

Secrets and Lies

Mike Leigh

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Mike Leigh : Secrets and Lies before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secrets and Lies:

Secrets Lies was awarded the Palme d'Or for Best Film at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival. It tells the story of Hortense,

a young black Londoner who goes in search of her birth mother. Hortense's voyage of discovery leads her to Cynthia - a depressed, unmarried, white woman who has uneasy relationships with both her second daughter and her brother. Hortense's attempt to uncover the hidden, almost forgotten, world of her parents fundamentally affects each of the characters. The film culminates in a lunch party at which the characters reveal the secrets that have blighted their lives, and with this outpouring of truth comes the possibility of renewal.

About the Author Born in Salford, Manchester, in 1943, Mike Leigh has developed a unique method of creating films through controlled improvisations. After his debut *Bleak Moments* (1971) he made a succession of admired TV plays, including *Abigail's Party* and *Nuts in May*. He then returned to feature films: *High Hopes* (1988), *Life is Sweet* (1990), *Naked* (1993). *Secrets and Lies* won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1996. *Topsy-Turvy* (1999) won two Oscars. *All or Nothing* followed in 2002. Since then he has made the Oscar-nominated *Vera Drake* (2004), which won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, *Happy-Go-Lucky* (2008) and *Another Year* (2010). He also did *Two Thousand Years* for the National Theatre in 2005.