

CINEMA^{per a} estudiants

CURS 2008 – 2009



Pel·lícula recomanada per a:
Batxillerats, Cicles Formatius i Formació d'Adults
Àrees i Temes:
Llengua anglesa / Ètica / Tutoria

It's a Free World ...



Direcció: Ken Loach.

Interpretació: Kierston Wareing (Angie), Juliet Ellis (Rose), Leslaw Zurek (Karol), Joe Siffleet (Jamie), Colin Coughlin (Geoff), Maggie Hussey (Cathy), Raymond Mearns (Andy), Davoud Rastgou (Mahmud), Mahin Aminnia (dona de Mahmud), David Doyle (Tony).

Guió: Paul Laverty.

Producció: Rebecca O'Brien.

Música: George Fenton.

Fotografia: Nigel Willoughby.

Muntatge: Jonathan Morris.

Direcció artística: Fergus Clegg.

Vestuari: Carole K. Fraser.

Països: Regne Unit, Itàlia, Alemanya i Espanya.

Any: 2007. **Durada:** 98 min.

Gènere: Drama.

Sinopsi

Angie (Kierston Wareing) no ha rebut una educació massa acurada, però està plena d'energia, enginy i ambició. No és la primera vegada que es queda sense feina, però ara intenta refer-se i demostrar el que val. Angie i la seva companya de pis, Rose (Juliet Ellis), decideixen ser els seus propis caps, i obren una agència de treball temporal per a treballadors immigrants que actua en un món inestable en el qual la feina és barata i les lleis només serveixen per ser ignorades.



ACTIVITY 1. Synopsis of the film.

Read the synopsis from the beginning to the ending. Don't stop when you find a gap. Just read on to get the general idea of the text. Then, on a second reading, fill the gaps with a suitable word from the box. Pay attention to the context to get the right word.

break – builders – papers – qualifications – pay – harassment – mother – world – pounds – business – school - hire – boring – families – problem



Immigrants enter the United Kingdom from all over the 1) , legally and illegally, and many of them are at the mercy of recruitment agencies that, if not entirely criminal, have dubious credentials. At one of them, Angie, a 33-year-old single 2) who is really ambitious, has a special ability for placing workers into jobs but gets no respect from her male co-workers. When she is fired after complaining about sexual 3) , Angie convinces her roommate Rose, a college graduate who works at a call centre, that they should go into business for themselves. Angie has a way with men, so she works hard to find 4)..... while Rose works the phone and the Internet.



No matter how well educated people may be in their home countries, 5)..... are irrelevant and the only work available is hard and 6)..... jobs. Angie and Rose make contracts with 7)..... , caterers, packagers, and others, for a given number of workers. Then they contract with the immigrants and send them jammed into vans for a day's work. The 8) is low and the jobs temporary but it's money to these men who have desperate 9)..... to feed. However, she soon learns that the real money is not in the ones with all of their papers in order, but the ones with no 10)



It's a Free World ... _____



At first, Angie and Rose 11) legal immigrants from the Middle East and Eastern Europe but as Angie makes more and more exceptions, Rose questions Angie's morality: is she helping these men or exploiting them? Crisis strikes when a company skips town without paying Angie 40,000 12) in wages and her construction labourers turn nasty.



And while chasing her materialistic goals, she is a single mother whose son Jamie is in trouble at 13) : he gets expelled for breaking a classmate's jaw and eventually lives with Angie's parents. Her father, Geoff, is a retiree who recalls when working people were paid more respect.



The film provides an urgent vision of one small part of a big 14) , and offers a memorably tragic character in Angie. She goes nose-to-nose with tough-guy employers and fights for every inch of her place in the world. But she can't keep a relationship with Karol, a smart and caring Polish man, and the more things get out of hand the more callous she becomes and the more willing to 15)..... the law.





ACTIVITY 2. The protagonists of the film.

Read each description of the protagonists of the film and then match them to the correct photo.



