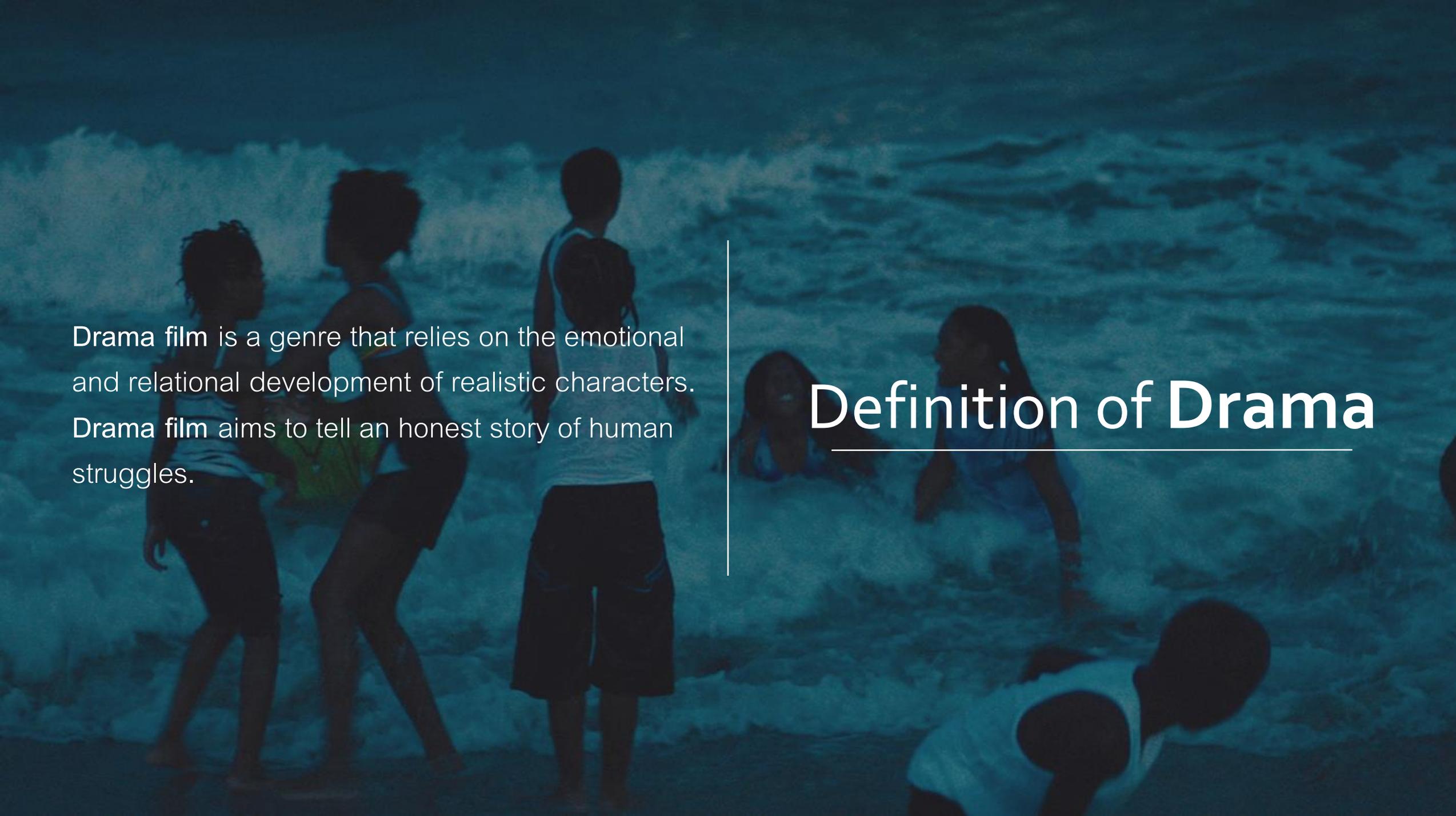


A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is centered against a solid blue background. The word "DRAMA" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font across the person's face. Two thin white horizontal lines extend from the left and right sides of the text.

