



Teaching about Scotland

This is one of a series of units for teaching about Scotland in German Secondary schools. All the materials were created by very motivated students in my Area Studies Scotland class, some with experience of teaching in a “Gymnasium“. The materials can be tried out as they are, or altered as desired. They can also be combined. One basic idea behind them all is that both the teacher and the learners can develop the materials themselves, according to their own interests, and then even offer them to another class.

For some of these units printed information material is needed, for example ferry timetables, but if you don't have this, it is no problem to print it out from the Internet. Useful websites are given.

Scottish Actors, Films and Directors

Target group and Aim.

The unit can be used with intermediate learners. The goal is simply to show youngsters that Scotland is more present in the film world than they probably think. Laura thought that about 50 minutes would be enough.

This unit was created by Laura Lourdas, an Erasmus Exchange student from Paris.

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Course: Area Studies Scotland

1. Scottish actors

Often we don't know where our favourite actors really come from. Many famous actors come from Scotland but nobody knows that they are Scottish, so let's take a look.

Who's Scottish?

Here are some pictures of English-speaking actors. Do you know who is Scottish and who is not?



Gaz, the Full Monty



Barty Crouch Jr., Harry Potter, the Goblet of fire



Obi-Wan Kenobi, Star Wars



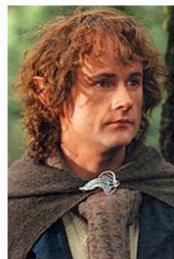
James Bond, Casino Royale



The White Witch, Narnia



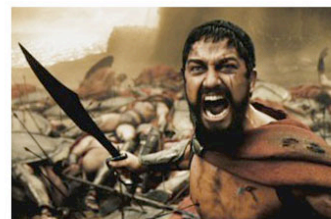
James Bond, Goldfinger



Pippin, Lord of the Ring



Alexander the Great, Alexander



The Spartan King Leonidas, 300

The answers are below!

Who is Scottish:

Gerard James Butler: the Spartan King, Leonidas, 300

Robert Carlyle: Gaz, The Full Monty

Ewan Gordon McGregor: Obi-Wan Kenoby, *Star Wars*
David Tennant: Barty Crouch Jr, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*
Billy Boyd: Pippin, *The Lord of the Rings*
Sir Sean Connery: James Bond, *Goldfinger*
Tilda Swinton, *Narnia* (of Scottish descent, born in London, living in Scotland).

Who is not Scottish:

Collin Farell, *Alexander*, is an Irish actor born in Dublin
Daniel Craig, James Bond, *Casino Royale*, is an English actor, born in Chester, England

Did you get it right?

Who am I?

Read the biographies and see if you can puzzle out who the actor hidden behind the "I" in each text is.

1st Actor:

I was born in Glasgow, Scotland in November 1969. My parents, Margaret and Edward are of Irish descent and I am the youngest of three children. I spent the first few years of my life in Montreal, Canada. After my parents divorced, I came back to Scotland, with my mother and we lived in Paisley (near Glasgow). I studied Law at Glasgow University where I received top grades and served as President of the School's Law Society.

My first acting roles were in the stage plays *Coriolanus* and in *Trainspotting* but my first film role was in *Mrs Brown* (1997).

I am a brave person and I can help you if you are in difficulty. I received a "Certificate of Bravery" from the Royal Humane Society after saving a young boy from drowning.

I played a part in a James Bond movie, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, and the major role in *Dracula 2000* and *The Phantom of the Opera* (2004).

However, it was the movie *Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life* (2003) with Angelina Jolie, that put me on the map. In March 2007, I played the role of the Spartan King, Leonidas in *300*. Who am I?

2nd Actor:

I was born in Glasgow in April 1961. I was abandoned by my mother at the age of four and raised by my father, Joe, but my childhood was a good one.

After reading Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, I was inspired to enroll in acting class at the age of 21, at the Glasgow Arts Centre. I started my film career by playing a psychotic murderer in an episode of *Cracker*.

My best-known role was in *The Full Monty*, as the leader of a group of laid-off industrial workers who become striptease dancers in order to make some quick money. Then I played the roles of Francis Begbie in *Trainspotting*, the villain Renard in the James Bond film *The World Is Not Enough* and Adolf Hitler in *Hitler: The Rise of Evil*. Who am I?

3rd Actor:

I was born in March 1971 in Crieff, Scotland. My uncle is the actor Denis Lawson. I attended Guildhall School of Music and Drama to study dramatic art.

I have featured as the male romantic lead in Hollywood films such as *Moulin Rouge*, where I sing for Nicole Kidman) and *Down With Love*, and in the British film *Little Voice*.

I took on the role of a younger Obi-Wan Kenobi in *Star Wars* and acted gay or bisexual characters for Todd Haynes in *Velvet Goldmine* (1998).

Then I acted with Scarlett Johansson in *The Island* and in *Stay*, a psychological thriller co-starring Naomi Watts and Ryan Gosling. Unfortunately both films received negative reviews from critics.

