

Film guide

The Falling

UK | 2014 | Cert. 15 | 100 mins
Director: Carol Morley

This distinctive tale is set in a girls' school in 1960s England in which students are overcome by a spell of mass fainting. Central to events are Abbie and Lydia, whose relationship appears to be a catalyst for the strange occurrences. Compelling performances and a dizzying soundtrack leave the audience unsure whether the girls' actions are the expression of teen hysteria or the result of something truly supernatural.



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You will like this film if you liked

The Virgin Suicides (1999, 15)



Paramount Pictures © (1999) All rights reserved.

Watch next

Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975, PG)



Atlantic © (1975) All rights reserved.

Talk about it (before the film)

Do you think teenagers form closer friendships than adults? Why might this be?

Can you think of any incidents from the news or your own life in which people appeared to be acting as a group rather than as individuals?

Talk about it (after the film)

- What do you think was behind the girls fainting? Did you think they were pretending? How is the audience kept uncertain about the cause of it?
- Does the story feel rooted in a particular time or could it have taken place in another era? How might the film's plot and atmosphere change if it were set somewhere else?
- How did the music affect the atmosphere of the film? Can you think of specific moments when music within the film (singing, people playing instruments) or the soundtrack enhanced your understanding of the action or changed the mood of a scene?
- How is the representation of female adolescence in this film different or similar from others you have seen in film, novels or other media?

Write about it

Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on our Into Film clubs' website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it's similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating.

Extension Activities

This film has a predominately female cast and crew; do you think this is evident when watching the film? Research women in the film industry and put together an all female crew for a fictional film. Download Into Film's assembly created for International Women's Day to provide some inspiration available from the Into Film website.