

CINEMA^{per a} estudiants

CURS 2009 – 2010



Pel·lícula recomanada per a:

3er i 4art d'ESO. Batxillerats. Cicles Formatius i Formació d'Adults.

Àrees i Temes:

Llengua anglesa / Ciències socials / Economia

Battle in Seattle



Direcció i guió: Stuart Townsend.

Interpretació: Charlize Theron (Ella), André Benjamin (Django), Jennifer Carpenter (Sam), Woody Harrelson (Dale), Martin Henderson (Jay), Ray Liotta (Jim Tobin), Connie Nielsen (Jean), Michelle Rodriguez (Lou), Channing Tatum (Johnson), Rade Serbedzija (Dr. Maric), Ivana Milicevic (Carla), Isaach de Bankole (Abassi).

Producció: Stuart Townsend, Kirk Shaw, Maxime Rémillard i Mary Aboe.

Música: Robert Del Naja i Neil Davidge.

Fotografia: Barry Ackroyd.

Muntatge: Fernando Villena.

Disseny de producció: Chris August.

Vestuari: Andrea Des Roches.

Països: USA i Canadà. **Any:** 2007. **Durada:** 98 min.

Gènere: Drama.

Sinopsi

"Battle in Seattle" narra els esdeveniments que durant cinc dies van atreure l'atenció mundial el 1999, quan desenes de milers de manifestants van sortir al carrer en protesta contra l'Organització Mundial del Comerç (OMC). El que va començar com a una protesta antiglobalització pacífica, reivindicant el final de les conferències de l'OMC, es va convertir en una revolta que finalment va obligar a proclamar l'estat d'excepció. Narrada a partir de fets verídics, "Battle in Seattle" mostra els punts de vista diferents d'un grup de persones que durant aquells dies van estar presents als carrers de Seattle.



L'Organització Mundial del Comerç

El film comença amb una seqüència en format documental d'uns tres minuts de durada que resumeix la història i l'evolució de l'Organització Mundial del Comerç, així com les crítiques que des de diferents posicions es fan en contra d'aquesta organització. Abans de la projecció, llegeix el text d'aquesta seqüència i comenta'l a classe.



Uns anys després de finalitzada la Segona Guerra Mundial, el 1947, vint-i-tres països firmen un acord general sobre aranzels i comerç, el GATT*. L'objectiu d'aquest acord era la liberalització i l'expansió del comerç mundial. L'estabilitat i una consciència de comunitat mundial n'eren la clau. Durant cinc dècades, el GATT va créixer i va anar incorporant nous membres fins a convertir-se en l'Organització Mundial del Comerç.

- *"Estem redactant una Constitució per una economia mundial única".*

Amb més de 150 nacions, l'OMC controla el noranta per cent del comerç mundial. A diferència del GATT, l'OMC pot imposar sancions als països membres que no acaten les seves lleis. Juntament amb l'expansió del comerç lliure, l'OMC assegura que ajuda els països en desenvolupament a beneficiar-se del comerç mundial.

Battle in Seattle



- *"Té molt poc a veure amb el comerç i no es pot dir que sigui lliure".*
- *"És un sistema de govern mundial que ningú va votar i ningú controla".*
- *"Simplement suposa enderrocar les fronteres dels països ... perquè les grans multinacionals puguin operar allà on vulguin, sense la ingerència dels governs ni dels pobles d'aquestes nacions".*
- *"I el que ens diuen és que el valor econòmic s'ha de sobreposar al valor de la vida, que els drets humans i el medi ambient estan subordinats a les necessitats del comerç".*
- *"Es van imposar aliments alterats genèticament als consumidors europeus".*
- *"Els petits productors bananers esclafats per les grans multinacionals".*

Malgrat els problemes i les critiques, l'OMC continua creixent i esdevé més poderosa que mai. A la imminent reunió de Seattle, que culminarà la Ronda del Mil·leni, s'afegiran nous punts a les normes vigents de l'OMC.

- *"Em fa por que les multinacionals cada vegada controlin més de prop més aspectes de la nostra vida!"*

* **GATT**, acrònim de *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* (Acord general sobre aranzels i comerç), és el tractat signat el 1947 que incloïa la reducció d'aranzels i d'altres barreres al comerç internacional. El **GATT** es considera el precursor de l'Organització Mundial del Comerç.