DRAMA

A group of children are playing in the ocean waves. The scene is captured in a monochromatic blue color scheme. The children are silhouetted against the white foam of the waves. Some are standing on the beach, while others are wading in the shallow water. The overall mood is serene and nostalgic.

Drama film is a genre that relies on the emotional and relational development of realistic characters. Drama film aims to tell an honest story of human struggles.

# Definition of Drama

# Elements of Drama

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## 1) *Presentation*

There are true stories. Often the most dramatic stories are the ones that have actually happened or are based on actual events/people. The world is full of drama.

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## 2) *Protagonist*

- Going through some kind of emotional journey.
  - particularity unstable / vulnerable
  - Having to face a hard decision
  - easy to sympathize / empathize
- 

## 3) *Plot*

- Challenging the ignorance of stereotypes
- Connecting on a complex and personal level
- Having therapeutic qualities by showing how the protagonist has overcome difficulties

# Types of Drama

*Biography*

*Period Piece*

*Historical*

*Courtroom*

*Political*

*Dramedy*

*Romance*

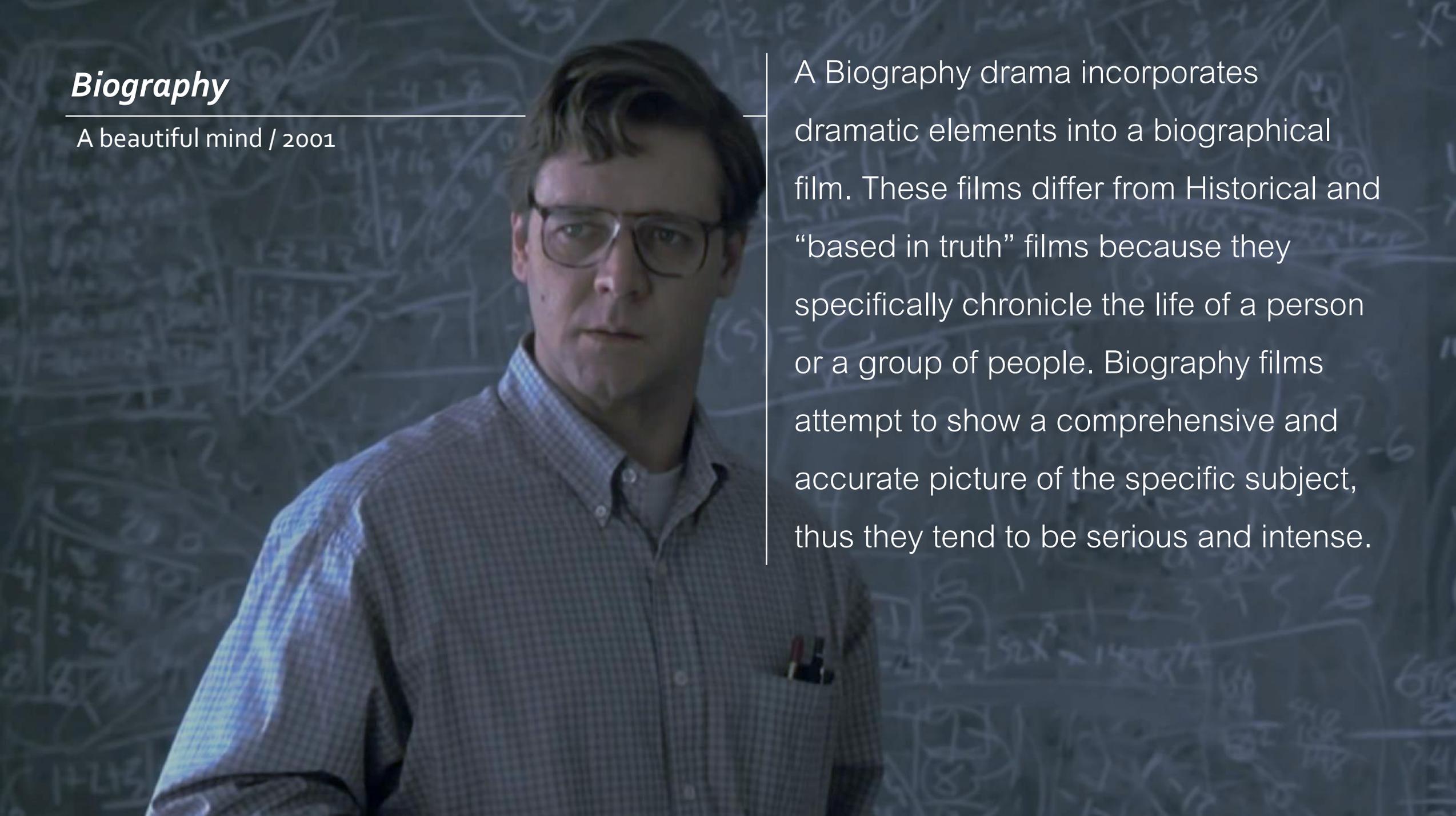
*Melodrama*

*Tragedy*

## ***Biography***

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A beautiful mind / 2001

A man with glasses and a checkered shirt stands in front of a chalkboard filled with mathematical equations. The background is a dark blue chalkboard with white mathematical formulas and diagrams. The man is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

