



Iris

2001 certificate 15

Directed by Richard Eyre

Starring:

Judi Dench

Kate Winslet

Jim Broadbent

Hugh Bonneville

What this film is about

This film is based on memoir by professor John Bayley of his wife, the philosopher and novelist Iris Murdoch. Iris Murdoch developed Alzheimer's disease which destroyed her memory. The film tracks their life together from the time they met in Oxford and examines their relationship after Iris develops Alzheimer's disease and John Bayley has to look after her until her death.

Major themes of the film

Love, illness, faithfulness, service, suffering

Excerpts from the film to watch

Iris and John swimming together

Iris trying to give a lecture

John breaking down and screaming hate at his wife

General issues for discussion

Contrast the scenes in which young Iris is full of life and the later scenes in which Iris cannot function any more. How do we know this is the same person?

How does this film capture the pain and difficulty of coping with Alzheimer's?

How does love and commitment in marriage keep the couple together?

Iris and John are not 'perfect'. What role does sin and forgiveness have in the film?

In what ways do you find this film moving?

