FREEDOM WRITERS

Mercedes Paronzini and Andrea Matteucci

"Freedom Writers" is a dramatic film based on a book, set in the 90's Long Beach, California. It tells the story of Erin Gruwell's first job as a teacher in Woodrow Wilson High School, after a voluntary integration program had been implemented 2 years earlier.

During this period, American society was suffering from gang-violence, racial and social tension which prevented students from learning and progressing at school. Due to the hostility among diverse ethnicities, students were divided into smaller "gangs" including Latinos, Asians and Black-American people.

The film contains a gallery of interesting characters. Erin Gruwell, known as Miss G., is a passionate and thoughtful English teacher who cares about her students' well-being. Many of them were going through tough situations such as losing siblings in gang warfare, being abused by police, mistreated by their parents and generally neglected. Miss G. is willing to motivate her pupils, so she encourages them to write about themselves and also shows them tragic historical testimonies (Anne Frank included) which change their attitude towards life.

We were fascinated by the rough, even though realistic, circumstances these teenagers lived in. The cast performances sent a shiver down our spines, which is why we would like to draw attention to the marvellous dialogues. The film introduces the theme of social injustice, as it portrays the conditions which needy people used to confront and still do nowadays to be treated as equal. We strongly advise you not to miss this masterpiece that transports you to California's 90's