

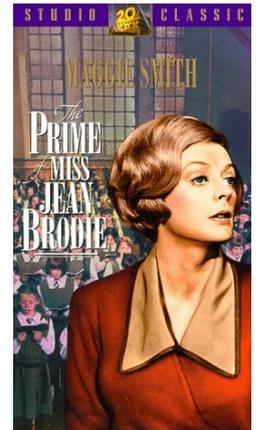
Muriel Spark

Screen adaptations

Muriel Spark had a life-long fascination with cinema and many of her books were adapted for television or cinema.

- ◆ ***The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, Ronald Neame (1969)**

Probably the best-known adaptation of Muriel Spark's work, this version of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* was based on the 1966 play adaptation of Jay Presson Allen (starring Vanessa Redgrave). The film was very successful and won many awards, including Best Actress for Maggie Smith at the Academy Awards and BAFTA.



- ◆ ***Nasty Habits*, Michael Lindsay-Hogg (1977)**

Based on *The Abbess of Crewe*, this British comedy film starred Glenda Jackson and tells the story of two nuns in a Philadelphia convent who battle out to be elected to the position of head abbess.



- ◆ ***The Driver's Seat*, Giuseppe Patroni Griffi (1975)**

Renamed *Identikit* in the U.S., this film in Italy by director Giuseppe Patroni Griffi starred Elizabeth Taylor and featured Andy Warhol. *The Driver's Seat* was also adapted for theatre and directed in 2015 by Laurie Sansom, for the National Theatre of Scotland.

- ◆ ***The Girls of Slender Means*, Moira Armstrong (1975), BBC2**

This television production was adapted by English screenwriter Ken Taylor. A BBC Radio adaptation followed on BBC Radio 4 in 1998 as part of *The Saturday Play* series.

- ◆ ***Memento Mori*, Jack Clayton (1992) - part of Screen Two, BBC**

The director of This TV production (starring Maggie Smith) had spent many years trying to set up a film of the Muriel Spark's novel but was repeatedly told that too many of the leading characters were old people for any film version to be a box-office success. This is why it became a TV movie, using the same screenplay that he had prepared for the cinema.

- ◆ ***The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1978), STV**

Geraldine McEwan starred in this 7 episodes series produced by Scottish Television. This adaptation differed from others as it imagined episodes in the lives of the characters rather than only recapitulate the plot of the novel.



- ◆ ***The Ballad of Peckham Rye*, Alan Bridges (1962), part of Studio 4, BBC**

The novel for this TV production was adapted by Roger Smith, who has since worked on most of Ken Loach's films.

You can find more information about Muriel Spark and about the many events organised across the country to celebrate her centenary on

www.murielspark100.com.

