

**Film Title and Release Date:** *The Hours* (2002)

**Film Length in Minutes:** 114 minutes

**Film Genre:** Drama/Romance

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Rachel R., 9th Grade

**Date Reviewed:** January 2, 2021

The film, *The Hours*, directed by Stephen Daldry, stars Nicole Kidman as Virginia Woolf, Julianne Moore as Laura Brown, and Meryl Streep as Mrs. Dalloway. This is an extraordinary film based on the real-life novel, *Mrs. Dalloway*, written by Virginia Woolf (a famous author) in 1925. The storyline encompasses details from this well-acclaimed novel, and intertwines true aspects of Virginia Woolf's life seamlessly, resulting in what I would consider a masterpiece. *The Hours* received nine Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture.

Virginia Woolf suffered from a mental illness (possibly bipolar disorder) throughout her life, of which there was no treatment or cure to benefit her. Woolf's relationship with life is explored as she writes the novel throughout the film. *The Hours* makes you feel like you are living alongside Laura Brown, as this wife and mother deals with an unhappiness she doesn't fully understand. Mrs. Dalloway feels she is living a trivialized life. As you watch these three women navigate their own separate challenges, you will be in shock when the connection between them is revealed.

*How did you find the film on Kanopy (by a title search, subject search, casual browsing)?*

I found the film on Kanopy while browsing through titles.

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

The plot of *The Hours* was stunningly beautiful and exceptionally written. The scene transitions are flawless throughout the film. Audiences can look forward to exploring, to experiencing, people who are navigating love, mental illness, hopes, decisions, and more; people who are living life.

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*

The pace of the film was just right; there was a perfect blend of action with moments that seemed to freeze in time, having me hold my breath. I found my heart racing and my mind in awe throughout this wondrous film.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*

*The Hours* is rated PG-13. I believe the most suitable audience for the film would be older teenagers, as I do not think the story of this film would be appealing to younger teenagers. Topics like suicide are a part of the plot, so viewing should be based on viewer discretion and level of comfort. With that being said, all content of the film is appropriate for any teenager.

*5 stars: This film was exceptional and stunning.*

*The Hours* is a remarkable film that should be viewed by every person that is living life; to feel it, to understand it, and to love it. The experiences the characters undergo, such as negotiating past and present love, aiming to feel present, and making decisions that are unclear while being of the utmost importance, are all human and sublimely powerful.