A Biography drama incorporates dramatic elements into a biographical film. These films differ from Historical and “based in truth” films because they specifically chronicle the life of a person or a group of people. Biography films attempt to show a comprehensive and accurate picture of the specific subject, thus they tend to be serious and intense.

## ***Courtroom***

A Few Good Men / 1992

Courtroom drama film uses the justice system as a main component of the plot. The story usually unfolds inside a courtroom with the prosecutor, judge, jury, and the defense. Tension plays a large part in courtroom dramas as the verdict can often mean life or death.



## ***Dramedy***

Little Miss Sunshine  
/ 2006

Dramedy film is a genre that has a dramatic tone yet important elements of comedy. In Dramedy film, the amount of drama and comedy are almost equally balanced. This balance provides comedic relief for the audience, while still addressing serious issues.





## *Melodrama*

The Bridges of Madison County / 1995

Melodrama film is a sub-genre that appeals to the heightened emotions of the audience. The plot and characters often are more unrealistic than those found in the traditional drama film. Melodramas usually cater towards a female audience and tell a story that centers on a great crisis and a heroic protagonist.

## *Period Piece*

Mansfield park / 1999



Period Piece is a sub-genre of Drama film that focuses on a specific time era. The era in which the film is set adds not only to the plot, but to the characters and costumes as well. A Period Piece films are often based on a novel. These films tend to have a longer run time than traditional Dramas.

A man in a dark trench coat is walking on a subway escalator. The background is a tunnel with curved walls and overhead lights. The man is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

