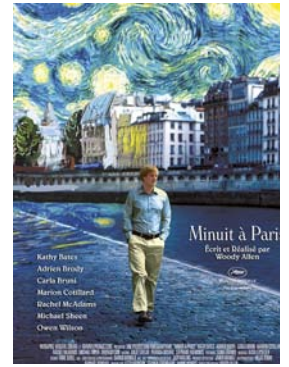


Movies & Languages 2012-2013

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Woody Allen
YEAR / COUNTRY	2011 / USA, Spain
GENRE	Comedy/ Fantasy/ Romance
ACTORS	Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates, Adrien Brody, Carla Bruni, Marion Cotillard



PLOT

"Midnight in Paris" is a beautiful display of what movie magic can truly be. It gives that sense of wonder, long gone from contemporary cinema. This is a movie that entertains and educates.

The film is set in several time periods, and Paris glows intensely and seductively in every one of those showing lovely architectural details and its magnificent landmarks in the superb and lovely recreations of older time periods. We are seduced, charmed, and inspired to discover what a special place Paris is and what a truly magical film Woody Allen has created. Paris bewitches us with every light, every facade, and every heartbeat of its music

The actor's performances are outstanding.

Gil (Owen Wilson) and Inez (Rachel McAdams) travel to Paris with her mother and father. Gil is a successful Hollywood writer but is struggling on his first novel. He falls in love with the city and thinks they should move there after they get married, but Inez does not share his romantic notions of the city or the idea that the 1920s was the golden age. They are both quite different in their appreciation of what being in Paris means. She understands it's a special dream place for artists to find inspiration, but wants to live in Malibu.

One night, Gil wanders into the streets of Paris, gets lost and is rescued by a party of night socialites who turn out to be quite famous in some literary circles. Soon, the screenwriter/aspiring writer has an opportunity to see himself living one of his dreams as well as slowly experiencing surprising epiphanies as he discovers more and more who his new acquaintances are.

Wilson successfully inhabits the Allen persona adding his own personal touch. With many funny and clever observations, uttered honesty, innocently and with a complete sense of wonder. Wilson allows us to see his adventures in a fresh light with the perfect balance of sight and sounds, keeping this masterpiece the best Allen has ever written.

LANGUAGE

American, French, and Spanish accents displaying some idiomatic English.

GRAMMAR

MUST (HAVE) AND CAN'T (HAVE)

We use *must* to say we are sure that something is true. For example:

- You've been travelling all day. You must be tired. (= I am sure that you are tired)
- I hear that your examinations are next week. You must be studying very hard at the moment.
(= I am sure that you are studying)
- Carole knows a lot about films. She must go to the cinema a lot.

We use *can't* to say something is impossible. For example:

- You've only just had dinner. You can't be hungry already. (= It is impossible that you are hungry)
- Tom said he would be here ten minutes ago and he is never late. He can't be coming.

VOCABULARY

A Cast: from an artist's sculpture	The Bard: William Shakespeare is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon"
Coincidence: a striking occurrence of two or more events at one time apparently by mere chance	A daze: a blurry or lost state of mind
Denial: a defense mechanism postulated by Sigmund Freud in which a person is faced with a fact that is too uncomfortable to accept	Crummy: something really small and quite pathetic
Epitaph: an inscription on or at a tomb or a grave in memory of the one buried there	A fluke: an accidental advantage; stroke of good luck
A flaw: an imperfection, often concealed	To chuckle: to laugh or giggle
A knockout: very pleasing to look at	Pedantic: characterized by a narrow, often ostentatious concern for book learning and formal rules
Prosaic: lacking in imagination and spirit	Smouldering: the slow, low-temperature, flameless form of combustion, sustained by the heat evolved when oxygen directly attacks the surface
A respite: a delay or cessation for a time	Bargains: advantageous purchases
Quarrel: a noisy dispute usually marked by anger	Veneer: a superficial or deceptively attractive appearance
Cognitive dissonance: psychological conflict resulting from simultaneously held incongruous beliefs and attitudes (as a fondness for smoking and a belief that it is harmful)	To succumb: to submit to an overpowering force or to an overwhelming desire
Deyrolle: the strangest shop in all of Paris originally owned by the French naturalist Emile Deyrolle	Tinkering: dabbling, idling, to handle thoughtlessly
To pry: to inquire impertinently or unnecessarily into someone's personal life	Idle chatter: trivial talk, babbling, gossip
Left field: (informal) a position far from the center or mainstream, as of thought or reason	One shot deal: being the only one and unlikely to be repeated