

Movies & Languages 2013-2014

To Rome with Love

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Woody Allen
YEAR / COUNTRY	2012 /Italy
GENRE	Romantic Comedy
ACTORS	Woody Allen, Alec Baldwin, Roberto Benigni, Penelope Cruz, Ornella Muti, Judy Davis, Jesse Eisenberg



PLOT

This script is best described as defining the *id* which is the part of the psyche residing within the unconscious, that is the source of instinctive impulses that seek satisfaction in accordance with the pleasure principle and are modified by the ego and the superego before they are given over expression. Once again Woody Allen has brilliantly depicted his characters through describing common situations with an unusual twist (very similar to how William Shakespeare communicated the trials and tribulations of life to the common folk throughout his career as a playwright). There are so many hidden messages on various levels of thought. It requires very careful attention to understand the intent behind all the funny scenes which fly past you while leaving you completely entertained. Alec Baldwin's figure (John) is displayed as the superego which according to Freud's psychoanalytic theory of personality, is the component of personality composed of our internalized ideals that we have acquired from our parents and from society. The superego works to suppress the urges of the *id* and tries to make the ego behave morally, rather than realistically. This is displayed in 5 different scenarios which are then subdivided even further thickening the plot and making the movie much more interesting and entertaining:

1. John (Alec Baldwin) meeting the young aspiring architect Jack studying in Rome walking the streets of Trastevere in search of his own past and is actually met by his own younger "self" (Jack) who he tries and tries to give advice to. Alas, the pangs of youthful desire and being swept away in the moment through an unexpected romance leave the young architect (Jack) swayed to his own dismay
2. Leopold Pisanello (Roberto Benigni) who exits his home one morning only to find himself suddenly famous, touches upon the theater of the absurd
3. Anna (Penelope Cruz) accidentally enters into yet another separate scene of similar impact reversing the roles of male dominance to female dominance.
4. Allen's brilliant timing switches again and again through the pure character of Milly (Alessandra Mastronardi) who meets Luke Jumps (Antonio Albanese) on a movie set quite by accident, but fulfilling her desires to always have wanted to be with someone famous.
5. Meanwhile, Allen exhibits an authentic self portrayal of who he really is as an opera director (Jerry) finding what he thinks is his final claim to fame by hiring his future son-in-law, Giancarlo (Fabio Armiliato), as an opera singer only to find out.....

This, as in all of Allen's movies, are documentaries of contemporary life bringing to us a rich display of answers, as did the Bard in his time, leaving us within the complexities of our own imposing existential questions of what is truly right for us?

LANGUAGE

Italian and English spoken with both American idiomatic English and Italian accents.

GRAMMAR

QUALITIES OF STYLE

Style is the manner in which one expresses himself, and in some respects it must reflect the writer. But there are some cardinal qualities which all good style must possess.

Perspicuity is opposed to obscurity and ambiguity, and so means *clearness of expression*. This is an indispensable quality; if the thought is not understood or is misunderstood, it might as well have been left unuttered. Perspicuity depends mainly upon these few things:

1. **one's clear understanding of what he attempts to say:** you cannot express to others more than you thoroughly know, or make your thought clearer to them than it is to yourself
2. **the unity of the sentence:** many thoughts or thoughts having no natural and close connection with each other should not be crowded into one sentence
3. **the use of the right words:** use such words as convey your thought, each word expressing exactly your idea, no more, no less, no other. Do not omit words when they are needed. Be cautious in the use of *he, she, it, they* etc.
4. **a happy arrangement:** the relations of words to each other should be obvious at a glance. The sentence should not need rearrangement to disclose the meaning, or to unite dislocated parts.

VOCABULARY

Atheist: a person who rejects the belief in the God of Christianity, but the moral teachings of Jesus are followed	Mortician: a person whose job is to prepare dead people to be buried and to arrange and manage funerals
Buzz words: trendy words used to impress and/or to obscure meaning	Name-dropping: the act of trying to impress someone by saying the names of well-known people that you know or have met
Bumpy: marked by bumps and jolts; rough (ex. a bumpy flight)	Pal: a friend, a chum; as a verb, to associate as friends (often used with <i>around</i>)
Con artist: a person who deceives other people by making them believe something false.	Pay off: profit, reward, retribution; the act or occasion of receiving money or material gain especially as compensation or as a bribe
Dishevelled: untidy, disarranged (ex. a dishevelled appearance)	Scare up: to find or get together with considerable labor or difficulty
Embellish: to beautify something by adding decorations to it; to ornament, to adorn; to enhance (a statement or narrative) with fictitious additions.	Showcase: to show someone or something in a way that attracts attention to and emphasizes their good qualities
Formaldehyde: a colourless pungent irritating gas used chiefly in aqueous solutions as a disinfectant and preservative and in chemical synthesis	Spoiled sport: someone who ruins the pleasure of others
Graphic: shown or described in a very clear way	Turned on: feeling great sexual desire or interest
Make your mark: be known for an invention or an achievement (idiom)	Ahead of your time: having very modern ideas (idiom)
Hook up later: to meet later (slang)	Non sequitur: a statement that is not connected in a logical or clear way to anything said before it