

Hello guys ! Today we are going to work on the film poster of the film *The fighting Sullivans*. We are going to discover more on this film and try to see how soldiers are portrayed.

WW2: Guts and Glory.



Look at the film poster and date the film. Explain your reasons.

Describe it and discuss how the soldiers are portrayed.

This is a poster for a war film which was probably made a long time ago for an old war film because it is not a picture, it is a drawing. Most old film posters were drawn like this.

Various elements of the film appear on the poster, as if the producers wanted to show all the aspects of the movie to attract all kinds of audiences.

→ montrer autant d'éléments que possible sur une affiche était primordial pour une simple et bonne raison : les bandes annonces ne sont apparues que dans les années 60-70. Avant cela, les potentiels spectateurs n'avaient donc pas la possibilité de voir des extraits du film avant de se rendre au cinéma. Il était donc essentiel que l'affiche soit très attractive, complète pour donner envie aux gens d'aller voir le film, d'où ce collage pour ce film.

The film *The Fighting Sullivans* was released in 1944, so during the Second World War.

How are the soldiers portrayed ?

In this poster, the soldiers are shown as obedient and disciplined since we can see several of them lined up at the bottom of the poster, and they are saluting. They seem proud and dedicated. If they are so disciplined, it means that the army has trained them well: they are welltrained.

Their salute expresses their obedience/allegiance to the army and their willingness to go to war. So they are shown as courageous/ brave/bold.

If they are ready to go to war, it means they are ready to make a sacrifice, they're willing to leave their families and girlfriends behind, to sacrifice themselves so they are self-sacrificing.

They are also sure that the war they are fighting is a "good" war, that their reasons for fighting are justified.

Like the trailer of *We Were Soldiers*, this poster shows multifaceted military men: they are soldiers, but also husbands. They are able to be both loving and ruthless.

Their courage is also mentioned in the tagline at the top of the poster with words like "glory" and "fighting".

Even the title has been changed from "The Sullivans" to "The Fighting Sullivans" so that the movie could immediately be identified as a war film.

These soldiers are the best, they are "the guts and glory of the fighting navy", they are brave, they have guts, and they are glorious.

Their courage is enhanced, magnified in this poster. They are glorified.

Guts = mot familier qui renvoie au courage, on pourrait le traduire par cran.

Now that we've seen how the soldiers are portrayed, I think it is interesting to put the film poster in relation with the context of the period when the film was released.

1944, many countries are at war and many American men are fighting the Nazis in Europe, far from their families. Montrer les soldats comme des héros étaient très importants. Cela poussait la population civile à participer à l'effort de guerre pour soutenir les soldats et cela pouvait aussi motiver certaines personnes à s'enrôler dans l'armée et à prendre part au combat. D'autant plus que pendant la Seconde Guerre Mondiale, l'ennemi était le Nazisme. Le gouvernement américain voulait défendre la liberté face à l'oppression nazie. Rappelez vous de ce que nous avons vu lors de la dernière séquence, le rapport des Etats Unis à la liberté... De jeunes américains se battant pour la liberté des peuples opprimés... quoi de plus héroïque ?

Written expression :

Look at the film poster again and imagine the plot of the film.

→ Vous pouvez me rendre ce travail jusqu'à vendredi.