



Blood Diamond

Summary

This is a political thriller, fast-paced and at times brutal, which has international ramifications. As civil war rages through 1990s Sierra Leone, 3 central characters: Solomon Vandy, a Mende fisherman (Djimon Hounsou); Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio), a 31-year-old South African; and Maddy Bowen (Jennifer Connelly), a liberal journalist and war chaser, become entangled in a common quest to recover a rare gem, that Solomon has previously hidden, in the hope of transforming their lives.

Solomon's family has been dispersed and his 10-year old son abducted and turned into a murderous boy soldier by the bloodthirsty revolutionary army. Solomon had been made to work as a slave in the rebels' illegal diamond mine and later meets up with Danny who is a self-styled soldier of fortune, being a mercenary and a diamond smuggler.

The film explores chief issues that concern modern-day Africa - post-colonial instability, tribal warfare, illegal diamond trading, the brutal conscription and indoctrination of boy soldiers. On their quest to find the diamond Danny, who represents shallow realism with the instinct and skill to survive, and Solomon who is a gentle idealist, representing hope, peaceful resolution and the love of family, develop an understanding that Africa is an integral part of them both.

Duration: 143 mins

Classification: 15