

## PICK OF THE DAY



## LOVE WILL TEAR US APART... AGAIN

### IMAGINE... A LOVE STORY

BBC1, 10.35PM

**T**onight's *Imagine* tackles the subject that is that sometimes wondrous but all too often pesky little emotion we like to call Love (deserving of its capital letter status for the simple power it exerts over us and its inseparable links to the worlds of literature, film and music). This evening the team have set themselves the task of discovering what love stories can tell us about Love and what distinguishes a good story from a great one.

Given that it is an entirely subjective emotion, there is never going to be a concrete resolution to these questions, and part of me thinks that nor should there be. Still, the opinions of the various contributors make for some interesting discussion points and as a platform for further pondering; it certainly ticks a lot of boxes.

All the usual suspects pop up, from the ubiquitous *Pride and Prejudice* (a rare example of a 'love story' that has a happy ending) to the more controversial *Lolita*,

neither of which seem to be as popular as the 130,000,000 Mills & Boon books that are sold annually the world over.

The happily ever after notion is actually a rather elusive tenet of our favourite love stories: *Wuthering Heights*, which tops the novels, is about as far away from a happy ending as you can get and *Casablanca*, heading up the films, doesn't quite see Rick and Ilsa sashaying off into the sunset. But it seems that all our favourites have this in common: better a doomed love than no love at all, right?

There are many thoughtful contributions, not least the examples from biographer Claire Tomalin whose discussion about Thomas Hardy is fascinating; psychoanalyst Adam Phillips explaining why *Cinderella* is one of the world's most popular love stories and songwriter Hal David examining the beauty, and sorrow, behind '24 Hours from Tulsa'.

What could have been a trite 'best of' love stories, is instead a delightful exploration of a subject still unconquered by us mere mortals. **Jessica Hopkins**

### FILMS OF THE DAY

**TEXAS LADY**  
(Tim Whelan, 1955)  
CHANNEL 4, 1.45PM

Curious western, the final movie of an American director who did his best work in Britain in the 1930s while under contract to Alexander Korda. Claudette Colbert in her only western plays a crusading newspaper editor on the frontier, the stolid Barry Sullivan plays a gambler who falls for her, and Ray Collins (Boss Gettys in

*Citizen Kane* and Lieutenant Tragg in TV's *Perry Mason*) is the principal villain. The script is by hard-boiled novelist Horace McCoy, author of the pulp classic *They Shoot Horses Don't They?*

**BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN**  
(Ang Lee, 2005)  
FILM4, 9PM

Gore Vidal once said that all westerns have a gay subtext, and never has it come more affectingly to the sur-



face than in this deeply moving version of Annie Proulx's story about two 19-year-old cowboys (Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal) forming an intense homoerotic relationship on the range