a similar meaning.

- 1 The people watching the play loved it. _____
- 2 The play was absolutely fabulous. _____
- 3 There has been considerable public praise for the play. _____
- 4 The actors in the play were very good indeed. _____
- 5 What did you think of the scenery and furniture? _____
- 6 The musical was extraordinarily good. _____
- 7 It was a really tense and exciting story. _____
- 8 Someone started applauding and then everyone joined in. _____

B A terrible movie

- A I had to sit through some **atrocious**, **sentimental** movie that Frankie wanted to see on TV last night, called 'Love in Summer'.
- B Oh, I saw that – yes, it was **tedious**, wasn't it? Full of **clichés** – you know, all men are **shallow**, dishonesty is bad . . .
- A Yes, it was all terrible – **feeble** jokes, **wooden** dialogue, and the acting was very **mediocre**. And Jack Burns was totally **miscast** as the romantic lead, wasn't he?
- B Yeah, he was **dire**, and Maggie Lovett was pretty **unconvincing** too. I don't know why I watched it all the way through – it was **utter rubbish**.

spotlight Boredom

Tedious is a synonym for **boring**, and **deadly dull** is 'very boring'. These idioms mean 'very bored': **bored to tears**, **bored to death**, **bored stiff**, or **bored out of your mind**.

Glossary

atrocious	very bad and unpleasant. <i>SYN</i> dire <i>INF</i> .
sentimental	<i>OFTEN DISAPPROVING</i> making people experience feelings of sadness, sympathy, etc. in a deliberate and obvious way.
cliché	a phrase or idea that has been used so often it no longer has much meaning and is not interesting. <i>CLICHÉD</i> <i>ADJ</i> .
shallow	not showing serious thought, feelings, etc. <i>SYN</i> superficial .
feeble	very weak.
wooden	not showing enough natural expression, emotion, or movement.
mediocre	of only average quality.
miscast	(of an actor) not suitable for the role they have been given.
unconvincing	not seeming true or real. <i>OPP</i> convincing .
utter	complete (used to emphasize sth, usually sth bad) (an utter waste of time , utter rubbish/nonsense).
rubbish	<i>INF</i> We say sth is rubbish if we think it is of poor quality.

3 Is the meaning the same or different? Write S or D.

1 It's a very romantic film.	It's a very sentimental film.	
2 The acting was quite wooden.	The acting didn't seem natural.	
3 I was bored to tears.	I found it very tedious.	
4 The female characters were shallow.	The female characters were superficial.	
5 The leading actor was miscast.	The leading actor was convincing.	
6 We were bored stiff.	We were bored out of our minds.	
7 The movie was dire.	The movie was atrocious.	
8 The film was mediocre.	The film was utter rubbish.	

4 Complete the words in the sentences.

- If a film is d _____ dull, or you are bored s _____, you should leave before the end.
- Many movies are c _____: they're just boring and lacking in original themes.
- If the director is poor, the actors may give a w _____ performance as well.
- There's nothing worse than a comedy film with f _____ jokes.
- If the plot of a film is hard to believe, the acting may be u _____ too.
- Most films made in Hollywood are utter r _____.
- People are bored to d _____ by all the m _____ romantic comedies around.
- I hate musicals. Every single one I've seen has been absolutely d _____.

5 ABOUT YOU Think of some atrocious films you've seen. Why were they dire? Write your answer, or ask a partner.