

Diversity Literacy Week 4 – Gender

Group Assignment 1 – The Full Monty (1997)

Directed by Peter Cattaneo

“The Full Monty is a 1997 British comedy film. It tells the story of six unemployed men, four of them former steel workers, who decide to form a male striptease act (à la Chippendale dancers) in order to gather enough money to get somewhere else and for main character Gaz to be able to see his son. Gaz declares that their show will be better than the Chippendales dancers because they will go "the full monty" — strip all the way — hence the film's title. Despite being a comedy, the film also touches on serious subjects such as unemployment, fathers' rights, depression, impotence, homosexuality, working class culture and suicide.

Extract from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Full_Monty

Please read the questions below before the film starts. Think about the questions as you watch the film and then as a group discuss the Group Assignment questions at the end and together formulate an answer. This is an academic piece, proper referencing is required.

Clip 1. Gaz and Dave are returning from an unsuccessful attempt to steal steel pipes from a factory they used to work in. They come across a Chippendales show... 4:35- 11:52 (7 minutes)

- *How do the two men rate women and how does this compare and/or link up with Dave's anxieties? What do his anxieties illustrate about how men and women are usually constructed?*

Clip 2. Gaz and Dave have decided they want Gerald to help them learn to dance. Gerald is not interested as he has a job interview. He has been lying to his wife about the fact that he lost his job a few months ago... 23:09- 56:38 (33 minutes)

- *What does Gerald's lying to his wife reveal about the construction of gender roles and expectations? How does power operate through these constructions?*

Clip 3. The men are caught practicing and charged with indecent exposure by the police. The story has been all over the local papers, leading to the unexpected sale of over 200 tickets. Dave, however, has decided that he will no longer participate... 1:15:33 - 1:23:45 (8 minutes)

- *How are the gender constructions challenged by the men stripping?*



Group Assignment 1 (1500 words)

- Reflect on the 'social construction' of gender and 'intersectionality' of race, class, gender and sexuality in the Full Monty. How does power operate through these constructions? How does the film disrupt dominant constructions of gender? Please use examples from the film to illustrate all answers.
- Having watched the film and discussed the concepts above reflect on how you have been part of the construction of gender. Give clear examples.