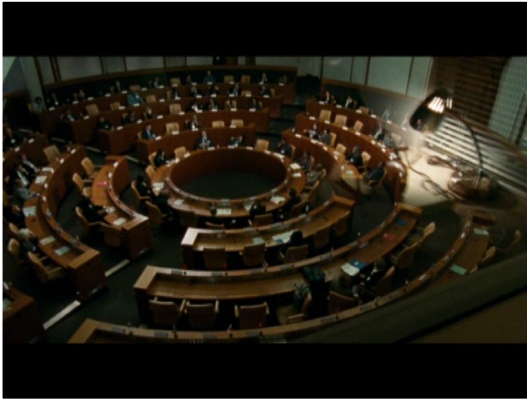




The synopsis of the film

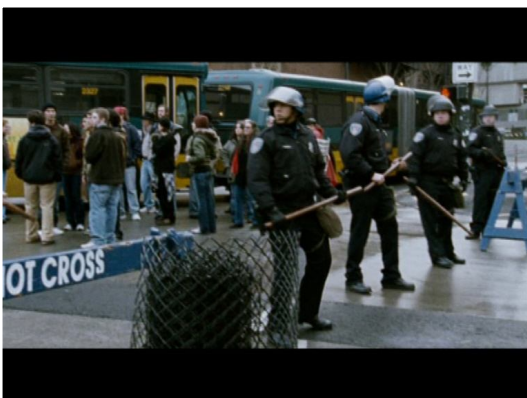
Some words are missing from the text. Read them carefully and decide which one fits better in the blanks. Pay attention because there is one word that is not needed:

demonstration – event – story – democracy – ordinary – world – lives – streets – difference – chaos – pregnant – find – view – residents.



It's November 1999, and five days are going to change the (1) as tens of thousands of demonstrators fill the (2) of Seattle in protest of the World Trade Organizations Ministerial Meeting. Among them are Django, Sam, Lou and Jay. Each one has a particular (3) , but they're united in a common desire to be heard and to make a (4) in the world.

A peaceful (5) to stop the WTO talks quickly becomes a full-scale riot, and soon a State of Emergency is declared by the Mayor of Seattle. The streets turn into (6) , and the WTO is paralyzed. Caught in the crossfire of civil liberties and keeping the peace are Seattle (7) , including its mayor, a riot policeman on the streets and his (8) wife. The choices they all make will change their (9) forever.



Director Stuart Townsend brings together the story and mixes different points of (10) from protesters and police to delegates and doctors, each of whom intentionally or accidentally (11) themselves on the streets of Seattle in those last days of the millennium. Townsend mixes videos of the real (12) with his fictional narrative. The film Battle in Seattle illustrates that even when it might seem impossible, (13) people can change the world.



The characters of the film.

Match these characters with the names given on the list.

JIM TOBIN, the Mayor of Seattle

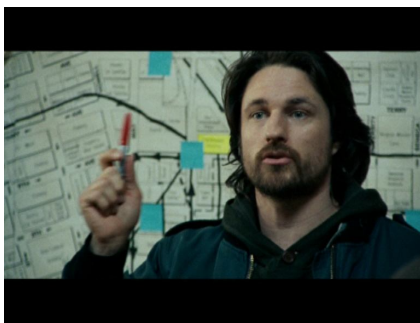
DALE, a policeman

CARLA, a TV reporter

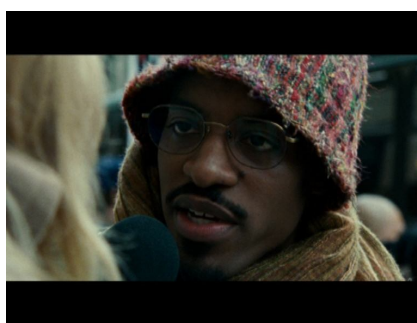
JAY, an activist

ELLA, Dale's wife

DJANGO, an activist



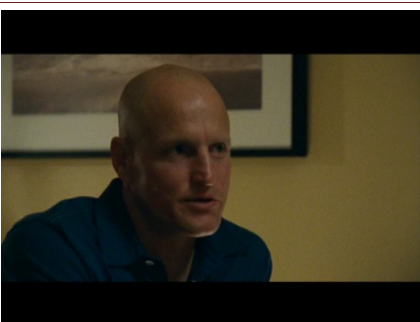
a)



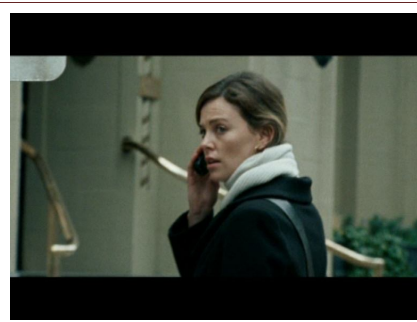
b)



