Nightcrawler

USA | 2014 | Cert. 15 | 117 mins
Director: Dan Gilroy

In Los Angeles, unemployed Lou Bloom stumbles across an underground world where enterprising (or opportunistic) cameramen descend on crime scenes, capturing footage to sell to news networks. Possessed by a ruthless entrepreneurial drive, Bloom increasingly blurs the line between observer and participant to capture exclusive footage. A riveting, urgent thriller, the film is a satire on modern internship culture, as well as the media’s craving of increasingly sensationalized news footage.

You will like this film if you liked
Zodiac (2007, 15)

Watch next
Network (1976, 15)

Talk about it (before the film)
When you hear about something in the news how quickly do you expect to see images or footage from the event? Where do you think these images come from?

Talk about it (after the film)
- Think about Lou’s dialogue, the phrases he uses and his delivery. Where do you think he has picked up this way of speaking? What satirical point might the screenwriter be making by having him speak like this?
- Why do members of the news team feel uncomfortable about showing Lou’s footage? What ethical and journalistic codes does he break?
- Do you think Nina has stronger morals than Lou? How are their motivations different or similar?
- Think about the way Lou shoots his footage in the final sequence of the film. In what ways can we compare him to a feature film director? What conclusions could you draw from this comparison in relation to the news industry?

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
Research some journalistic ethical codes. Do you think filmmakers should aim to adhere to an ethical code? In groups draw up a list of ethical standards filmmakers should adhere to. Discuss the problems that could arise from imposing moral guidance on art.