

Jane Austen On Screen



Week Three

Welcome to *Jane Austen on Screen*

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It's *Mansfield Park's* turn in the spotlight this week, although as you'll see, adaptations of Austen's third published novel (in 1814) are thinner on the ground than those of *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

Much of the apparent ambivalence of film and television commissioners to *Mansfield Park*, with only three major adaptations and the first not arriving until 1983 is thought to be centred on the divided public reaction both contemporaneously and in modern time to its protagonist, Miss Fanny Price.

There are those (including Austen's own mother) who found Fanny insipid. Others see her as an ironic parody on Austen's part of the wholesome female characters that led many Regency novels.

Either way, it's a shame because there is much to be enjoyed in *Mansfield Park* and also much to be pondered over, not least the depiction of the plantation owner Sir Thomas when weighed against Austen's own apparent disapproval of slavery and noted affection for a great many abolitionist authors.

But this is not to say that *Mansfield Park* has not had its own influence on television and cinema. We'll also begin looking at some of the films inspired by Jane Austen directly and others which have sought to explore some of her work's central questions in a modern setting, such as Whit Stillman's (remember the name, it will reoccur) *Metropolitan*.

WEEK THREE FILMS

Mansfield Park (1983)

David Giles

Mansfield Park (1999)

Patricia Rozema

Mansfield Park (2007)

Iain B. MacDonald

Metropolitan (1990)

Whit Stillman

The Real Jane Austen (2002)

Nicky Pattinson

Jane Austen Wrecked My Life (2025)

Laura Piani