

Jane Austen On Screen



Week Five

Welcome to *Jane Austen on Screen*

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Welcome to week 5 of *Jane Austen on Screen*, in which we turn our attention to *Northanger Abbey*, the first of two complete novels to be published after Jane Austen's death. We'll also be looking at the first of two adaptations that sit outside the central canon in the form of *Love & Friendship*, a retelling of the early work *Lady Susan*.

And, just for good measure, we'll look at the first of our depictions of Miss Austen herself onscreen in *Becoming Jane* from 2007.

Northanger Abbey, however, is our key text. A satire of Gothic novels – many famous examples of which receive either direct mention or allusion in the novel, the story of Catherine Morland is, in fact, believed to be the first novel completed by Austen, although it was her brother who eventually managed to find a publisher for it and gave it its final name.

It received both glowing and dismissive reviews on publication, but has gone on to be accepted as one of Jane Austen's most interesting works, the irony at its heart – like that in *Pride* and *Sense* – often going over the heads of contemporary critic but lending the book a far more modern feel in retrospect.

Catherine Morland's journey from self-professed 'tomboy' to 'heroine-in-training' is perhaps less familiar than that of other Austen heroines but, in many ways, that gives it greater charm.

And those Gothic novels it satirises?

Northanger Abbey revitalised interest in them.

WEEK FIVE FILMS

La Abadía de Northanger (1968)

Pedro Amalio

Northanger Abbey (1987)

Giles Foster

Ruby in Paradise (1993)

Victor Nuñez

Northanger Abbey (2007)

Jon Jones

Northbound (2015)

Anya Steiner

The Cate Morland Chronicles (2017)

Amanda Taylor & Kailee Brown

Becoming Jane (2007)

Julian Jarrold

Love & Friendship (2016)

Whit Stillman