## *Political*

The Manchurian Candidate / 2004

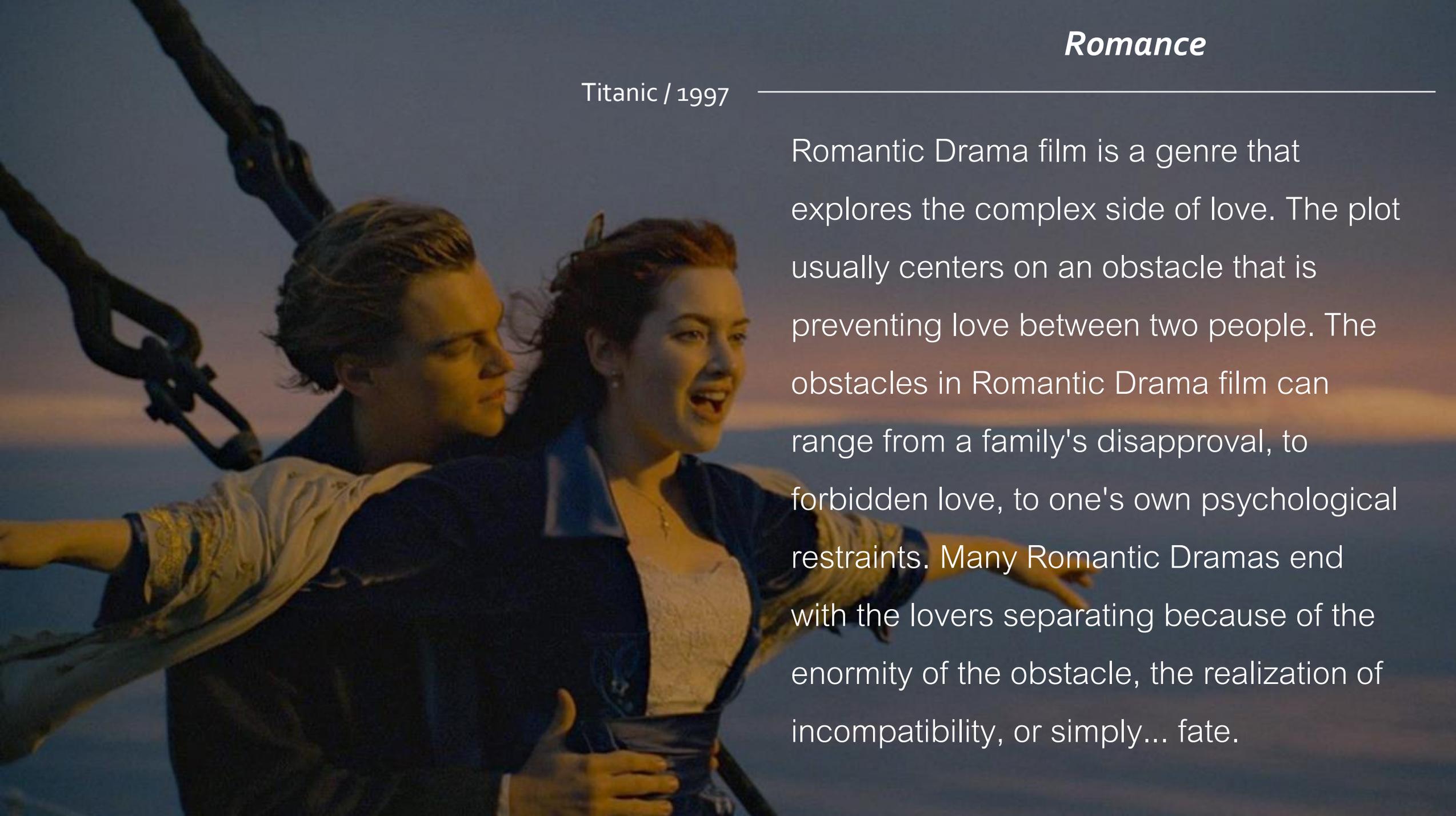
Political drama film contains themes, characters, and a plot specifically about politics and the political scene. The main protagonist is often at odds with the harsh reality of corruption in politics. Many Political Dramas are based in fact but focus on exploring conspiracy theories.

## *Romance*

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Titanic / 1997

Romantic Drama film is a genre that explores the complex side of love. The plot usually centers on an obstacle that is preventing love between two people. The obstacles in Romantic Drama film can range from a family's disapproval, to forbidden love, to one's own psychological restraints. Many Romantic Dramas end with the lovers separating because of the enormity of the obstacle, the realization of incompatibility, or simply... fate.

