



# The Hours

114 minutes - Drama - 24 ta' Jannar 2003 (USA)

*The story of how the novel "Mrs. Dalloway" affects three generations of women, all of whom, in one way or another, have had to deal with suicide in their lives. Virginia Woolf is writing it, Laura Brown is reading it and Clarissa Vaughn is living it.*

**Director:** Stephen Daldry

**Writers:** Michael Cunningham (novel), David Hare (screenplay)

**Original Music:** Philip Glass

## Actors

Nicole Kidman	...	<i>Virginia Woolf</i>
Julianne Moore	...	<i>Laura Brown</i>
Meryl Streep	...	<i>Clarissa Vaughan</i>
Stephen Dillane	...	<i>Leonard Woolf</i>
Miranda Richardson	...	<i>Vanessa Bell</i>
George Loftus	...	<i>Quentin Bell</i>
Charley Ramm	...	<i>Julian Bell</i>
Sophie Wyburd	...	<i>Angelica Bell</i>
Ed Harris	...	<i>Richard Brown</i>
Lyndsey Marshal	...	<i>Lottie Hope (as Lyndsay Marshal)</i>
Linda Bassett	...	<i>Nelly Boxall</i>
Christian Coulson	...	<i>Ralph Partridge</i>
Michael Culkin	...	<i>Doctor</i>
Claire Danes	...	<i>Julia Vaughan</i>
Jeff Daniels	...	<i>Louis Waters</i>



## The story

In 1951, Laura Brown, a pregnant housewife, is planning a party for her husband, but she can't stop reading the novel *'Mrs. Dalloway'*. Clarissa Vaughn, a modern woman living in present times is throwing a party for her friend Richard, a famous author dying of AIDS. These two stories are simultaneously linked to the work and life of Virginia Woolf, who's writing the novel mentioned before.



The film concerns three women each suffering from depression. **Virginia Woolf** is starting to write her book *'Mrs. Dalloway'* in 1923 England. She is coming to the realization of her lesbianism and fighting her pure despair of life and headaches. Virginia receives a visit from her sister Vanessa and Vanessa's two sons and daughter. The daughter places a strong influence on Virginia's emotions through the death of a bird. Eventually, Virginia must face the decision to run away to London, stay with her beloved husband, or move to London where the doctors forbid her to go. **Laura Brown**, is a mother fearing her ability to be a mother again. She is reading *'Mrs. Dalloway'* in 1951 Los Angeles. Laura is trying to throw a wonderful birthday party for her husband.



The very pregnant Laura thinks she won't be an adequate mother to her son and current baby on the way in a few months. Laura must make the decision to run away from it all or live miserably with her happy husband. **Clarissa Vaughn** is a career publisher living in present 2001 New York. Her nickname, given by her poet-friend, Richard, who is dying of AIDS, is Mrs. Dalloway. Clarissa is also throwing a party but for Richard who is receiving an award for his poetry. Like Virginia Woolf, Clarissa is also a lesbian but also wonders if she is in love with Richard with whom she once dated. At the end, the whole plot twists and comes together.



## Considerations

The film begins with British writer **Virginia Woolf** (Nicole Kidman) putting stones inside her pockets before drowning herself (in real life, she walked in to the River Ouse on 28th March 1941). **Laura Brown** (Julianne Moore) lives in 1951 in a wealthy Los Angeles suburb. Her husband, Dan Brown (John C. Reilly) is having a birthday. While he's at work, she makes a



chocolate cake for him. Their son, Richie, asks if he can help her with it. As he sifts the flour, he wants to know why they are making the cake. "So Daddy will know we love him?" he asks. She answers yes and then he asks, "He won't know it, if we don't?" She answers him, "no". She is heavily pregnant with their second child. She is also reading a hardback copy of Mrs Dalloway, which is considered Virginia Woolf's best novel. **Clarissa Vaughan** (Meryl Streep) lives in modern

2001 New York and is planning a party for her prize-winning poet and close friend, Richard Brown (Ed Harris). Richard has been suffering AIDS for many years. He's a celebrated poet, and Clarissa is his editor. Clarissa worries about Richard a lot, and takes care of him as if she were his mother. Back at home, when she is preparing the party almost on her own, she has trouble



with her girlfriend Sally Lester, who has been unfaithful to her for some time. Several people appear for the party: Clarissa's daughter Julia and the most cherished of Richard's ex-boyfriends, Louis, who has another relationship with a younger man but who is still a bit sad and melancholic.

When Leonard Virginia's husband asks her why somebody must die in her novels, she tells him "so that we all appreciate life".

The basic theme of the film is wondering if it is better to live your life for your own happiness or others.

## Director: Stephen David Daldry

Was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1960. He is an English theatre and film director and producer, as well as a three-time Academy Award nominated and Tony Award winning director. He is also notable for having all of his feature films that he has directed go on to be nominated for Best



Director or Best Picture at the Academy Awards, the films of which are *Billy Elliot* (2000), *The Hours* (2002), *The Reader* (2008) and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (2011).

**Composer:** Philip Glass

Was born on January 31<sup>st</sup> 1937. He is an American composer. One of the highest profile composers writing “classical” music today, he is often said to be one of the most influential composers of the late 20th century. His music is also often controversially described as *minimalist*, along with the work of the other "major minimalists" La Monte Young, Terry Riley and Steve Reich. He has lately distanced himself from the "minimalist" label, describing himself instead as a composer of "music with repetitive structures." Though his early mature music shares much with what is normally called "minimalist", he has since evolved stylistically. Currently, he describes himself as a "Classicist", pointing out that he is trained in harmony and counterpoint and studied such composers as Franz Schubert, Johann Sebastian Bach and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with Nadia Boulanger.



**Awards** (Won Oscar. Another 35 wins & 73 nominations)

- 2003 Academy Awards, Nicole Kidman, as Best Actress in a Leading Role
- 2003 BAFTA Film Award, Philip Glass, Anthony Asquith Award for Film Music & Nicole Kidman as Best Actress in a Leading
- 2003 Golden Globe, Best Motion Picture – Drama and Nicole Kidman as Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama

**Next appointment!**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
(in August there will be no viewing)

**The film...**

To be announced later.



CAK Conference Hall, S. Sommier Street, Birkirkara  
@ 7.30pm

**Free Entrance** - Info: Tel: 21498343  
E-mail: info@cakmalta.org