

Movies about the Romantics or the Romantic Period

Conceiving Ada 1997

A contemporary setting, with a computer expert finding a way to communicate with Byron's daughter, Ada. More about computers than about Romanticism.

Gothic 1986

Ken Russell's account of the summer of 1816 when the Byron and the Shelley's embark on a contest to see who can write the best scary story, resulting in *Frankenstein*. A very dark picture (visually and in tone), and weird. Good cast, though, with Gabriel Byrne as Byron, Julian Sands as Shelley.

Haunted Summer 1988

The same subject matter as *Gothic*, but lighter. I like this one a lot. Eric Stoltz looks a lot like Shelley, but Byron is a disappointment.

Pandaemonium 2000

Framed by an 1813 party at which Wordsworth (and everyone) expects (wrongly) to receive the announcement that he has been chosen the next poet laureate, this film consists of flashbacks about the relationship between Wordsworth and Coleridge from 1795-ish to 1813, with a little coda later. Historical inaccuracies, but fun.

Rowing with the Wind 1988

Just awful, another look at the Shelley/Byron relationship. Hugh Grant is Byron, and Liz Hurley is Claire Clairmont (with very big eyebrows).

Lady Caroline Lamb 1972

Another really awful one, but irresistible nevertheless. Sara Miles is Byron's stalker, and Richard Chamberlain is an abusive Byron.

Also relevant:

Frankenstein

several versions, none true to the book. Stay away from the Andy Warhol version unless you like really, really gross stuff and graphic sex and violence. The 3-D glasses don't help.

For the period:

Any of the Jane Austen films: (all really well done)

Emma (and then see *Clueless*)

Mansfield Park

Persuasion

Pride and Prejudice

Sense and Sensibility

Also the Brontes:

Jane Eyre

Wuthering Heights

Even Dickens, though historically later, can give you some insights into living conditions:

David Copperfield

Great Expectations (not the one with Gwyneth)

Nicholas Nickleby

Oliver Twist

Pee Wee's Big Adventure has remarkable similarities with *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.