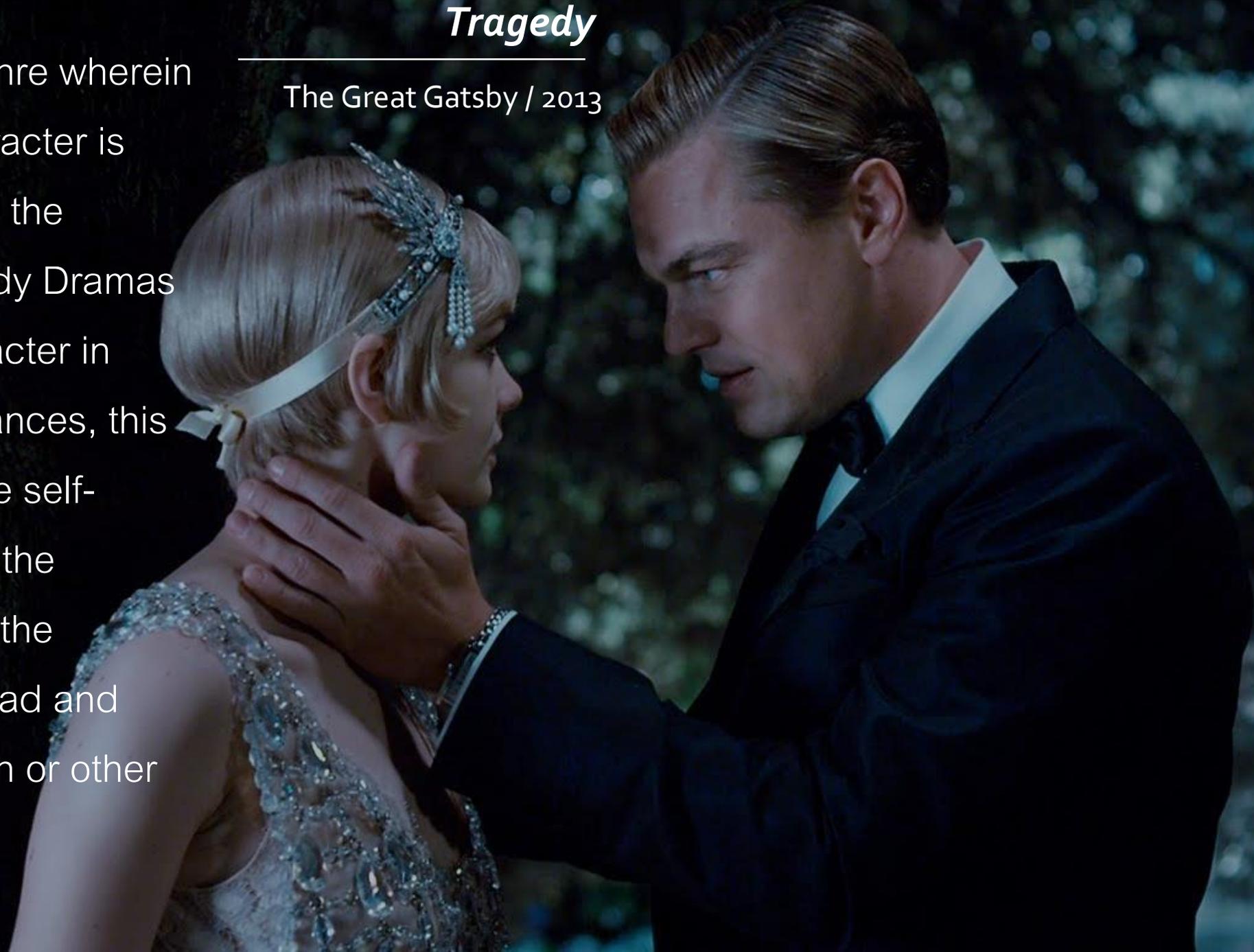


## *Tragedy*

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The Great Gatsby / 2013

Tragedy Drama is a genre wherein the downfall of the character is caused by a flaw within the character. While Tragedy Dramas sometime put the character in extraordinary circumstances, this genre is really about the self-destructive behavior of the character. The flaws of the character come to a head and ultimately result in death or other form of degradation.



# *Historical*

300 / 2006



Historical is a sub-genre of Drama film that examines a specific time in history or group of people. Many Historical films aim to portray true events and people. However, most Historical films are only loosely based on these events and people. These films tend to focus on the more glorified societies and people in history such as the Romans, specific Kings and Queens, or important political figures.