I have also been a keen motorcyclist since my youth and I undertook a marathon motorcycle trip from London to New York via central Europe, the Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Siberia and Canada which formed the basis of a TV series and a book, both called *Long Way Round*. Who am I?

4th Actor:

My real name is David John McDonald. I was born in April 1971 in Bathgate, a small town between Glasgow and Edinburgh, but I grew up in Ralston, Renfrewshire. My father was the Reverend Alexander McDonald and was the local Church of Scotland minister. I studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where I met Louise Delamere and we became friends. I moved to London in the early 1990s and lodged with comic actress and writer Arabella Weir.

I love the theater and I frequently perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

My best known film is the Doctor in the television series *Doctor Who*. I also became Barty Crouch Jr in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.

In January 2006, readers of the British gay and lesbian newspaper *The Pink Paper* voted me the "Sexiest Man in the Universe" ahead of David Beckham

and Brad Pitt ! I was named as "Scotland's most stylish male" in the Scottish Style Awards of October 2006. Who am I?

5th Actor:

I was born in Glasgow in August 1969. I am also a musician. I can sing and play the guitar, bass, and drums.

My sister and I were raised by our grandmother after my parents died when I was 13. First I worked as a bookbinder for 7 years before pursuing an acting career. I became a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. I have acted in several plays; recent ones include "*San Diego*" and "*The Ballad Of Crazy Paola*."

My most famous role is Peregrin Took (Pippin), in the film adaptations of *The Lord of the Rings* (2001-2003), where I sing a song called Edge of Night. I am also known for playing Barrett Bonden in Peter Weir's film *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* (2003) with Russell Crowe.

I still live in Glasgow and I am very proud of my Scottish heritage. I have worn a kilt on several formal occasions. I also love martial arts. Who am I?

This time the answers are at the end!

2. Do you know any Scottish films?

Can you think of any well-known movies that could be Scottish?
Any ideas?

Some award-winning films have been made by/about Scots such as *Braveheart*, produced and directed by Mel Gibson, a Scottish American, who also starred in the title role. Gibson portrays the historic Scottish figure of William

Wallace who becomes the figurehead of the First War of Scottish Independence, opposed by Edward I of England. The movie won 5 Oscars.

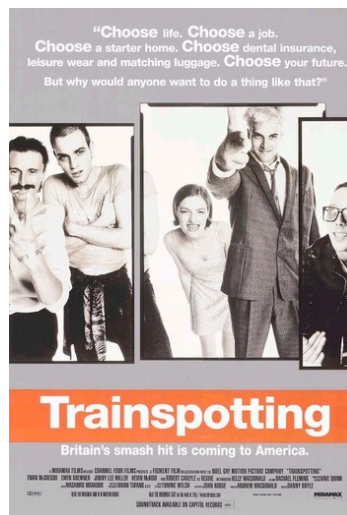


Mel Gibson was born in the USA of Scottish parents and decided in 1996 to make this film that has made Scotland a place "known to the world".

Trainspotting is also a Scottish award-winning screenplay made in 1996 and directed by Danny Boyle. The film is based on the novel by the Scottish writer, Irvine Welsh and stars two famous Scottish actors, Ewan McGregor and Robert Carlyle.

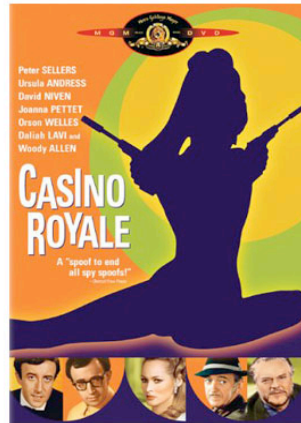
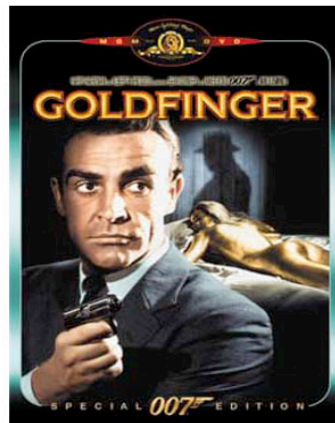
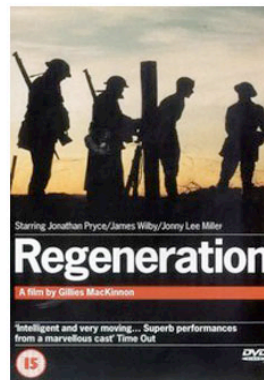
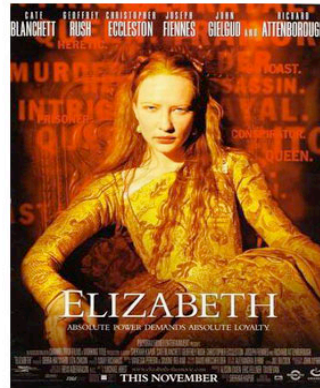
Trainspotting tells the story of a bunch of Scottish junkies from Edinburgh who are addicted to heroin. Most people find bits of it funny, but it is hard to watch. You see friendships breaking up, and people destroying themselves with drugs.

