

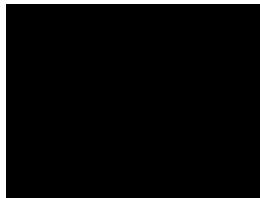
Neil Jordan: *The Crying Game* (1992)

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- **The Imaginary:** the internalized image of the Ideal-I.
 - Imaginary is situated around idea of coherence rather than fragmentation.
- **The Symbolic:** involves formation of signifiers and language.
 - entire system of the unconscious/conscious manifests in an endless web of signifiers, signifieds and associations (chains of signification).
 - The symbolic is the "determining order of the subject" (J. Hillis Miller).
- **The Real:** that which resists representation, what is pre-mirror, pre-imaginary, pre-symbolic; what cannot be symbolized; what loses its "reality" once it is symbolized (made conscious) through language.
 - We desire the real. We want to "enunciate" reality--can't ever happen.

And more memory lane...

- **Oedipal Complex**
- **Castration:** the threat of **castration** is a metaphor for the idea of lack as a structural concept. Woman acts as phallic substitute.
- **Interpellation:** "I" am "hailed" into subjectivity (existence) by Ideological State Apparatus (ISA)
 - Cultural institutions construct ISA's.



Institution Ideologies Vary

- Different cultural institutions create different symbolic moral orders.
 - The symbolic moral order: body of unwritten social mores and conventions which serve to maintain societal order (coherence).
- Patriarchal institutions promise men greater access to and mediation of resources and rewards of authority structures inside and outside the home.
- Patriarchal institutions control the desire of all units of (re)production in order to (re)produce male power and authority in future generations.

Basic Question #1

- Is there a connection between human sexual **desire** and human sexual **reproduction**?
 - Estrus: regularly recurring period in female mammals other than humans during which the animal is sexually receptive. Oestrus occurs around the time of ovulation. Also called heat.
 - The Great Apes: humans, chimps, gorillas, orangatans.
 - Estrus & Bonobo Monkeys (Pygmy Chimpanzee)
 - Gangestad & Thornhill: "Human Oestrus" (May 2008)
- Answer: yes and no.
 - Human sexual desire serves multiple functions.
 - All desire involves excess: "real" desire is inarticulate within the Symbolic.

Basic Question #2

- Why naturalize sexual desire as solely a by-product of sexual reproduction?
 - Naturalizing: "a process whereby social, cultural, and historical constructions" are internalized as "evidently natural."
- Answer: To enable a specific ideology to control humankind's most basic resource: future humans.
 - Symbolic "Law" of Patriarchy: Ideal-I is heterosexual (male--preferably white). Any desire that fails to reproduce (or sustain) patriarchy is "perverse, unnatural"--outside the law.
 - It's the wise man who knows his own son...
 - Control sexuality, control desire, control inheritance.

Sustaining Moral Order

- Julia Kristeva & signifying chains: we develop sense of self as we learn to see ourselves in the mirror provided by cultural institutions. To change what we see in that mirror requires new signifying chains.
 - Agnes of God: Schizophrenic or saint?
- Judith Butler's theory of Performativity: Our most personal private acts are scripted by social conventions & ideologies. For any hegemony to maintain power requires continual repetition of scripts for gender behavior.

Mulvey "woman as phallus" (438)

- Always a balancing act (440).
- Allen Jones: sculptor, painter, reflector of the fetish (436, 439).
- Fetishism in Jones's art reveals woman as mass media spectacle, not the "perversion" of a few, but the (pre) occupation of the symbolic order itself (441).