✚ *Angie - the protagonist of the film, a 33-year-old blonde woman.*

✚ *Rose - Angie's roommate and partner in business. She's black.*



✚ *Karol - Angie's Polish boyfriend, smart with short dark hair.*

✚ *Jamie - Angie's son, a 12-year-old boy.*



✚ *Geoff - Angie's dad, a retired man with strong feelings about injustice.*



It's a Free World ... _____



A-



B-



C-



D-



E-



ACTIVITY 3. An interview with Ken Loach

Read this interview with Ken Loach, the director of the film. In this interview the questions have been removed, so your task is reading the answers and finding the corresponding question. The first one has been done for you.

Attention: there is one question that you don't need to use!

QUESTION LIST

- Is this film meant to shock or change behaviour?
- Where did this story come from?
- There are more extreme stories you could have told. Why this one?
- After several films set elsewhere, why did you return to London?
- The film portrays labour exploitation. Have you met any immigrants who gave their viewpoints on this issue?
- To what extent were you influenced by stories in the news, for example the deaths of the *Morecambe Bay Cockle Pickers** in 2004?
- Does the film offer any moral judgment on her?
- What's Angie like?
- Did Angie's character come from the story or vice versa?
- How did you come to cast Kierston Wareing as Angie?

* *Morecambe Bay Cockle Pickers*. On the evening of the 5 February 2004 in North West England, at least 21 cockle pickers were drowned by the incoming tide off the coast of Lancashire/Cumbria in Morecambe Bay. A work group of Chinese workers were collecting cockles at low tide on sand flats at Warton Sands, near Hest Bank, to have been paid £5 per 25kg of cockles when a number of workers were cut off by the incoming tide in the bay at around 9:30 in the evening. Although the emergency services were alerted by a mobile phone call made by one of the workers, only one of the workers was rescued from the waters.





An interview
with

**KEN
LOACH**

1) Where did this story come from?

I did a documentary with the Liverpool Dockers (*The Flickering Flame*) back in the 1990s when they had a long dispute to preserve job security against casualisation. The way workers' job security has disappeared and agency work has increased is something that I felt was very significant and completely underrepresented. We also did a film called *Bread and Roses* (2000) about Mexican immigrants in Los Angeles, and we did a film called *A Fond Kiss* (2004) three years back which is about second-generation immigrants; and *The Navigators* (2001) was about a group of railway workers fighting against privatisation, which meant becoming agency workers.

So all those interests really came together, just as the scandal of the exploitation of immigrant workers here in Britain was growing stronger. That shift in the way work is done, the interest in immigration and immigrants, the lives they lead, what prompts them to come - all roads seemed to lead to this story.

2)

It's a story that has emerged in one form or another in the newspapers over several years. But I think we were concerned not simply to do a story about victims. We thought in this case it would be interesting just to look at the attitudes and the mindset of people who were on the other side - who were doing the exploiting. Making a film about the exploited seemed too predictable.





3)

Because we wanted the two women, Angie and Rose, to be people the audience could identify with. If you pick someone who is too extreme the audience will reject them in the first minute or two. You need to think, "Well, yes that's reasonable... and be drawn into her logic. And then, at the end, you see how horrifying that logic is. That was why we picked Angie. And, also she's very much the spirit of the age. She'd be businesswoman of the year in a few years' time.

4)

She's a woman of thirty or just over with a child, Jamie. She's got great energy and attractiveness and she's from a very respectable, proud working-class family. She's never found a real outlet for her talents, she's probably had a number of bad relationships in her twenties, and her ambition is greater than what she's been able to achieve. And yet she's got a sense that she can really make a go of something if she really gives it a shot. I think she feels at the moment that she's absolutely in her prime. She's a product of the Thatcher counter-revolution that prioritises business and entrepreneurial skills and doing deals and cutting your way through and elbowing past everybody and looking after number one.

5)

We looked at several hundred people over a period of three or four months. We must have seen Kierston about six or seven times and each time we'd try a little piece of improvisation. She was perfect everytime - she was always interesting, always fun and racy and surprising. And she's an immensely likeable person as well, which helps if you're going to work closely with somebody.





