

## Foreign Language Film Festival 2006-2007

### *The Fisher King*

**About the movie** (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Terry Gilliam
YEAR / COUNTRY	1991 / USA
GENRE	Comedy / Fantasy
ACTORS	Robin Williams, Jeff Bridges



#### PLOT

This is a film between myth and hard-edged reality. Jeff Bridges is a jaded DJ who has become successful through insulting and hating his public, until one night his hatred for humanity leads one of his listeners to do the unspeakable. From here Bridges is on the way down. He begins to drink and ultimately contemplates suicide. He is however saved by a mad bum, Robin Williams, who in saving Bridges involves him in his own quest for sanity and a happier life. It is through the madness of Williams and the persistence of Bridges that New York is transformed into a surreal mythical environment, where lonely employees, homeless transvestites, and average commuters can suddenly take on an almost legendary aspect, or where Central Park can suddenly become an enchanted forest. Ultimately, the quest, also involving the Holy Grail, leads both men and their girl friends to live happily ever after.

#### LANGUAGE

On the one hand, we have ever imaginable kind of accent from New York: cool DJs, black janitors, slick white New York agents, hysterical transvestites, nasty rich white yuppies, bums, and more. On the other hand, through Williams, language can take on a kind of legendary or mystic quality. Given the variety of speakers, and the various emotional states they go through, the language can be quite easy to very difficult to understand.

#### VOCABULARY

rummage: to go through the garbage looking for stuff	to go out on a limb: to exaggerate a situation so much that it is difficult to get back to a rational position
to get laid: to have sex	to beg: to ask for money
humble abode: simple but cozy house	moron: stupid person
faggot: homosexual	finger nails: the parts of fingers that women colour red
To feel cursed: to feel damned	to be pissed off: to be very angry
jawbreakers: a hard sweet	dumpling: an Austrian or Chinese ravioli