

Foreign Language Film Festival 2006-2007

Chariots of Fire

About the movie

DIRECTOR	Hugh Hudson
YEAR / COUNTRY	1981/U.K.
GENRE	Drama
ACTORS	Ben Cross, Ian Charleson, Nigel Havers, Ian Holm



PLOT

Based on a true story, the film is about two different men who compete as runners in the 1924 Paris Olympic Games. Eric Liddell, a serious Christian Scotsman, believes that he has to succeed as a testament to his undying religious faith. Harold Abrahams is a Jewish Englishman who wants desperately to be accepted and prove to the world that Jews are not inferior. The film crosscuts between each man's life as he trains for the competition, motivated by these different desires.

The film won four Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Costume Design, Best Original Score.

LANGUAGE

Standard English, standard Scots English.

VOCABULARY

Begat: procreate as a father	Bloody: used as an adjective or adverb to emphasize anger or annoyance
Wings on our heels: very fast	Laddie: young boy
Mum: mother	Run down a list: look at a list of name or numbers
Howzat?: how is that? What are you saying?	Summon up: to find strength or courage or some other quality that you need
Exhort: urge strongly	Seize the chance: exploit the opportunity
Philately: stamp collecting	Chaps: fellows, friends, colleagues
Pace: the distance that you move when you take one stride	Swank: to show off, ostentatious
By a whisker: by very little	Get to your marks: go to your positions on the starting line
Doing your bit: doing your part on a job or another activity	Sabbath: religious day of rest during the week
The sky's the limit: possibilities are enormous	Gift of the gab: a good conversationalist
In a jiffy: very quickly	Smitten: to be hit by something
Kid brother: younger brother of someone	Snap out of it!: stop thinking about it, put it behind you