

Denial – Review

Rachel Weisz and Timothy Spall star in this dramatisation of the **libel** case between historian Deborah Lipstadt and Holocaust **denier** David Irving, and Lipstadt's extraordinary story doesn't **disappoint**.

Lipstadt's problems begin when Irving launches a libel suit against her in the UK — where the onus of **proof** is on the author herself. To **win**, she must prove in a court of law that the Holocaust really happened — which is much **harder** than it sounds. Lipstadt assumes this will be achieved by allowing the **testimonies** of Auschwitz **survivors** to be heard.

However, her legal team stonewalls this **option** on the basis that it will give Irving the opportunity to cross-examine the **victims** (past experience has shown survivors often get small **details** wrong, leaving them open to **ridicule** and humiliation.)

Much of the film's success can be **attributed** to the **calibre** of the three central performances. Timothy Spall is insidiously charismatic as David Irving, the self-taught Nazi historian who challenges the very existence of Auschwitz's gas chambers. Rachel Weisz puts fire in the belly of the **ferociously** intelligent and ethically-demanding Lipstadt herself, a **passionate** advocate for the victims of Hitler's **genocide**.



The script by famed playwright and Oscar-nominated screenwriter David Hare (Damage, The Hours) is undeniably **strong** – making parallels between the notorious Irving and Trump – both are men who use hate-filled ramblings backed-up with flawed evidence to achieve fame.

Directed by workman filmmaker Mick Jackson (The Bodyguard), Denial isn't overtly cinematic. There are little to no **stylish** flourishes leaving the movie feeling a lot like a BBC TV film. Yet, for fans of

courtroom dramas or people who just enjoy seeing great character actors sink their teeth into a meaty script, Denial is more than worth the price of admission.