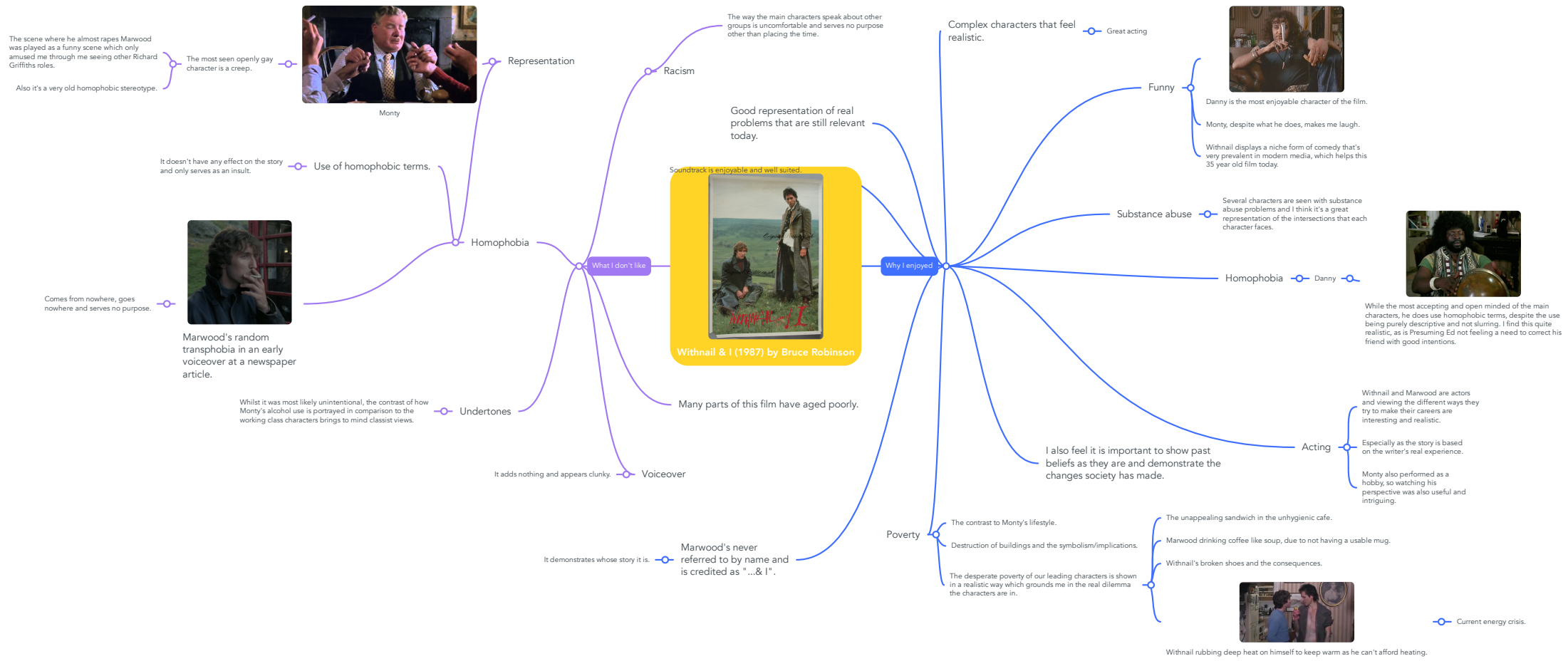




Withnail & I (1987) by Bruce Robinson

1. Why I enjoyed

1.1. Funny

1.1.1. Danny is the most enjoyable character of the film.

1.1.2. Monty, despite what he does, makes me laugh.

1.1.3. Withnail displays a niche form of comedy that's very prevalent in modern media, which helps this 35 year old film today.

1.2. Complex characters that feel realistic.

1.2.1. Great acting

1.3. Soundtrack is enjoyable and well suited.

1.4. Good representation of real problems that are still relevant today.

1.5. Poverty

1.5.1. The desperate poverty of our leading characters is shown in a realistic way which grounds me in the real dilemma the characters are in.

1.5.1.1. The unappealing sandwich in the unhygienic cafe.

1.5.1.2. Marwood drinking coffee like soup, due to not having a usable mug.

1.5.1.3. Withnail's broken shoes and the consequences.

1.5.1.4. Withnail rubbing deep heat on himself to keep warm as he can't afford heating.

1.5.1.4.1. Current energy crisis.

1.5.2. The contrast to Monty's lifestyle.

1.5.3. Destruction of buildings and the symbolism/implications.

1.6. Substance abuse

1.6.1. Several characters are seen with substance abuse problems and I think it's a great representation of the intersections that each character faces.

1.7. Acting

1.7.1. Withnail and Marwood are actors and viewing the different ways they try to make their careers are interesting and realistic.

1.7.2. Especially as the story is based on the writer's real experience.

1.7.3. Monty also performed as a hobby, so watching his perspective was also useful and intriguing.

1.8. Homophobia

1.8.1. Danny

1.8.1.1. While the most accepting and open minded of the main characters, he does use homophobic terms, despite the use being purely descriptive and not slurring. I find this quite realistic, as is Presuming Ed not feeling a need to correct his friend with good intentions.

1.9. I also feel it is important to show past beliefs as they are and demonstrate the changes society has made.

1.10. Marwood's never referred to by name and is credited as "...& I".

1.10.1. It demonstrates whose story it is.

2. What I don't like

2.1. Homophobia

2.1.1. Use of homophobic terms.

2.1.1.1. It doesn't have any effect on the story and only serves as an insult.

2.1.2. Representation

2.1.2.1. Monty

2.1.2.1.1. The most seen openly gay character is a creep.

2.1.2.1.1.1. The scene where he almost rapes Marwood was played as a funny scene which only amused me through me seeing other Richard Griffiths roles.

2.1.2.1.1.2. Also it's a very old homophobic stereotype.

2.1.3. Marwood's random transphobia in an early voiceover at a newspaper article.

2.1.3.1. Comes from nowhere, goes nowhere and serves no purpose.

2.2. Racism

2.2.1. The way the main characters speak about other groups is uncomfortable and serves no purpose other than placing the time.

2.3. Undertones

2.3.1. Whilst it was most likely unintentional, the contrast of how Monty's alcohol use is portrayed in comparison to the working class characters brings to mind classist views.

2.4. Voiceover

2.4.1. It adds nothing and appears clunky.

2.5. Many parts of this film have aged poorly.