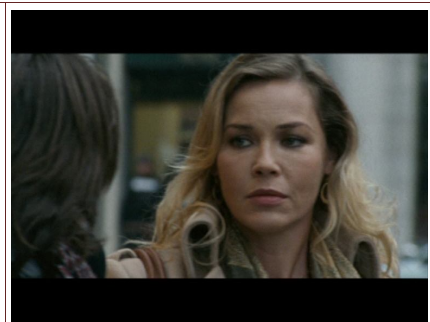
c)



d)



e)



f)



Who is Who?

Reorder these sentences to write descriptions of the characters



a) an activist - was killed -
Jay - in a protest - is -
whose brother.



b) who - with Jay - activist
- a brave and courageous
- in love - falls - Lou is.



d) Seriously - policeman -
his job - a determined -
Dale is - takes - who.



e) Wife - is - Ella - Dale's -
a - pregnant - She's -
shop assistant -
beautiful.

f) the real battle - who - a
TV reporter - sees - in the
streets - is - Carla.

Battle in Seattle



Global Issues.

The activists shown in Battle in Seattle fought for different social problems they were concerned about. Study the pictures and write the name of the global issue they show: deforestation – terrorism – climatic change – drugs – war – homelessness – poverty – domestic violence – hunger – pollution – animal rights.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



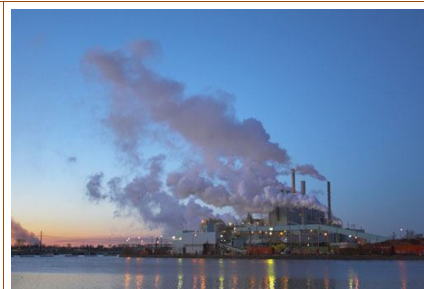
6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.





The Chronology of Battle in Seattle.

Fill the blanks with the words given: block – tear gas – emergency – activists – freed – anarchists – control – taken to prison.

- 1) The organised the peaceful protests.
- 2) The protesters went downtown to the town's intersections.
- 3) Some started to smash down shop windows.
- 4) The policemen went into the streets to the situation.
- 5) The Mayor declared the State of
- 6) The policemen started to gas protesters with
- 7) Some protesters were beaten and some were
- 8) After a few days, the imprisoned protesters were





Opinions about The World Trade Organization.

As opinions about The World Trade Organization (WTO) differ depending on the point of view of the speaker, we give you two texts with diametrically opposed ideas (an anarchist leaflet and an official WTO leaflet). Read the two passages carefully and decide whether the following statements are true or false.

In 1999 the WTO protests in Seattle sent a message to the world, loud and clear: The people of this planet were sick and tired of being stomped on, sick and tired of exploitation in the name of global capitalism and that people were ready to fight back. The years that followed Seattle saw a worldwide movement of resistance aimed against capitalism ... and now, almost a decade later, the impact of the anti-globalization movement can be seen in the failures of groups like the FTAA, WTO, IMF and World Bank ...

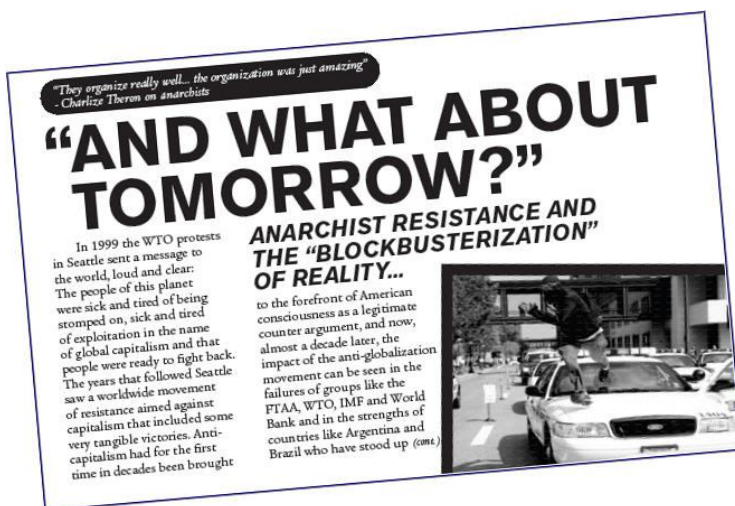
The real story of Seattle is a story about people taking matters into their own hands ... protesters in Seattle made the decision for themselves. By blockading the city of Seattle and physically preventing the WTO summit from happening, they were able to say directly to those decision makers: "Not in our town. Not in our country. Not on our planet."

