



## Movie Club

### Vertigo (1958)

1. What are the driving themes in the film? You might want to consider the themes of love and obsession. How are these themes presented throughout the film?
2. At what point in the film does Scottie change from being a detective to being obsessed with Madeline?
3. What do you make of the film's portrayal of women? Both Madeline and Judy are moulded by the men they are with (Gavin and then Scottie).
4. Which character do you sympathise with? Scottie who in the end loses both women, or Madeleine/Judy who is presented as an object to the very end?

'Desire and artificiality are the film's central concerns, but ideas on subjectivity, female objectification and the male gaze frequently ballast themselves...'

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/filmblog/2012/aug/10/my-favourite-hitchcock-vertigo>

5. In his review, critic Roger Ebert says the film is closely linked to Hitchcock and his personal perspectives towards women.

“Vertigo” (1958), which is one of the two or three best films Hitchcock ever made, is the most confessional, dealing directly with the themes that controlled his art. It is \*about\* how Hitchcock used, feared and tried to control women.'

(Roger Ebert - <http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/great-movie-vertigo-1958>)

In what ways are women used, feared and controlled in the film? Are these themes inherent in his other films?

6. What do you make of the final scene? Is this ending satisfying, why/why not?