# Codes and conventions of Drama

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*Mise-En-Scene*

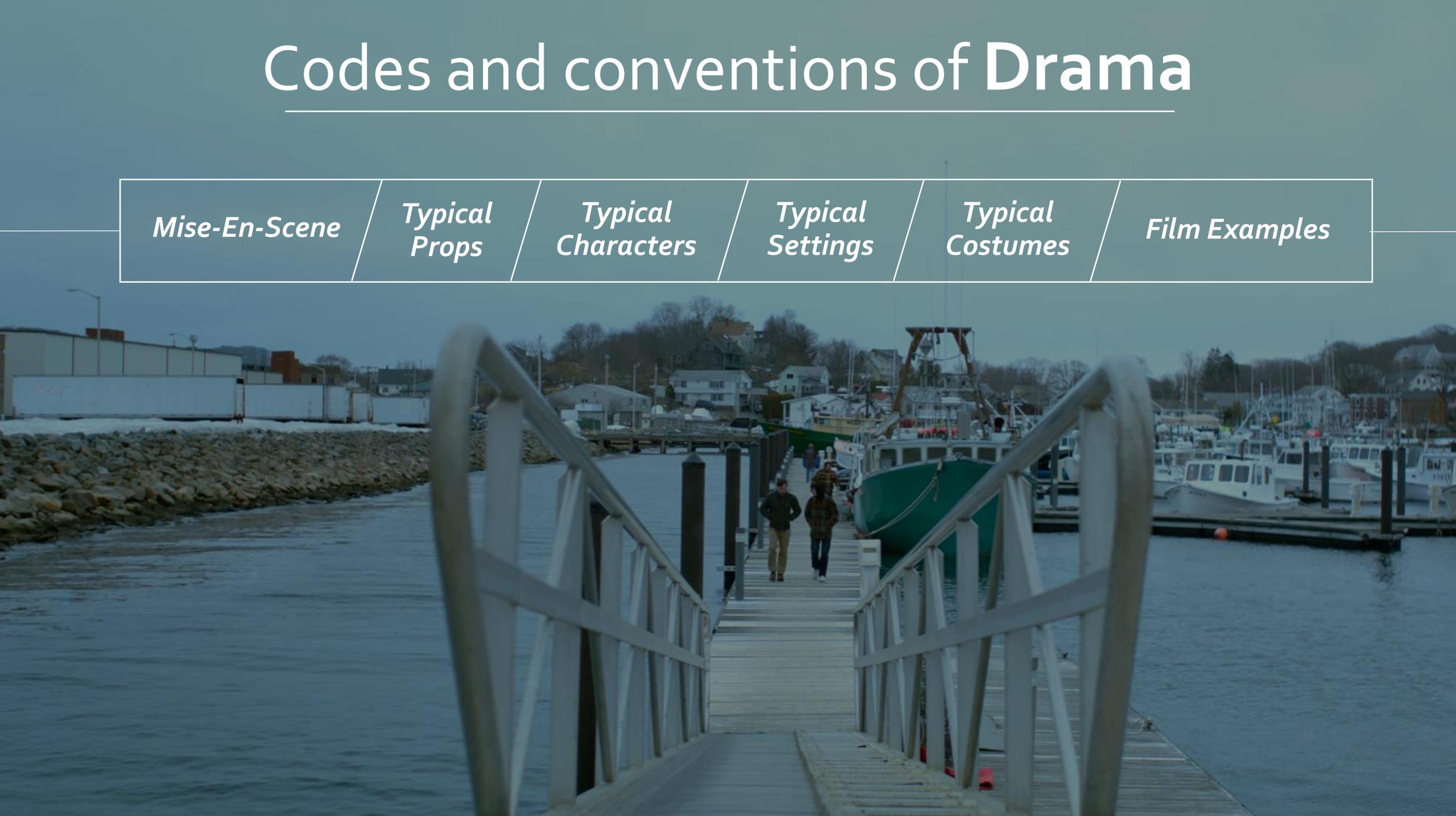
*Typical  
Props*

*Typical  
Characters*

*Typical  
Settings*

*Typical  
Costumes*

*Film Examples*



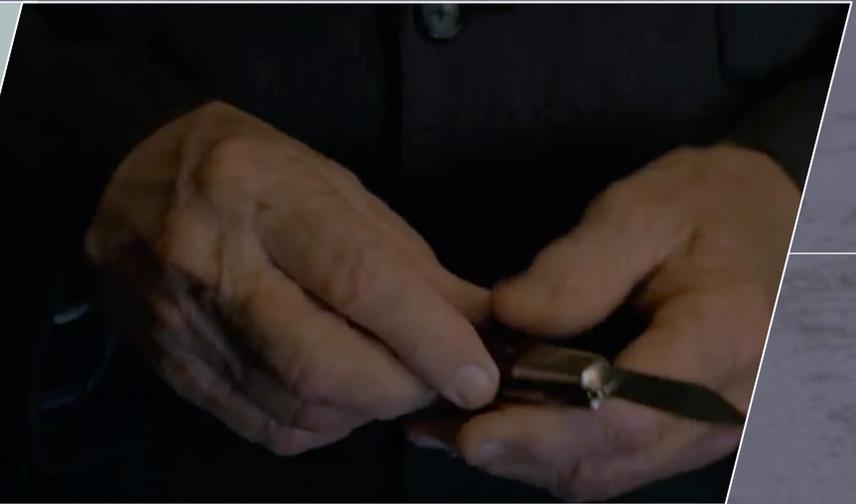
## Mise-En-Scene

- Dull Lighting (Portrays gritty and bleak nature)
- Close ups of characters
- Low Angle and High angle shots- to portray strength and weakness amongst characters.
- Clear shots and angles show different groups within the cast (Teen Drama)