6)

The two things came together. It was the character who would be able to do that job and exist in a male world of business and competition and who would also - though she wouldn't use the words - but would unconsciously see herself as a feminist. She'd think, 'Why shouldn't women do what men do?' I think that's very much a character of the age. She wouldn't have done what she's been able to do until this present time.

7)

Not on her. The judgment is on the system in which she flourishes.

8)

We both felt London is the heart of British capital. It's at the heart of the economic system and what's interesting is the hypocrisy with which it's treated. On the one hand people say the economy couldn't survive without the underground workforce. On the other, the right-wing is saying get these people out of our country. It's absolute hypocrisy.



9)

The scandal of exploitation is known - for those who want to know. So it's not breaking new ground in terms of, 'Shock horror, look what's happening.' What we're more concerned about is just to challenge this prevailing wisdom that ruthless entrepreneurship is the way that this society should develop - that everything is a deal, everything is this kind of competitive, acquisitive market-orientated economy, and that's the way we should live. It seeks out exploitation. It produces monsters.



ACTIVITY 4. A gangmaster raid. Authentic reading from the news.

Read the text carefully and look up new vocabulary. On the grid below you have some sentences. Next to the sentence, write the number that corresponds to the fact explained previously.

For example - Title: **Police hold 40 in gangmaster raid**

QUESTION	NUMBER
EXAMPLE: Number of people arrested by the police	40
Number of men arrested in Norfolk	
Number of Chinese dead workers	
Number of guns recovered	
Number of policemen involved in the raid	
Number of arrested working in the fish industry	
Day in February when the immigrants died.	
Numbers of vehicles carrying workers	
Number of houses searched in Fraserburgh	
Number of women arrested	





Police hold 40 in gangmaster raid

Police investigating the activities of gangmasters suspected of employing illegal immigrant workers have arrested 40 people.

The arrests were made after a series of early morning swoops across the UK, Norfolk police said on Thursday. Ten men and 28 women were held in Scotland and two men in Norfolk.

A *Private Members' Bill* to license gangmasters has won MPs' support since 20 Chinese cockle-pickers died at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, in February. Norfolk police said six people had been arrested on suspicion of facilitating the entry of illegal immigrants into the UK and on suspicion of laundering money. Two of those were in King's Lynn, Norfolk, and the remaining four were driving two minibuses of workers stopped by police in Grampian, Scotland.

Two guns have been recovered from addresses searched in Norfolk, as well as substantial amounts of forged documentation and cash, a police spokeswoman said. The co-ordinated raids - codenamed Operation Absent - involved officers from the Norfolk, Grampian, Cambridgeshire and Metropolitan police forces as well as the Immigration Service.

A spokesman for Norfolk police said: "The operation was to tackle the exploitation and influx of illegal immigrants into the UK." Those arrested are thought to include two Ukrainian men from King's Lynn.

A Grampian Police spokesman said 70 of the force's officers had been involved in the operation, in partnership with the Immigration Service. The 38 arrests in Scotland were made after the minibuses were stopped early on Thursday morning in Aberdeen and four addresses were raided in the city's Bucksburn area and in Fraserburgh.

Four of the men held, believed to be involved in organising workers for the fish processing industry, have been taken to Berwick-upon-Tweed for questioning by Norfolk police. A spokesman for the Grampian force said the remaining arrests were of 34 workers, primarily from the Baltic states, who were being questioned by police and immigration officers. A Norfolk police spokeswoman said the majority of the workers arrested in Aberdeen had turned out to be in the UK illegally.

Detective Jim Stephen said: "This is by far the biggest operation of its nature which Grampian Police has been involved in. "An operation of this scale shows the benefits of working jointly across the country." A further 15 people have been dealt with by the Immigration Service. The police investigation was part-funded by the Home Office. The arrests are not connected to the deaths of 20 Chinese cockle-pickers who drowned on 5 February when they were caught on mudflats by a rising tide at Morecambe Bay.



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