

GEOFF WILKINS' FIRST BLOG

The main purpose of my blogs will be to share enthusiasms – with my friends, and perhaps more widely.

And so I start with my favourite film, **The Crying Game**.

You can view the whole film for free on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGkIYc3EfXc> .



Wikipedia summarises the film's plot as

The Crying Game is about the experiences of the main character, Fergus ([Stephen Rea](#)), as a member of the [IRA](#), his brief but meaningful encounter with Jody ([Forest Whitaker](#)) who is held prisoner by the group, and his unexpected romantic relationship with Jody's girlfriend, Dil ([Jaye Davidson](#)) whom Fergus promised Jody he would protect. However, unexpected events force Fergus to decide what he wants for the future, and ultimately what his nature dictates he must do.

“Unexpected events” covers a lot of plot! But Wikipedia is doing its best to avoid a “spoiler”.

One thing I love about this film is that it starts as one story, but develops into another very different one, with everything coming together again at the finish.

It also covers a lot of “issues”, including political violence (“terrorism”), inter-racial relations – you may have worked out from the casting that Jody is black, and Dil is mixed-race – and “gender identity” – you’ll have to watch at least the first hour to see why; like Wikipedia, I’m not going to spoil it.

And it has some of my favourite film actors – Stephen Rea, Miranda Richardson and the wonderful Jim Broadbent (recently on TV in *London Spy*) – as well as Jaye Davidson, who only appeared in one other film, [Stargate](#), as “a powerful alien in human form”.

(Stephen Rea was married for 17 years to [Dolours Price](#), a former Provisional Irish Republican Army bomber and hunger striker who later became a critic of Sinn Féin.)

Some people have a problem with Forest Whitaker’s “British” accent, but I can live with it. The real problem, of course, is that Neil Jordan had to go to America to find a black actor for this difficult part – and I’d guess that most black American actors would be leery about taking the part, so respect to Forest.

Do watch it if you haven’t already.