

= Northanger Abbey (2007 film) =

Northanger Abbey is a 2007 British television film adaptation of Jane Austen 's eponymous novel . It was directed by British television director Jon Jones and the screenplay was written by Andrew Davies . Felicity Jones stars as the protagonist Catherine Morland and JJ Feild plays her love interest Henry Tilney . The story unfolds as the teenaged Catherine is invited to Bath to accompany some family friends . There she finds herself the object of Henry Tilney 's and John Thorpe 's (William Beck) affections . When she is asked to stay at Northanger Abbey , Catherine 's youthful and naive imagination takes hold and she begins to confuse real life with the Gothic romance of her favorite novels .

Northanger Abbey was one of three novels adapted for ITV 's Jane Austen season . It was shot on location in Ireland from late August 2006 on a budget of £ 2 million . The drama was co @-@ produced by Granada Productions and American studio WGBH Boston . Northanger Abbey premiered on 25 March 2007 in the United Kingdom and on 16 December 2007 in Canada . It was broadcast in the United States and Australia in 2008 . The drama was viewed by 5 @.@ 6 million people in the UK , making it the second most watched of the 2007 adaptations . Northanger Abbey garnered mostly positive reviews from television critics , with many praising the cast 's performances .

= = Plot = =

Seventeen @-@ year @-@ old Catherine Morland (Felicity Jones) , daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morland (Gerry O 'Brien and Julia Dearden) , is a tomboy with a wild imagination and a passion for Gothic novels . Family friends Mr. and Mrs. Allen (Desmond Barrit and Sylvestra Le Touzel) , invite Catherine to spend the season in Bath and she readily accepts . At her first ball , Catherine meets and dances with Henry Tilney (JJ Feild) . The following day , Catherine makes the acquaintance of the Thorpe family . She becomes good friends with Isabella Thorpe (Carey Mulligan) and she meets Isabella 's brother , John (William Beck) , when she is reunited with her own brother , James (Hugh O 'Conor) .

John flirts with Catherine at a ball , but she is more interested in meeting with Henry and his sister , Eleanor (Catherine Walker) . Catherine is pressured by Isabella and John into riding to Blaise Castle , despite her having made plans for a walk with Henry and Eleanor . John assures her that he saw Henry driving a phaeton to Wick Rocks , but while Catherine is in John 's carriage , she sees the Tilneys walking along the street . Catherine asks John to stop , knowing he lied to her , but he refuses . Catherine runs into the Tilney family at the opera and makes her apologies , before planning another walk . John tells Henry 's father , General Tilney (Liam Cunningham) , that Catherine is the Allens ' heir , and the General invites her to spend the day with the family . Catherine is delighted when she learns Henry and Eleanor love books as much as she does .

On her return home , Isabella tells Catherine that she and James are engaged . James and John announce that they are to leave Bath for a few weeks and after talking about marriage with Catherine , John leaves believing she is in love with him . Isabella catches the eye of Henry 's older brother , Captain Frederick Tilney (Mark Dymond) , and flirts with him after she learns how low James ' income will be . General Tilney invites Catherine to stay with his family at Northanger Abbey and she accepts . When Isabella tells Catherine that John is going to propose to her , Catherine tells her friend to write to him and explains that he is mistaken . Isabella continues to flirt with Frederick and Catherine asks Henry to convince his brother to leave her alone . However , he tells Catherine that Frederick will be leaving town soon to re @-@ join his regiment .

Catherine states that Northanger Abbey looks exactly as she imagined it and she becomes intrigued by Mrs. Tilney 's death . Due to her overactive imagination , Catherine starts to believe that General Tilney murdered his wife . Henry catches her in his mother 's chamber and becomes offended when he realises what she has been thinking . Catherine apologises and Henry tells her that perhaps it is possible to read too many novels . Catherine receives a letter from James , in which he reveals that his engagement to Isabella has been called off , because she allowed

Frederick to seduce her . Eleanor explains to Catherine that her brother has no intention of marrying Isabella . Catherine gets a letter from Isabella , asking her to apologise to James for her , but Catherine states that she will do no such thing .

