

## **Pride and prejudice (and racism)**

“Invictus” is a film about Nelson Mandela and his efforts to unite the people of his country through rugby. The movie is a historical drama based on real events and was directed by Clint Eastwood. It starred Morgan Freeman as Nelson Mandela and Matt Damon as Francois Pienaar. The film was nominated for several Golden Globe and Academy awards and has won several other awards.

“Invictus” takes place in 1995 in the Republic of South Africa. The movie focuses on Nelson Mandela, an anti-apartheid revolutionary and the first black head of state of South Africa, and Francois Pienaar, the captain of the national rugby team, the Springboks. The movie follows Mandela as he gets out of prison and becomes president. Soon after becoming president, Mandela goes to see a game of rugby where he notices that all the black citizens of South Africa are cheering for the opposing team because of what their own team represents. After the match, the president is determined to see the Springboks win the World Cup and in doing so unite the divided nation. The film follows the Springboks’ journey to train and compete in the World Cup and Mandela’s pursuit of a united nation.

The film itself has quite an expected ending and it was very odd that nothing ever seemed to go terribly wrong, which is something that most movies rely on to make the climax of the movie that much more satisfying and the stakes much higher. What the film lacked in excitement, it made up in cinematography and costume design. The scenes were beautifully shot, showing the stark difference between the richer and poorer parts of South Africa not only through architecture and living conditions but also through the clothing.

The film was overall entertaining to watch. It touches on the themes of racism and social prejudices, which are still highly relevant to this day. It will give the viewer a better understanding of racial issues and is worth a watch.