

A United Kingdom – Review

Amma Asante's third film is a **tastefully** made true-life story, based around a forgotten romance that caused familial, national and international **strife**. A United Kingdom tells the inspiring true story of Seretse Khama, the King of Bechuanaland (modern day Botswana), and Ruth Williams, the London office worker he married in 1948 in the face of **fierce** opposition from their families and the British and South African governments. Seretse and Ruth **defied** family, Apartheid and **empire** and their love triumphed over every **obstacle** flung in their **path**. In doing so they transformed their **nation** and inspired the world.



Through **illness**, exile and **unrelenting** pressure, the couple's commitment to each other is the only constant. Their relationship **glides** romantically along on the surface while political **turmoil** boils away **underneath**. Its **plea** for tolerance isn't **subtle**, but it's a story that deserves to be told.

Even Winston Churchill plays a significant (albeit off-camera) role in determining the couple's **fate**. Building on the public's interest in the star-crossed lovers, Churchill **campaigns** with a promise to allow them to return to Bechuanaland.



This politically charged love story is beautifully told even as the timeline of events is rearranged and **compressed** for a two-hour film. It's a welcome reminder that, even in the **direst** of situations and in the most impossible of times, love can indeed **trump** hate.