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## The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

## Title: Dead Poets Society



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# Information

Release Title: Dead Poets Society – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1989 United Kingdom From: AKA: Release date: United States Origin: USA. Genre: ComedyDrama Disc Nos. - 1 Certification: PG Duration: 2hr 8m **Region Code:** Region: 2 Product Code: MPN: EAN: UPC: Languages: English, Latin Filming Locations: St. Andrew's School - 350 Noxontown Road, Middletown, Delaware, USA (school) Sound mix: Dolby Digital 5.1 Aspect ratio: 1:85:1



### Storyline

In 1959, Todd Anderson begins his junior year of high school at Welton Academy, an all-male preparatory boarding school in Vermont. Assigned one of Welton's most promising students, senior Neil Perry, as his roommate, he meets his friends: Knox Overstreet, Richard Cameron, Steven Meeks, Gerard Pitts, and Charlie Dalton.

On the first day of classes, the boys are surprised by the unorthodox teaching methods of new English teacher, John Keating. A Welton alumnus himself, Keating encourages his students to "make your lives extraordinary", a sentiment he summarizes with the Latin expression carpe diem ("seize the day").

Subsequent lessons include Keating having the students take turns standing on his desk to demonstrate ways to look at life differently, telling them to rip out the introduction of their poetry books which explains a mathematical formula used for rating poetry, and inviting them to make up their own style of walking in a courtyard to encourage their individualism. Keating's methods attract the attention of strict headmaster, Gale Nolan.

Upon learning that Keating was a member of the unsanctioned Dead Poets Society while at Welton, Neil restarts the club and he and his friends sneak off campus to a cave where they read poetry. As the school year progresses, Keating's lessons and their involvement with the club encourage them to live their lives on their own terms. Knox pursues Chris Noel, an attractive cheerleader who is dating Chet Danburry, a football player from a local public school whose family is friends with his.

Neil discovers his love of acting and gets the role as Puck in a local production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, despite the fact that his domineering father wants him to attend Harvard to study medicine. Meanwhile, Keating helps Todd come out of his shell and realize his potential when he takes him through an exercise in self-expression, resulting in his composing a poem spontaneously in front of the class.

Charlie publishes an article in the school newspaper in the club's name suggesting that girls be admitted to Welton. Nolan paddles Charlie to coerce him into revealing who else is in the Dead Poets Society, but he resists. Nolan also speaks with Keating, warning him that he should discourage his students from questioning authority. Keating admonishes the boys in his manner, warning that one must assess all consequences.

Neil becomes devastated after his father discovers his involvement in the play and demands he quit on the eve of the opening performance. He goes to Keating, who advises him to stand his ground and prove to his father that his love of acting is something he takes seriously. Neil's father unexpectedly shows up at the performance. He angrily takes Neil home and has him withdrawn from Welton and enrolled in a military academy. Lacking any support from his concerned mother, and unable to explain how he feels to his father, a distraught Neil commits suicide.

Nolan investigates Neil's death at the request of the Perry family. Cameron blames Neil's death on Keating to escape punishment for his own participation in the Dead Poets Society, and names the other members. Confronted by Charlie, Cameron urges the rest of them to let Keating take the fall. Charlie punches Cameron and is expelled. Each of the boys is called to Nolan's office to sign a letter attesting to the truth of Cameron's allegations, even knowing they are false. When Todd's turn comes, he is reluctant to sign, but does so after seeing that the others have complied and succumbs to his parents' pressure.

Keating is fired and Nolan, who taught English at Welton prior to becoming headmaster, takes over teaching the class, with the intent of adhering to traditional Welton rules. Keating interrupts the class to gather his leftover belongings. As he leaves, Todd reveals to Keating that the boys were intimidated into signing the paper that sealed his fate, and he assures Todd that he believes him. Nolan threatens to expel Todd. Todd stands up on his desk, with the words "O Captain! My Captain!", which prompts Nolan to threaten him again. The other members of the Dead Poets Society (except for Cameron), as well as several other students in the class, do the same, to Nolan's fury and Keating's pleased surprise. Touched by their support, Keating proudly thanks the boys and departs.

### Cast

Robin Williams as John Keating, new English teacher Robert Sean Leonard as Neil Perry Ethan Hawke as Todd Anderson Josh Charles as Knox Overstreet Gale Hansen as Charlie Dalton Dylan Kussman as Richard Cameron Allelon Ruggiero as Steven Meeks James Waterston as Gerard Pitts Norman Lloyd as Dr. Gale Nolan, headmaster of Welton Academy Kurtwood Smith as Thomas Perry, Neil's controlling father Alexandra Powers as Chris Noel, Knox's love interest, a cheerleader at Ridgeway High. Melora Walters as Gloria Welker White as Tina Leon Pownall as George McAllister, Latin teacher[6] George Martin as Dr. Hager, mathematics teacher Carla Belver as Mrs. Perry, Neil's mother who is scared of her husband. Jane Moore as Mrs. Danburry Kevin Cooney as Joe Danburry, Chet's father and a friend of Knox's family. Colin Irving as Chet Danburry, Chris's boyfriend and a football player at Ridgeway High. Matt Carey as Kurt Hopkins, a student at Welton. John Cunningham as Mr. Anderson Lara Flynn Boyle as Ginny Danburry, Chet's younger sister (scenes deleted)

### Certification

Argentina:Atp Australia:PG Brazil:12 Canada:PG (Canadian Home Video Rating) Canada:14 (Nova Scotia) Canada:G (Quebec) Egypt:Not Rated (DVD rating) Finland:S France:Tous publics Iceland:L India:U Indonesia:13+ (self-applied) Ireland:PG Israel:12 (self-applied) Italy:T Japan:PG12 (2016) Malaysia:U Mexico:B Netherlands:AL New Zealand:PG Norway:10 Peru:14 Philippines:PG (self-applied) Poland:0 (self-applied) Portugal:M/12 (Qualidade) Russia:6+ Singapore:PG Singapore:PG13 (re-rating, Disney+ rating) South Africa:13 South Africa:PG (original rating) South Korea:12 (2016, DVD) South Korea:All (1990, theatrical rating) South Korea:18 (1990, video rating) Spain:13 Sweden:11 Taiwan:0+ Thailand:13+ (self-applied) Turkey:G United Kingdom:PG United States:PG (certificate #29797) United Arab Emirates:PG-15 (self-applied) West Germany:12

Sex & Nudity Mild Violence & Gore Mild Profanity Mild Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking Mild Frightening & Intense Scenes Moderate