Trainspotting was named the 4th greatest British film of all time.



3. Do you know any Scottish film directors?

There are several Scottish film directors, of whom some are known all around the world. Take a look at the film posters below and see if you can find out which were made by a Scottish director.



The answers are below.

Kevin Macdonald (born in 1967) has made 2 famous and prize-winning films, *The Last King of Scotland* and *Touching The Void*. He also won the BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) for Best Director twice.

Joseph 'Apocalypse' McGrath (born in 1930, in Glasgow), is a film director and screenwriter best remembered for his films, *Casino Royale* (1967), the 1st James Bond movie which inspired the latest one, also called "Casino Royale", starring Daniel Craig and Eva Green.

Gillies MacKinnon (born in 1948 in Glasgow) is a film director and writer. His best known films are *Hideous Kinky*, *Small Faces* and *Regeneration*.

4. The Edinburgh International Film Festival



Have you ever heard of it?

The Edinburgh International Film Festival or EIFF was established in 1947 and takes place every August. It is the oldest continually running film festival in the world. The festival shows a range of films from around the world and screens not only films and documentaries, but also shorts, animations and music videos.

The Grand Jury awards "The Michael Powell Award for Best New British Feature Film" while the audience can vote for the "Standard Life Audience Award" and a panel of first time film-makers votes the "Skillset New Directors Award."

Sir Sean Connery and Tilda Swinton, (the woman who played the white witch in *Narnia*), are the film festival's honorary patrons.

Would you like to go?

6. Answers to the questions:

Biographies

- 1) Gerard James Butler
- 2) Robert Carlyle
- 3) Ewan Gordon McGregor
- 4) David Tennant
- 5) Billy Boyd

Scottish film directors

Non-Scottish films:

Elisabeth. Pakistan film director, Shekhar Kapur.

Billy Elliot. British film director, Stephen Daldry.

Goldfinger. British film director, Guy Hamilton.

7. Internet Sources

Who's Scottish ?

Gerard Butler in 300

http://www.allocine.fr/film/galerie vignette_gen_cFilm=57529&cMediaFichier=18746456.html

Colin Farrell in Alexander

<http://www.stfrancis.edu/historyinthemovies/images/alexander/alexander4.jpg>

Robert Carlyle in the Full Monty

http://www.filmreference.com/images/sjff_03_img0998.jpg

Billy Boyd in the Lord of the Ring

<http://content.answers.com/main/content/wp/en/thumb/2/22/145px-Pippinprint screen.jpg>

Daniel Craig in Casino Royale

http://www.allocine.fr/film/galerie vignette_gen_cFilm=58525&cMediaFichier=18454356.html

Tilda Swinton in Narnia

http://www.allocine.fr/film/galerie/vignette_gen_cFilm=47220&cMediaFichier=18464268.html

Sir Sean Connery in Goldfinger

http://www.geocities.com/best_worst007/connery.jpg

Ewan McGregor in Star Wars

<http://www.fantascienza.com/magazine/imagbank/NEWS/mcgregor.jpg>

David Tennant in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

http://content.answers.com/main/content/wp/en/thumb/7/7f/200px-Barty_crouch_jr.jpg

Who am I?

1st Actor: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerard_Butler

2nd Actor: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Carlyle

3rd Actor: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ewan_McGregor

4th Actor: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Tennant

5th Actor: http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Boyd

Do you know any Scottish films?

Braveheart:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Braveheart>
<http://mobcode.com/files/braveheart.jpg>

Trainspotting:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trainspotting>

Do you any know Scottish film directors?

Kevin Macdonald

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_Macdonald_\(director\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_Macdonald_(director))

The Last King of Scotland

http://www.allocine.fr/film/galerie/vignette_gen_cfilm=61207.html

Joseph 'Apocalypse' McGrath

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_McGrath_\(film_director\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_McGrath_(film_director))

Casino Royale (1967)

<http://www.jurassicdvd.com/catalog/images/CasinoRoyale.jpg>

Gillies MacKinnon

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gillies_MacKinnon

Regeneration

<http://www.lovefilm.com/lovefilm/images/products/5/3105-large.jpg>

Non Scottish directors:

Elisabeth, Shekhar Kapur

<http://www.cmontmorency.qc.ca/~vgauthier/films/eliza.gif>

Billy Elliot, Stephen Daldry

http://www.allocine.fr/film/galerie/vignette_gen_cfilm=11295.html

Goldfinger, Guy Hamilton

<http://data-allocine.blogomaniac.fr/mdata/3/2/1/Z20041207222824320473123/img/goldfinger.jpg>

Have you ever heard about the Edinburgh International Film Festival?

<http://www.answers.com/topic/edinburgh-international-film-festival>

Picture: <http://www.iofilm.co.uk/festivals/edinburgh/>

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