

## ▣ ABOUT THE MOVIE ▣ (subtitled version)

TITLE	Far and Away
DIRECTOR	Ron Howard
YEAR AND COUNTRY	1992 USA
GENRE	Romantic adventure loosely based on historical events
ACTORS	Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman



### PLOT

Joseph Donnelly (*Tom Cruise*) is a poor tenant farmer who decides to rebel against the injustice and tyranny of the landlord he works for. As Fate would have it, he goes to America to find new land in the company of his ex-landlord's daughter, Shannon Christie (*Nicole Kidman*). In Boston, the two start a hard new life together. Their sacrifices, courage, and mutual dream draw them together even though eventually, a series of events separates them.

Joseph hears about the free land grants that will be given to those who win a race into the Oklahoma territory, so he finds a new job working on the railroad to earn enough money to buy a horse for the race. When he gets to the place where the race starts, he finds Shannon with her parents and fiancé who, in the meantime, had migrated to the New World in search of a new life. Joseph outraces all the others, but before he has the chance to insert the flag that marks ownership of the land into the ground, Stephen (*Thomas Gibson*), Shannon's fiancé, tries to kill him and his horse falls on Joseph, and crushes him. Shannon sends Stephen away and tells Joseph of her love. This revives him (one of those miracles that only Hollywood can perform...) in time to claim his land, his love, and perfect health. This story is based on a historical event which took place on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1889 when 20.000 people raced to claim 1.887.800 acres of land.

### LANGUAGE

The language is authentic Irish English, with many of the typical expressions one hears in Ireland (see below). There is a difference in the expressions used and the accents of the lower-class tenant farmers and their landlords. Most of the supporting cast is Irish, and both Cruise and Kidman have evidently been tutored in Irish accents.

The language is colorful, often vulgar, but amusing and incisive. Many of the expressions refer to drink and fighting which seem to have been the Irish national sports at the time.

### VOCABULARY

A blatherskite of filth: extra dirty	A peek: a glance
Bellyaching: complaining	Pickins is slim: there isn't much gain to be made.
Corker: wonderful person	Put on airs: act snobbish
End up in a glass of ale: finish badly	Shoot himself in the balls: do something that is self-destructive
Fleece somebody: cheat someone	Strawberry tart: a pastry with strawberries on it (here with a double meaning since a tart is also slang for a prostitute, and strawberry is the color of Shannon's hair)
Gagging my throat: choking me	Stuffy: boring, old-fashioned
Gouging: defrauding	Top the line: stay within set boundaries (be obedient), also not go over the line at the start of a race or fight
Miss High and Mighty: a woman who gives herself airs.	