EDUCATING RITA
(1983)

Educating Rita is a British 1983 drama/comedy film directed by Lewis Gilbert with a screenplay by Willy Russell based on Russell’s stage play. The film stars Michael Caine, Julie Walters, and Maureen Lipman. It won multiple major awards for best actor and best actress and was nominated for three Oscars.

The film focuses on Rita’s unhappiness with her life in her blue-collar, working-class environment including her husband, who wants her to have children and stop with this university stuff, as well as her struggles to fit into a new educated middle-class existence in academia, while seeking a “better song to sing”. Rita’s original preconceptions that the educated classes have better lives and are happier people are brought into question throughout the film through Frank’s failing social life and alcoholism and her flatmate Trish’s attempted suicide. Rita, her search, and her search’s meaning for her, all evolve as she adapts to academia and grows as a person.

A young wife decides to complete her education and take her exams. She meets a professor who teaches her to value her own insights while still being able to beat the exams. The change in her status causes friction between her and her husband. - Written by John Vogel

Bored with teaching undergraduates English literature, Frank Bryant morosely reflects through a whisky glass on his failed marriage and his attempt at becoming a poet. His world is turned upside down by the arrival of Rita, a hairdresser who has decided to find herself by taking an Open University course. Excited by her freewheeling and acute observations, and - let’s be honest - by Rita herself, Frank also feels a deep sadness as he watches her warm impulsive reactions being replaced by the sort of cold analytical approach he so much loathes in other students and colleagues. - Written by Jeremy Perkins {J-26}

Rita crashes into Dr. Frank Bryant’s life wanting an education, although she has no idea what it is that she’s asking. Her brash sincerity earns the respect of the doctor who has previously resigned himself to a life of empty lectures and booze. Rita’s character is a breath of fresh air for Bryant and he begins to care about someone, or something for that matter, for the first time since his wife left him.
As each begins to wake up to life in their own way, the story comes to a close as an inspiring tale of self discovery and of the power choice that comes through education. Written by Kristoff

Synopsis

An English working class girl wants to better herself by studying literature. Her assigned Open University...

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http://www.amazon.com/Educating-Rita-Michael-Caine/dp/B000C20VSW