



***The Dammed United* (15), 27/3/2009, 98 minutes, UK**

Adapted from the book *The Dammed United: David Peace*, by Peter Morgan, directed by Tom Hooper.

The Author

Yorkshire born and bred David Peace has written nine books and they are all largely set in and around the area of Yorkshire. He has recently branched out setting his latest trilogy in Tokyo, where he now lives, in the Postwar period.

Other Books

- *GB84*
- *Nineteen Seventy – Four*
- *Nineteen Seventy – Seven*
- *Nineteen Eighty*

Plot Summary

The Dammed United is the story of Brian Clough's forty-four days in charge of Leeds United. Occasionally we see flashbacks to Clough's earlier career as a player and at Derby County.

The Reviews

The film is a close adaptation, which works hard to overcome the difficulties in taking this from football book to dramatic film. As *Empire* says, "the film struggles to find its stride." *Empire's* final verdict is that the film is "a brilliantly candid, if bitty, football parable." *Time* magazine said that it was "a film worth seeking out."



The Adaptation

London born Peter Morgan, who gained his degree from the University of Leeds, is a screenwriter and play write, who broke through writing *The Deal*, the TV Drama about the deal Tony Blair made with Gordon Brown about the leadership of the Labour Party. He was award nominated for his next two projects, *The Queen* and *The Last King of Scotland*.

Other Films

- *The Queen*
- *Frost/Nixon*
- *The Last King of Scotland*

The main challenges Peter Morgan faced in adapting the book was whether to write it as a kind of love story between Brian Clough and Peter Taylor (his number two) or a hate story between Brian Clough and Don Revie. This became a highly controversial film which upset some in the football community. One of the original Leeds players, Johnny Giles, fought a legal action to clarify that *The Damned United* was fiction based on fact. Clough's family were very unhappy with *The Damned United*.