General Tilney returns home from a trip away and orders Eleanor to send Catherine home to Fullerton that night . Catherine endures the trip alone and believes that Henry told the General about her suspicions . A few days later , Henry comes to Fullerton and explains that the General discovered that Catherine 's family were not as rich as John led him to believe . He apologises for his father 's actions and explains that even though he will probably be disinherited , he loves Catherine and proposes . Catherine accepts and the couple marry .

= = Production = =

= = = Conception and adaptation = = =

On 10 November 2005 , Julia Day from The Guardian reported ITV controller of drama , Nick Elliott , had ordered three new adaptations of Mansfield Park , Northanger Abbey and Persuasion . Elliot commented that the adaptations would be " important remakes for the new generation " . He explained , " About every 10 years , all the great stories need retelling . These films will be very much 2007 films ... we 've asked and pushed the production team to make them young . Her stories always make great TV drama and our Jane Austen season will feature the absolute cream of British acting talent . " Elliott revealed that he had deliberately shied away from ordering adaptations of Pride and Prejudice and Sense and Sensibility to focus on Austen 's lesser known works . Each of the productions were made by a different company , cast and directors , so they had " a distinct look " . They were also made to appeal to a younger audience that might have previously switched off other Austen adaptations . Northanger Abbey was given a budget of £ 2 million , and it marked only the second filmed adaptation of the book ; with the first being made and broadcast in 1986 .

Andrew Davies , the screenwriter who adapted Pride and Prejudice for the BBC , was commissioned to write the script for Northanger Abbey . He had previously written an adaptation of the novel for Weekend Television in 1998 . It was optioned by Harvey Weinstein for Miramax Films and drafts from other writers were added , before the project was abandoned . Davies told The Daily Telegraph 's Hugh Davies that Northanger Abbey was much more straightforward to adapt than Pride and Prejudice , which was " quite a fiendish bit of compression " . The reporter explained , " A young heroine thinks she has stumbled across a Gothic conspiracy of murder and concealed corpses . In fact , the true crimes are those of psychological cruelty and selfishness . Davies said that part of the back story was having the heroine read the 1764 best @-@ seller The Castle of Otranto by Horace Walpole , which he uses to fill Catherine 's head with the expectation of unspeakable secrets in the Abbey . " The writer admitted that he used artistic license when it came to the scene in which Catherine 's friend , Isabella , goes off with Captain Frederick Tilney . Austen did not state what happened to them in the novel , but Davies believed Frederick would have seduced Isabella .

During an interview with Marion McMullen from the Coventry Evening Telegraph , Davies explained that the Gothic elements to the novel gave him inspiration to add dream sequences and fantasies to the script . He told McMullen , " I 've been very faithful to the book , but one of the differences has been writing the scenes showing Catherine 's fantasies . Catherine is a great reader of horror fiction ? the gothic novel was fairly popular in those days , like a young girl today who would read a lot of rather steamy romances . In this production , we see some of Catherine 's fantasies , some of which are quite steamy for a young girl . " Davies admitted that he was proud of his reputation for " sexing up " the novels he had adapted and commented that none of his scenes were gratuitous . He told McMullen that he often looked for excuses to get the characters out of their clothes , as he felt they were always being " buttoned up to the neck " . Producer Keith Thompson said Davies had made Northanger Abbey a bit more erotic than the novel and thought the script had " a wonderful cheekiness to it . " Davies chose to use a narrator to speak Austen 's words and help set the scene

at the beginning and end of the film .

= = = Casting = = =

Karen Price from the Western Mail reported ITV were looking for " big names " and promised the best British acting talent , while they were casting the three adaptations . In July 2006 , Thompson revealed the cast had yet to be confirmed and that the casting agent , John Hubbard , was " scouring " Ireland and the United Kingdom for actors to fit the roles . On 14 August , a writer for the Irish Film and Television Network stated the casting for Northanger Abbey had finished and had been confirmed . British actress Felicity Jones was chosen to play Catherine , the protagonist and eldest daughter of the Morland family . Jones received the part upon her first audition , just two weeks after graduating from Oxford University . She revealed that she really wanted the role , explaining " sometimes when you read a script , you think ' God , I 'd love to do that . ' " While speaking of his fondness for the characters , Davies commented that Jones ' casting as Catherine was " perfect " . American @-@ born actor JJ Feild was cast as Henry Tilney , the " highly eligible young clergyman " , and William Beck received the role of John Thorpe , Henry 's rival for Catherine 's affections .

