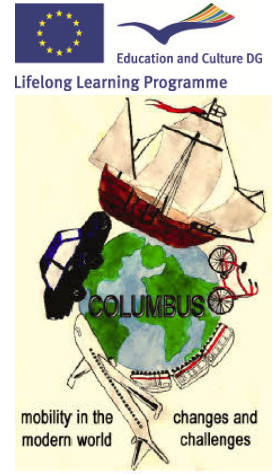


Film analysis: Dirty Pretty



Pre-viewing:

Useful information:

Okwe is an illegal immigrant from Nigeria and cannot afford any kind of contact with the authorities.

Senay is a Turkish asylum seeker, with a so-called ELR status. This means that she is not allowed to work. (ELR stands for Exceptional leave to remain, as opposed to ILR, Indefinite leave to remain.)

Guo Yi, Okwe's friend, is a porter in a hospital mortuary + crematorium.

Clue to the title

About 11 minutes into the film there is a clue to the meaning of the title. So listen carefully!

Central Characters

Okwe

Senay

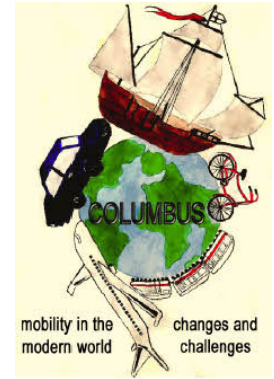
Ivan

Senor Juan/Sneaky

Guo Yi

Juliette

Film analysis: Dirty Pretty



Who says what in the film – and what does it mean in the context?

- a) I am here to rescue those who have been let down by the system.
- b) There is nothing so dangerous as a virtuous man.
- c) For you and I (sic!) there is only survival.
- d) This is hell.
- e) We are the people you do not see.

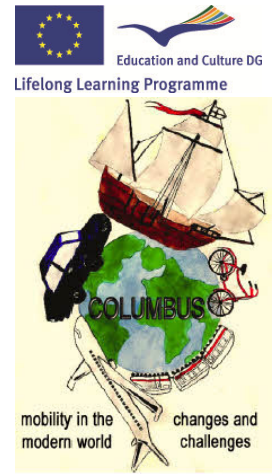
Questions to discuss

- 1) Why is Okwe in London?
- 2) Why is Senay in London?
- 3) Describe what happens to Senay's innocence and virginity in the course of the film.
- 4) Describe Okwe's development in the course of the film.
- 5) How do the immigrants in the film treat each other?
- 6) What role does New York play in the film? And London?
- 7) There are obvious heroes and villains in the film. Is Okwe too much of a hero, and is Sneaky/Senor Juan too much of a villain? Are there any characters that are not so obviously "white" or "black"?
- 8) Is this a fairy tale? Does it have a happy ending?
- 9) Why is it a heart Okwe finds in the toilet? Is it realistic? Does it have a symbolic meaning?
- 10) Consider the concepts of a) Upstairs – Downstairs and b) Facade – The Reality behind the facade. How does the film use these contrasts? How does the title fit in?
- 11) What kinds of illegal trade are shown in the film?
- 12) Who do you think is responsible for the situation portrayed in the film?
- 13) What rights do illegal immigrants in your country have as regards medical care and school attendance (children)? Are there any circumstances in which they cannot be returned to their home country?

Argumentation

1. Divide the class into two groups. One group must find arguments *against* migration. The other group must find arguments *for* migration.
2. The students argue the issue in class using the prepared arguments. OR: two students (one from each group) debate the issue in front of the rest of the class.

Film analysis: Dirty Pretty



How to argue – some tricks:

Common sense: *It is obvious that...*

Expertise: *Experts are of the opinion that...*

Feelings: *We should be proud/angry/worried/...*

History: *History has shown that...*

Idol worship: *Like (name of a famous person with a positive image), I believe that...*

Statistics: *Statistics prove that...*

Vocabulary

Key words:

asylum seeker

emigrant

immigrant

migrant

refugee

border

boundary

belonging

rooted

settled

displaced

homeless

uprooted

adaptable

flexible

global

international

transcultural

transnational

universal