

Foreign Language Film Festival 2008-2009

Match Point



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Woody Allen
YEAR / COUNTRY	2005/Great Britain
GENRE	Drama/Murder mystery
ACTORS	Jonathan Rhys-Meyers (Chris Wilton), Scarlett Johansson (Nola Rice), Emily Mortimer (Chloe Wilton), Matthew Goode (Tom Hewett), Brian Cox (Alec Hewett), Penelope Wilton (Eleanor Hewett).

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PLOT

Chris Wilton is from a poor Irish family, but he is determined to succeed in life. He believes that one must not only work hard, but also be a little lucky. In meeting Chloe Wilton, an upper class English woman, he gets the chance that he has always dreamed of. In marrying her, he enters the English elite. He falls in love, however, with Nola who is a struggling actress from a poor American family. In beginning an affair with her, he questions if he really wants the success he desired before.

LANGUAGE

Most of the characters speak with an upper class English accent and use upper class English expressions, with the exception of Scarlett Johansson (Nola) who is American. It would be difficult to watch this film without subtitles.

GRAMMAR

- Relative clauses:

A clause which modifies a noun is usually introduced by a relative pronoun like *who*, *which* or *that*. There are two kinds of relative clauses. On the one hand, identifying relative clauses define a noun: "**There's the woman who tried to steal your cat**". The clause tells us which woman is meant.

In the film Chloe's mother warns her not to rush into a relationship with Chris, and adds that she isn't happy with Chloe's brother relationship:

Mother: **Chloe, be careful. Tom's involved with a woman (who) I have reservations about.**

'(who) I have reservations about.' defines 'woman'. On the other hand, non-identifying relative clauses don't define nouns: "**There's Scarlet O'Hara, who tried to steal your cat**". She has already been identified as Scarlet O'Hara.

In the film, when Chloe is talking to Chris, she mentions the man who has the job he will get:

Chloe: **You're so much more on the ball than Alan Sinclair, who's nice but, uninspiring.**

- Adjectives:

Adjectives occur in the following order in English:

	Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin	Material	Purpose	
a	silly		young			English			man
a		huge		round			metal		bowl
a		small			red			sleeping	bag

Sometimes idiomatic expressions can also be used as adjectives to describe things:

Chloe: You're so much more **on the ball** than Alan Sinclair, who's nice but, uninspiring.

'On the ball' is an idiomatic expression that means very attentive and quick. Another example is when Nola, Tom, and Tom's parents are talking about Nola's career as an actress. Tom's mother suggests that Nola is getting too old to continue trying to succeed as an actress. Tom's father says: "Eleanor, Nola isn't exactly **over the hill**". This idiomatic expression means 'too old.'

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VOCABULARY

Split second: un attimo	Cab: taxi
To get your kip: to get a meal	Perks: benefits
Geeser: tizio	Growse season: bird hunting season
Tough: strong	To be over the hill: to be too old
To hold your own: to remain constant and strong	Heal: tallone
Weird: strange	A bit of a grind: a bit difficult
A good sport: an understanding person	A big wheel: an important person
Clumsy: goffo	Steady: constant
To be an issue: to be a problem	2 peas in a pod: a happy couple
To mingle: to socialize	to turn on: to sexual agitate
To be off putting: to be disconcerting	Breathtaking: spectacular
To have his way with me: to do what he likes with me	To call something off: to cancel something
Make a living out of hustling: to make your living as a gigolo	To poison the well: to ruin the situation
To crash a party: to go to a party if you aren't invited	To be beat : to be very tired
Temperamental: changing moods easily	To bump into: to meet by chance
Anything juicy opened up: if a big opportunity happened?	Witch doctor: stregone
To be cross: to be angry	Brica brac: soprammobili
Stepping stone: an important step from one thing to another	To run in the family : something that is reoccurring in the family
Stuffy: boring and old fashion	To hail a cab: to call a taxi with your hand
Against all odds: against all probability	To be nuts : to be crazy
Oil rigger: person who works on an oil platform	
Vicar: priest	To lean on someone: to get support from someone
To blow something: not to succeed when you have a chance	To breath down my neck: assillare someone
To hold down a job: to keep a job	To be set on something: to be determined to do something
To home in on: to focus on	To be shell shocked: to be traumatized
To write something off: to let something go intentionally	To lead her on: to give her the idea that you are interested in her when your not
To buy into something: to buy a share of something	To cheat on: to betray
To be groomed for something: to be educated and prepared for something	Trigger: grilletto
To make a pass at: to make an advance	Bystander: a person who is standing near the scene of an accident or crime