

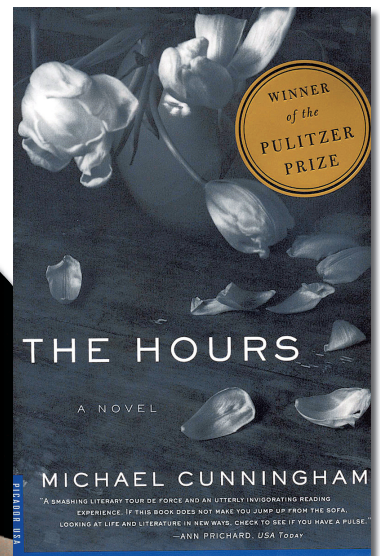
## Interview with Michael Cunningham author of the novel *The Hours* (2000)



DVD

### The story on screen so far...

In the second film extract we are going to listen to Michael Cunningham, author of the novel *The Hours*, talking about what attracted him to Virginia Woolf's novel, *Mrs Dalloway*, and why he decided to make a modern, and very original, adaptation of her work.



### Over to you

- 1** Before you watch look at the following list of things Cunningham mentions and match them with a definition on the right.

A	B
book mobile	short sleep
errands	nothing special
nap	mobile library
ordinary	shopping

- 2** Cunningham also mentions Jimmy Hendrix. Who was he? If you don't know find out.

- 3** Now watch and listen and answer true or false.

- |  |                            |                            |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The first time Michael Cunningham read <i>Mrs Dalloway</i> he was 19 years old. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2. He was a very intelligent boy.  | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3. He didn't understand the novel when he read it.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4. He was fascinated by the language.  | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5. He thought the plot was very complicated.                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 6. He thinks Virginia Woolf was a genius.  | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 7. He fell in love with the novel.   | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

- 4** Michael Cunningham gives a very brief summary of the plot. Listen to this part again and fill in the missing words.

'Here's what it's ..... (1). A middle-aged, ..... (2), London woman runs some ..... (3) on a day in ..... (4). Has a ..... (5) with a man she might have ..... (6) but didn't. Takes a ..... (7) and gives a ..... (8) party. That's the ..... (9).

- 5** Cunningham says 'It is an ordinary day in the life of an ordinary person as told by a genius.' What do you think he means by this? Choose 1 or 2.

- In the novel, *Mrs Dalloway*, it is not the story which is important but how the story is told.
- The novel was successful because it was simple.

- 6** He also says 'I remember thinking, Oh she [Virginia Woolf] was doing with language something like what Jimmy Hendrix does with a guitar.' Is the analogy between language and music an effective one? Why? Why not? How did Jimmy Hendrix play his guitar?