## *Typical Props*

- Drugs
- Guns
- Knives
- Mobile Phones



## *Typical Characters*

Focus on the one character, whether it be Male or Female



## *Typical Settings*

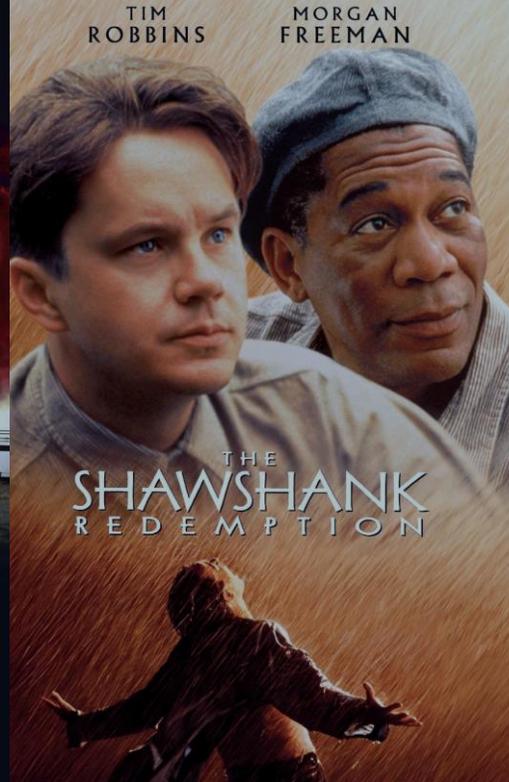
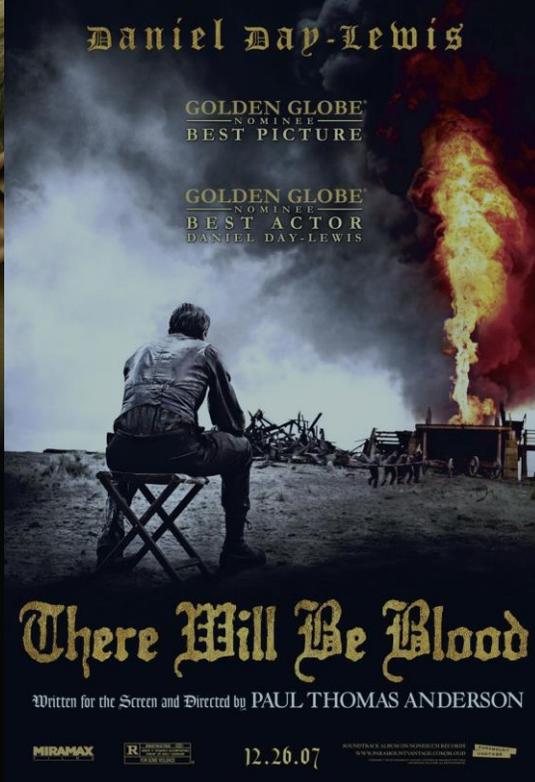
- Teen Drama
- Close knit locations
- E.G. Council Estates
- Flats
- Ghetto's
- School
- Streets of neighborhood
- Gritty Drama
- Run Down Houses
- Flats
- Estates
- Workplace



## Typical Costumes

- **Gritty Drama's** - Worn out, torn, dirty hand me down clothing.
- **Period Drama** - Old fashioned clothing e.g. Dress's, suits, Military uniform's, depending on ear e.g. Atonement is in the 1930's during the second world war.
- **Teen Drama** - Hoodies, Tracksuits, Caps, bandana's, Chains, trainers, t-shirts. School Uniform's





Film Examples

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

A PICTURE BY KENNETH LONERGAN