What's dangerous about a sensational movie like Battle in Seattle is that you might get the impression that this was some isolated event ... a passing phenomenon that happened in the past, but is no longer relevant. That couldn't be further from the truth ... Just a few weeks ago we swarmed St. Paul, MN, the city that hosted the Republican National Convention, and blockaded many of the major intersections ...

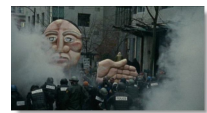
... The Battle in Seattle website repeatedly belittles anarchists as a "small fringe group" who "managed to steal the show" while focusing only on anarchist participation in the black

bloc. Actually, anarchists were involved in all different aspects of the WTO protests including lockdowns, making puppets and cooking for Food Not Bombs ...

Today, reports of "violent anarchists" still dominate protest coverage. It makes sense. The corporate media has no interest in promoting the fact that all over the country anarchists are stepping outside of the capitalist economy and creating infrastructure for the time to come when we no longer need it.



1. The protests in Seattle in 1999 sent a message in favour of capitalism.
2. Demonstrators in Seattle arrived to the decision of blockading the city after reading anarchist leaflets.
3. After Seattle, the city of St. Paul lived another protest.
4. The web Battle in Seattle does not show a positive view of anarchists.
5. The text mentions that the anarchist movement is dying out.



The World Trade Organization

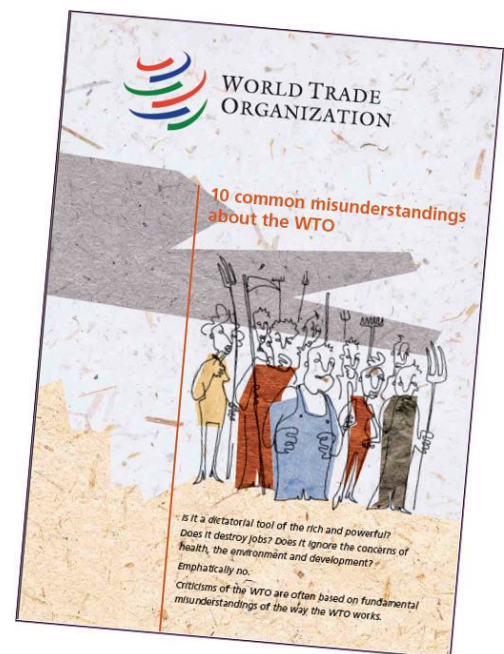
Essentially, the WTO is a place where member governments go, to try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other. The first step is to talk. The WTO was born out of negotiations, and everything the WTO does is the result of negotiations ... The system's overriding purpose is to help trade flow as freely as possible — so long as there are no undesirable side-effects — because this is important for economic development and well-being ...

Common misunderstandings about the WTO

- Is it a dictatorial tool of the rich and powerful? Does it destroy jobs? Does it ignore the concerns of health, the environment and development? Emphatically no. Criticisms of the WTO are often based on fundamental misunderstandings of the way the WTO works.

The debate will probably never end. People have different views of the pros and cons of the WTO's "multilateral" trading system. Indeed, one of the most important reasons for having the system is to serve as a forum for countries to thrash out their differences on trade issues.

- The WTO does not tell governments how to conduct their trade policies ... the rules of the WTO system are agreements resulting from negotiations among member governments; the rules are ratified by members' parliaments; and decisions taken in the WTO are virtually all made by consensus among all members. In other words, decisions taken in the WTO are negotiated, accountable and democratic ...
- The WTO does not destroy jobs or widen the gap between rich and poor. This accusation is inaccurate and simplistic. Trade can be a powerful force for creating jobs and reducing poverty. Often it does just that. Sometimes adjustments are necessary to deal with job losses, and here the picture is complicated. In any case, the alternative of protectionism is not the solution ... The relationship between trade and employment is complex.



- 1- According to the text, the WTO is a negotiating forum.
- 2- The main aim of the WTO is to halt free trade because it produces undesirable side-effects.
- 3- According to the text, some people think that the WTO is an organization that helps to destroy many jobs.
- 4- Negotiations among member governments are the basis of the WTO system.
- 5- Trade discounts are a powerful force for creating jobs and reducing poverty.

Battle in Seattle



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