

The Trial of Oscar Wilde

Relevant to

Modules about nineteenth and twentieth-century British history. This lecture and film are also of interest to students interested in LGBT+ history.

Background

In 1895 Oscar Wilde was put on trial for “gross indecency” – in other words, for having sexual relations with other men. In 1960, Granada Television's On Trial series recreated the trial using documents from the time, to produce a docu-drama. You can watch Dr Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite give an introductory lecture to the film, in which she sets out the background to the passage of the 1885 law which criminalised all sexual acts between men, as well as to Wilde's trial, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=su3lsmv61sA>.

And then watch the 1960 film here: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-the->