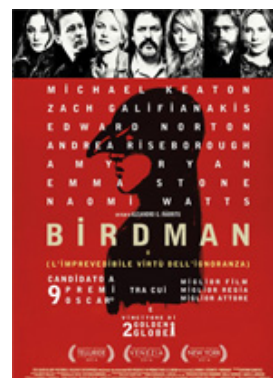


Movies & Languages 2015-2016

Birdman



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu
YEAR / COUNTRY	2015 / USA
GENRE	Black Comedy
ACTORS	M. Keaton, E. Norton, E.Watts, A. Ryan, Z. Galifianakis, A. Riseborough

FILM SUBTITLE 1	The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance
FILM SUBTITLE 2	<p>“And did you get what you wanted from this life, even so? And what did you want? To call myself beloved, to feel myself beloved on the earth”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A poem by Raymond Carver, engraved on his tombstone</p>

PLOT

20 years ago, Riggan Thompson played a Birdman trilogy blockbuster and is now trying to shake off the association with Birdman by branching out artistically and adapting a Raymond Carver story, directing, starring and co-producing his own Broadway play.....an ill-advised attempt, considering his inexperience working in the theatre and without the baggage of a traditional Broadway actor.

For the 2-hour film, Riggan is an object in constant, whirling motion, putting his play through bungled preview showings, lurching from one crisis to another, dealing with a cast of characters, especially a brilliant, wacky method actor, keen on stealing Riggan's thunder on stage, not to mention Riggan's own personal life in shambles. As opening night approaches, the pressure is causing Riggan to hallucinate and is visited by Birdman -his alter ego- ordering him to forget the theatre and reclaim his chief superpower: making movie megabucks. Will the play be a success or a flop?

The film won the Academy Award for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Cinematography; the Golden Globe for Best Screenplay and Best Actor.

LANGUAGE

Standard & Informal American English.

GRAMMAR

DESPITE / IN SPITE OF ALTHOUGH

DESPITE / IN SPITE OF + NOUN = ALTHOUGH + CLAUSE

Despite his strong accent, we understood him.

In spite of his strong accent, we understood him.

Although he had a strong accent, we understood him.

DESPITE / IN SPITE OF + GERUND = ALTHOUGH + CLAUSE

Despite having a strong accent, we understood him.

In spite of having a strong accent, we understood him

Although he had a strong accent, we understood him

DESPITE THE FACT THAT / IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT

Despite the fact that he had a strong accent, we understood him.

In spite of the fact that he had a strong accent, we understood him.

 Although he was the boss, he didn't earn much money.

Despite being the boss, he didn't earn much.

In spite of being the boss, he didn't earn much money.

Despite the fact that he was the boss, he didn't earn much money.

In spite of the fact that he was the boss, he didn't earn much money.

VOCABULARY

s.o. = something s.th. = something

*Informal American English

*a dump: an ugly & unpleasant place	*are you kidding?: are you joking? I don't believe you
to beat s.o. up: hit & kick s.o. viciously	*to hang around: stay in the same place doing nothing
buddy: pal, friend	the reserve is gone: there's no more money
*to screw s.th.up: to do something very badly	O. R.: Operating Room
an understudy: replacement, substitute	*cut it out: stop!
a full house: the theatre is sold out	*to ride on something: to depend on s.th. for success
the press: reporters, journalists	to break up with s.o.: to end a relationship
dressng room: a room where actors change clothes, put on costumes, make up etc.	*a joint: rolled marijuana cigarette
to sue s.o.: to make a legal claim against s.o., usually to get money	*you must be kidding: you must be joking
a franchise: a license (<i>diritto di esclusiva</i>)	a prop gun: theatrical property or "props" used in plays
*to fool around: behave in a foolish & irresponsible way	Truth or Dare: a party game where players take turns answering a question about one's life (Truth) or performing a funny or difficult task (Dare)
to threaten s.o.: to intimidate, menace	*break a leg: good luck!
s.o. who is *washed up: at the end of his career and no longer of any use, burnt out	callow: immature, inexperienced
*hang on: wait a minute	lackluster: mediocre, dull
does he sell tickets?: do people buy tickets to see a famous artist perform?	*to be hung over: to have a hangover, having drunk a lot of alcohol the night before
*dude, man: Hey, dude/man you can't park here!	*to blow a bank account: waste money foolishly
start from scratch: start again from the beginning	to soar: to fly