

# Movies & Languages Film Festival 2023-2024

## Oppenheimer

**About the movie** (in English with English subtitles)

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Christopher Nolan
<b>YEAR/COUNTRY</b>	2023/ USA
<b>GENRE</b>	Historical, Biography
<b>ACTORS</b>	Cillian Murphy, Florence Pugh, Robert Downey, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Josh Harnett



### PLOT

J. Robert Oppenheimer headed the Manhattan Project which created the atomic bomb during WWII (1942-1946). The film follows his university years (1920's/early 1930's), and then his romantic, family, and academic life, as well as his involvement with left wing intellectual friends, not to mention his overseeing of the project and his formidable help as a physicist in making the bomb (1930's/40's). These aspects of his personal and professional life are intermingled from the start to the end of the film with scenes from the hearings carried out by the US political establishment during the MCarthy years (early to mid-1950's) where he is accused of being a Communist and a Soviet collaborator.

### LANGUAGE

For the most part, the language is that of educated intellectuals and scientists.

### VOCABULARY

<b>A haven for independent minds:</b> a place where these minds can think peacefully	<b>To sour him on me:</b> to affect negatively his behavior towards me
<b>To cross examine:</b> when both the prosecution and the defense interrogate a person	<b>To detonate:</b> to start an explosion
<b>To scrape through:</b> to manage to escape from a bad situation	<b>Treason:</b> to go against the state/government
<b>Its demise:</b> its downfall	<b>A brat:</b> a spoiled irritating little child/person
<b>A little wiggle room:</b> to give a person some space both physically and intellectually so they don't feel trapped; little space in which they can move/operate	<b>Wishful thinking:</b> when someone thinks something or says something they know will probably not happen
<b>To be blacklisted:</b> to be excluded	<b>On a nightly basis:</b> regularly at night
<b>To tow the party line:</b> to follow what the political party you belong to wants	<b>To have levers to pull:</b> to know people with power and therefore be able to influence people
<b>Succinctly:</b> concisely	<b>FAECT:</b> the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists, and Technicians was a labor union from 1933 to 1946



<b>To wring your neck:</b> to strangle you	<b>A can of worms:</b> a saying used when something is particularly problematic and therefore could potentially cause a lot of problems
<b>AEC:</b> US Atomic Energy Commission	<b>To be tarred and feathered:</b> to be devastated literally or physically by someone or something
<b>Los Alamos:</b> a location in the desert in the US state of New Mexico	<b>To tell on a friend:</b> to tell other people what a friend has done
<b>To be upstaged:</b> to maneuver around a person in such a way that you become more important or dominant	<b>To expend resources:</b> to use time/energy/money to do something
<b>The rearview mirror:</b> the mirror in a car which allows you to see what is behind you	<b>Bomb bay:</b> the storage department for the bombs in an airplane
<b>Welder's glass:</b> the glass face shield that a metal worker looks through to protect his eyes	<b>It was chilling:</b> it was scary
<b>People hounded out of their jobs for any hint of red:</b> people forced to leave their jobs because they are suspected of being Communists	<b>To lift the stone without being ready for the snake:</b> to do something without being prepared for its bad consequences
<b>Power brokers:</b> people who have power and use it	<b>To pull yourself together:</b> to calm down and to begin to think rationally
<b>Ore:</b> a pure form of an element or mineral, like gold ore, or in this case uranium ore	<b>A prima donna:</b> a person who always wants to be the center of attention
<b>Oak Ridge:</b> the location in Tennessee where uranium was enriched	<b>To get sidetracked:</b> to become distracted and therefore not to think about what is important; the opposite of concentrating on the job
<b>The New Deal:</b> the US government reforms in the 1930's which helped people during the depression	<b>I was never one to bandy around terms:</b> I have always taken great care of the words I used
<b>Unleashing a strong force:</b> letting a strong force go freely	<b>Compartmentalization:</b> a division of something into sections or categories
<b>I've got some skeletons:</b> to have something in my past that could hurt me now	<b>Scattered:</b> dispersed in an unorganized way
<b>To be spread too thin:</b> when someone or something is not concentrated literally or physically, and consequently it becomes difficult for them/it to defend themselves	<b>To scrap something:</b> to throw it away or to ignore it as a possibility
<b>A disdain for:</b> an intense dislike for	<b>Break a leg:</b> saying meaning "good luck"
<b>To sever:</b> to cut in a definitive way	<b>Gallows humor:</b> dark and ironic humor in a desperate serious situation
<b>Candor:</b> to be open, direct, and honest	<b>To dredge it all up:</b> to pull things from the bottom of the sea/lake/river; figuratively to say all the bad things in a person's past
<b>To hold the dogs/McCarthy at bay:</b> to stop the dogs/McCarthy from attacking	<b>Amateurs who seek the sun get eaten, power stays in the shadows:</b> people who look to become famous and powerful are destroyed, whereas people who really are powerful don't make public what they do
<b>Disclosure:</b> something stated or made public officially	<b>To make mincemeat of:</b> to destroy
<b>Kangaroo court:</b> to make someone look guilty even though there is no evidence	<b>Qualm:</b> a disturbing feeling of doubt

