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To begin this comparing and contrasting of the films *Mansfield Park*, I'd like to state that I prefer the 1999 version over the 2007 *Mansfield Park*. The 1999 adaptation may take a bit more liberties, but it made me like Fanny more. It was hard for me to love her in the books as I like my heroines more like Lizzie. Furthermore, I felt more chemistry from the main couple in this version as well. The 2007 version just cut out too much from Jane Austen's original for my taste.

*Mansfield Park* has been depicted to the screen quite a few times however the two versions for this topic is the 1999 version starring Frances O'Connor and Jonny Lee Miller versus the 2007 version with Billie Piper and Blake Ritson. Both adaptations have excellent points about them. But which does the romance between Fanny and Edmund show? Which on-screen version best brings to life Jane Austen's classic movie? As we continue on it is my hope to discover how these two differ and also similarities.

I believe that the 1999 *Mansfield Park* has a seasoned vibe to it. This version represents the themes of the novel in darker ways. From Maria getting caught in the act with Henry, the family's connection with slavery, to the poverty of Fanny's family, the movie offers it all in stark detail. This adaptation does deviate a bit from the books in this way however. I think perhaps they were trying to appeal to non-Austen fans as well or just intermingle Fanny with a little of

Jane Austen herself. For instance, Fanny's character is truly charming, an independent young woman who wants to become a writer. She is witty, loyal, and passionate. It's a contrast to the Fanny in the classic novel. In Austen's work, she was quiet and shy. And while this Fanny is still rather shy, I liked the more vocal Fanny Price here. Her relationship with Edmund is even more passionate in this depiction.

You can feel the unspoken tension between the two throughout the film for starters. Edmund is attracted to Mary Crawford, but I always believed he was doing it to ignore his true feelings towards Fanny. They both believe that they shouldn't be together, but they can't deny their feelings over time, having multiple romantic close calls during the movie. Their interactions are definitely more heated than in the other adaptation. I will never forget that almost kiss. Jonny Lee Miller also made a great Edmund, but then again, Miller knows how to play an Austen character like a pro. In short, the 1999 version has a bit more spice.

The 2007 TV adaptation captures the Jane Austen period drama spirit. Still, overall, there was a lack of screen time for important characters from Austen's book, like the Bertram sisters. I always felt this version, though charming, was rushed in its short 90 minute time frame. Fanny's family in Portsmouth doesn't even factor into the plot. There were also a lot of gaps in the movie that made it frustrating to watch. Nevertheless, there are merits to the film. Billie Piper's Fanny was truer to the book as Fanny suffers in silence a great deal and Billie Piper brought that to the screen extremely well. For instance, much like Austen's classic, Fanny Price was sweet, kind, and much more timid than Frances O'Connor's Fanny. Her romance with Edmund is closer to the novel as well.

Ritson and Piper made a charming pair, though their romance is quite different from that of Lizzie and Darcy's. They remind me of teenagers with crushes on each other at the prom, with one who must make the first move. Their first kiss had just enough passion to make Austen fans cheer. As a whole, this version kept the tone of Austen's original novel much better.

I do feel that one of the advantages that the 1999 film had was the trueness to the novel while the 2007 had a modern feel that kind of ruined the original meaning of it. Another was that the actors were more relatable and I could feel their authenticity. Lastly, it was way easier to follow with the storyline, it was organized and way more captivating. Three deficits in 2007 was that it was a little unorganized and I felt myself getting bored. I also noticed that some of the moments that had sparks in 1999 were not in 2007 and it took away from the moments. Lastly, I liked the way Fanny was shown in 1999, 2007 failed to truly show her amazing personality and character.

Overall, the film mostly stays true to the story. Billie Piper gives Fanny the likable quality I find she gives in every character she plays (my favorite still being Rose in Doctor Who). She makes me feel what Fanny is feeling and I love that. The rest of the cast is mostly good too. From Hayley Atwell (Marvel's Peggy Carter) as Mary Crawford, Joseph Morgan (The Originals) as Fanny's brother, to James D'Arcy (Agent Carter) as Tom Bertram, there are several great shout outs to make from these actors who are now fan favorite characters on various TV shows. While brief, I have to confess as a huge Agent Carter fan, I loved seeing Jarvis and Peggy on screen together before they were Peggy and Jarvis. Still, a couple of the casting choices left me slightly hesitant.

I didn't love either Blake Ritson as Edmund or Joseph Beattie as Henry Crawford. Both of Fanny's men just didn't suit the parts. They were good (and I still did like them), just not great. Henry Crawford needed to be even more charming and Edmund needed to be more likable for the payoff to work in the end. This may just be my personal preference, however, and I advise everyone to judge for themselves. Certainly, this being a Jane Austen story, the love story is still wonderfully romantic.