

FAR FROM HEAVEN (2002) *written and directed by Todd Haynes*

à rendre sur feuille, écrit à la main (crayon papier autorisé).

SHORT QUESTIONS (answers shall be brief)

10x2=20pts

1. The “revelation” of Frank’s homosexual infidelity isn’t a real surprise in the narrative; explain what elements have prepared the viewer beforehand.
2. After the first appointment with Dr. Bowman, how does the spectator react to Frank’s use of the word “fucking”?
3. Apart from Frank (and his lover), who is the other homosexual character in Cathy’s environment? How is he depicted?
4. Apart from Raymond, who is the only black character of importance in the movie? Show how this character adds to the narrow white acceptance of black people.
5. Cathy calls him Raymond, Raymond calls her Mrs Whittaker. Only once does she tell him “*Please Call me Cathy*”. Comment and react.
6. During the Cocktail Party at the Whittakers, someone mentions the city of “Little Rock”. What happened in Little Rock (at the time)?
7. Does the viewer feel the same compassion towards Frank and Raymond? Explain.
8. What is the role of alcohol in the narrative?
9. Give some of the euphemisms used by various characters as to refer to homosexuality without actually naming it.
10. Where exactly does the story take place? Is that surprising in regard to the treatment of Blacks?

ESSAY QUESTIONS (as long as you wish)

Pick 3 questions below and answer them.

3x7=21pts(ramené sur 20)

- a) To the white suburban upper middle-class depicted in the film, which “subversion” seems worse (for the characters) : blacks or homosexuals?
- b) The CINEMATOGRAPHY (=the way lights and colors are used/created in a film) is rather refined and particular: how would you qualify it and what is the effect? [please give specific examples]
- c) The constant showing of fiery autumn leaves serves a purpose; explain and discuss the contrast with the very last image.
- d) Explain how and why Raymond is presented as an educated, wise and subtle character. [please give specific examples]
- e) Objects are used as symbols : the office broken lamp / the purple scarf / the decorative branch. Comment.
- f) What could be -in your opinion, the “Heaven” the title refers to?
- g) How does the film present discrimination against Blacks and homosexuals? Show differences and/or similarities.
- h) Would you call this film a love story? Why/why not : argue either way.