

OSCAR WILDE ON SCREEN



Week Five

Pictures of Dorian, Part Two

Welcome to *Oscar Wilde on Screen*

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Welcome to our second week looking at the many pictures of Dorian Gray. Last week, we looked at how quickly Oscar Wilde's controversial novel was adapted for the screen, from the silent era onwards and how each successive generation revisited the story and, indeed, reinvented its protagonist to meet the era in which each version was made.

We're looking at more modern versions of Dorian this week, including some of the ways in which the character – and his central dilemma – leapt out of the pages of his original tale.

The character of Dorian now exists as a representation of his age, of vanity, of the human desire for immortality at any cost.

He's been a cautionary tale for each generation, but there have also been several fictional attempts to reform and redeem Mr Gray.

He's been a superhero of a kind in the film version of Alan Moore's *The League of Extraordinary Gentleman* and a lead character in the mash-up television series *Penny Dreadful*.

And, as previously, his story has been reinvented for modern times, shifting his location, gender and social position. He's been a horror icon and a social media influencer.

There have been attempts to bring Dorian up-to-date and there have been more-or-less faithful adaptations that, nonetheless, drawn heavily on his creator's life for additional resonance.

The plays we'll begin to look at next week may have made Oscar's reputation, but, in many ways, Dorian is his most enduring fictional creation.

FILMS WEEK FIVE

Star Trek: The Next Generation – “Man of the People” (1992)

Dir. Winrich Kolbe

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (2003)

Dir. Stephen Norrington

Pact With The Devil (2003)

Dir. Allan A. Goldstein

The Picture of Dorian Gray (2007)

Dir. Duncan Roy

Dorian Gray (2009)

Dir. Oliver Parker

Penny Dreadful – “Séance” (2014)

Dir. J.A. Bayona

The Picture of Dorian Gray (2021)

Dir. Tamara Harvey

The Picture of Dorian Gray (2023)

Dir. Richard John Taylor