



SPECIAL PEOPLE (2007)

DIRECTOR: Justin Edgar

SYNOPSIS:

A filmmaker gets a lot more than he bargained for after being assigned to lead a film course for a group of teenage wheelchair-users.

This comedy-drama centres around filmmaker Jasper, who helps a group of teenage wheelchair-users make a fiction film about real life in a community outreach project. The teenagers – Dave, Scott, Anais and Jess - are not exactly thrilled to be involved, but Jasper perseveres with his plan to take them up a mountain as a metaphor for their 'daily struggle'. In comparison to the teenagers Jasper appears out of touch - his students seem to know more about filmmaking than he does - so when the group goes out on a location shoot, it's not surprising that things don't go according to plan.

If you want to watch the full film, you can buy a DVD here:

<http://www.guerilla-films.com/title.asp?FilmID=47>

SCENE DESCRIPTIONS:

EXTRACT 1: On Location

This is the climactic scene of the film, where we witness Jess disappearing over the side of a cliff.

This scene uses a range of different shots, ranging from wide angle to extreme close-ups. As you watch through the rushes for this scene, you'll notice how the filmmaker captures dialogue from a range of different angles.

EXTRACT 2: A lie

In this scene Dave's secret is revealed when Anais spots him getting out of his wheelchair to pick up a cigarette lighter. Over the course of the film Anais and Dave's feelings for each other have clearly developed so this betrayal comes as a real shock to Anais.

Dave is shown from Anais's point of view with the camera positioned outside the stairwell that Dave is on. We look up at him from Anais's perspective as she wheels around the corner.

EXTRACT 3: Forgiveness

After realising that Dave has been deceiving everyone about being paralysed, Anais refuses to speak to him. In this scene, which comes towards the end of the film, Dave tries to make her change her mind about him.

You will notice from the various takes that the filmmakers shot this scene with some extra dialogue that did not make it into the final cut.



USEFUL LINKS

Special People movie trailer:

http://www.screenwm.co.uk/swm_channel/watch/37/special_people_movie_trailer/

Special People on MySpace:

<http://www.myspace.com/specialpeopletthemovie>

Special People's production company:

<http://www.104films.com/>

More about how disability has been represented on film:

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/education/teaching/disability/>

Curriculum Links:

- Key Stage 3: English, Citizenship, Art and Design, Music, ICT
- Key Stage 4: English, Citizenship, ICT
- 14-19 subject areas: Film and Media Studies, English, Performing Arts, Art and Design

Key Stage 3

English

Key concepts:

- Competence: Reading and understanding a range of texts, and responding appropriately.
- Creativity: Making fresh connections between ideas, experiences, texts and words, drawing on a rich experience of language and literature
- Creativity: Using inventive approaches to making meaning, taking risks, playing with language and using it to create new effects
- Creativity: Using imagination to convey themes, ideas and arguments, solve problems, and create settings, moods and characters
- Critical understanding: Engaging with ideas and texts, understanding and responding to the main issues
- Critical understanding: Exploring others' ideas and developing their own.

Key processes:

- Speaking and Listening: understand explicit and implicit meanings
- Speaking and Listening: explore the ways that words, actions, sound and staging combine to create dramatic moments
- Reading: understand how meaning is created through the combination of words, images and sounds in multimodal texts
- Reading: how texts are crafted to shape meaning and produce particular effects

Citizenship

Key concepts:

- Identities and diversity: living together in the UK



Key processes:

- Critical thinking and enquiries
- Advocacy and representation

Art and Design

Key processes:

- Explore and create: develop ideas and intentions by working from first-hand observation, experience, inspiration, imagination and other sources
- Explore and create: investigate how to express and realise ideas using formal elements and the qualities of a range of media
- Explore and create: make purposeful images and artefacts, selecting from a range of materials, techniques and processes
- Understand and evaluate: appreciate how codes and conventions are used to convey ideas and meanings in and between different cultures and contexts

ICT

Key concepts:

- Capability
- Communication and collaboration
- Exploring ideas and manipulating information
- Critical evaluation

Key processes:

- Developing ideas: bring together, draft and refine information, including through the combination of text, sound and image
- Evaluating: review, modify and evaluate work as it progresses, reflecting critically and using feedback

Key Stage 4

English

Key concepts:

- Competence: Demonstrating a secure understanding of the conventions of written language, including grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Creativity: Using imagination to create effects to surprise and engage the audience
- Creativity: Using creative approaches to answering questions, solving problems and developing ideas
- Critical understanding: Engaging with the details of ideas and texts. Connecting ideas, themes and issues, drawing on a range of texts.

Key processes:

- Speaking and Listening: work purposefully in groups, negotiating and building on the contributions of others to complete tasks or reach consensus
- Speaking and Listening: use a range of dramatic approaches to explore complex ideas, texts and issues in scripted and improvised work
- Speaking and Listening: select different dramatic techniques to convey action, character, atmosphere and tension, and justify choices
- Speaking and Listening: evaluate drama performances that they have watched or taken part in



- Reading: analyse and evaluate the impact of combining words, images and sounds in media, moving-image and multimodal texts
- Reading: analyse and evaluate how form, layout and presentation contribute to effect
- Reading: compare texts, looking at style, theme and language and exploring connections and contrasts

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Key processes:

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ICT

Key concepts:

- Capability
- Communication and collaboration
- Exploring ideas and manipulating information
- Critical evaluation

Key processes:

- Communicating information: create quality solutions that show they have considered how the information should be interpreted and presented in forms that suit audience, purpose and content