Actress Carey Mulligan was given the role of Catherine 's shallow and selfish friend Isabella Thorpe . The actress had previously worked with Davies on an adaptation of Bleak House . Speaking to Graham Fuller of The Arts Desk , Mulligan commented , " I wanted to play Isabella because I 'd never played a character like that before . " Irish actor Hugh O 'Conor was chosen to play James Morland , Catherine 's brother and Isabella 's fiancé . Other Irish actors cast in the production included Liam Cunningham as the " eccentric " General Tilney and Gerry O 'Brien and Julia Dearden as Mr. and Mrs. Morland respectively . Desmond Barrit and Sylvestra Le Touzel were cast as Mr. and Mrs. Allen , the wealthier older couple that invites Catherine to go to Bath with them . Le Touzel previously portrayed Fanny Price in the 1983 adaptation of Mansfield Park . Catherine Walker and Mark Dymond appeared as Henry 's siblings Eleanor and Captain Tilney . Geraldine James was credited as the narrator and voice of Austen .

= = = Filming = = =

Northanger Abbey was shot on location in Ireland from late August 2006 . The Independent 's Sarah Shannon stated that ITV had filmed in the country " largely thanks to the generous tax incentives offered by the republic 's government . " Filming lasted for five weeks and the drama was shot on Super 16 mm film . Twenty @-@ first century Dublin streets doubled for nineteenth century Bath , the setting for the novel . Shannon thought some viewers might be annoyed with this and Thompson commented , " But isn 't that shot of the Royal Crescent in Bath a bit of a cliché ? What we 've done is create our own Bath . " Lismore Castle in County Waterford was chosen as Northanger Abbey , home of the Tilney family . Higginsbrook House , near County Meath , served as the exterior to the Morland family 's home . The house was later used in Becoming Jane , a film about Austen 's early life . Other shooting locations included Dublin Castle , Ardbraccan House and Charleville Castle . Jones told Paul Byrne of the Evening Herald that she enjoyed shooting in Ireland as she got to see a lot of the country .

= = = Music and choreography = = =

British composer Charlie Mole wrote the score to Northanger Abbey , while the Pemberley Players provided other authentic pieces of music . Sue Mythen choreographed the ballroom scenes . Speaking to Benji Wilson of the Radio Times , Jones revealed the dance sessions were the most taxing part of the shoot . She explained that the cast had to learn all of the ballroom dances from scratch and they spent a week going over them to make sure they were right . She explained , " But what happens is as soon as you put the dialogue in , the dancing just goes to pot ! So it 's all about putting the movement and the dialogue together and remembering what your character is supposed

to be thinking at the same time ? that 's quite tricky ! " Jones praised Mythen and said the teacher often reminded the actors to relax into the dance and remember that their character would have been doing it for years , as they would have learnt at an early age . Jones added " the novelty for us with three weeks of dancing is not quite the same ! "

= = Promotion and broadcast = =

ITV launched a nationwide campaign to promote its Jane Austen Season . The campaign included three television adverts and cinema , outdoor and press adverts . ITV Creative made the 20 , 30 and 60 second promotional trailers , which began airing on ITV channels from 25 February 2007 . The following day adverts began appearing in selected national press publications . The outdoor and press adverts were created by M & C Saatchi and MindShare carried out the media buying .

Northanger Abbey was the second of the Austen adaptations to be shown in the UK . It was broadcast on ITV at 9 : 00 pm on 25 March 2007 . The drama aired on the TVOntario channel in Canada on 16 December 2007 . Northanger Abbey was shown on 20 January 2008 on the US channel PBS as part of their Austen Masterpiece Theatre series . On 15 June , the film was broadcast on Australia 's ABC1 channel .

= = = Home media = = =

Northanger Abbey was released on a single disc DVD and as part of a box @-@ set in the UK on 26 March 2007 . The Region 1 DVD was released on 22 January 2008 . In April of that year , ITV announced they would be making a range of classic programmes , including the adaptation of Northanger Abbey , available to purchase through the iTunes Store .

= = Reception = =

Upon its first broadcast in the United Kingdom , Northanger Abbey was viewed by 5 @.@ 6 million people and had a 26 @.@ 6 % audience share . This made it the second most popular of the adaptations , behind Mansfield Park . 931 @,@ 000 Australians watched the drama when it aired on ABC1 in June 2008 . Northanger Abbey garnered mostly positive reviews from critics . Shortly before it aired in the UK , reporters for four newspaper publications selected the drama as their " Pick of the Day . " Jade Wright of the Liverpool Echo thought the adaptation had showed " a good @-@ natured and frank Catherine " , with Jones managing to " combine humility and humour with perfect aplomb . " Wright praised the decision to cast Mulligan and said the actress " shone " as Isabella . A The Guardian reporter included Northanger Abbey in their feature on the week 's television highlights , saying " Yes , yes , more Austin [sic] , but Andrew Davies ' adaptation of one of her lighter novels is the perfect Sunday evening blend of eruditeness and pretty frocks . "

The Sydney Morning Herald 's Lenny Ann Low also praised the cast and their performances , stating " Lush with straining bosoms , knowing looks and segments bringing Morland 's wild dreams and fantasies to life , Northanger Abbey is well cast . Felicity Jones catches Morland 's mix of youthful naivety , heart @-@ whole feelings and mindful beliefs perfectly and J.J. Feild , as the dishy but sensible Tilney , grows in appeal as this feature @-@ length drama builds to a climax . " Low 's colleague , Joyce Morgan later selected Northanger Abbey as one of the week 's best television programmes . However , Ruth Ritchie , writing for the same newspaper , stated that the makers of the adaptation tried " desperately to create an air of mystery about the dastardly deeds at Northanger Abbey , " but the audience knew it was about as scary as " a ninja turtle . " Ritchie likened the ITV Austen adaptations to a " Posh Country Home and Away . " Mary McNamara of the Los Angeles Times wrote " Northanger Abbey the novel was as fun as it gets for Austen , and the television film quite lives up to the same standard . "

Ginia Bellafante , a critic for The New York Times , proclaimed the drama gave the audience " innocent faces and heaving breasts , hyperbolizing the sex that always lurks beneath the surface of Austen 's astringent presence . " She went on to say Northanger Abbey was made to be a television

movie and commented that it was more fun than the book . The San Francisco Chronicle 's David Wiegand wrote " Persuasion is a bigger challenge to try to squeeze into 90 minutes , the real difference between that film and Northanger is the latter 's consistency of high @-@ quality performances , a careful and attentive adaptation by Andrew Davies and solid direction by Jon Jones . " Writing for The Daily Telegraph , James Walton observed " Northanger Abbey was a perfectly acceptable costume drama ? but not one that ever really caught fire . " Simon Hoggart , writing for The Spectator , commented that Davies 's adaptation of Northanger Abbey " was much bolder and more confident than Mansfield Park the week before . "

The Hollywood Reporter 's Ray Bennett praised Northanger Abbey , calling it " a wonderfully evocative version " , which was " written with flair and imagination by Andrew Davies " . He proclaimed " Capturing vividly the flush and wonder of adolescence , the film mines Austen 's first @-@ written but last @-@ published novel to find purest nuggets of wit , romance and social satire . The story 's 18th @-@ century heroine , Catherine Morland , has a fevered imagination and Davies draws on Austen 's droll illustrations of it to create scenes of gothic adventure . " Bennett added " the film is shot beautifully by Ciarán Tanham while composer Charlie Mole 's score adds to the quickening pace of Catherine 's fantasies . " For his work on Northanger Abbey , cinematographer Tanham was nominated for Best Director of Photography at the 5th Irish Film and Television Awards .