

Movies & Languages 2019-2020

Green Book

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Peter Farrelly
YEAR/COUNTRY	2018 / USA
GENRE	Drama, comedy
ACTORS	Viggo Mortensen, Mahershala Ali, Linda Cardellini, Sebastian Maniscalco, P.J. Byrne



PLOT

Frankie Vallelonga is an Italo-American bouncer at an upmarket Manhattan night Club, frequented by big New York underworld bosses. Because the club has to close for a while, he becomes unemployed. His very Italo-American family and friends provide as much consolation as they can but he still needs to find a job to earn a living. He is offered a job for two months which is paid very well as a driver and body-guard for a talented cultured black musician, Don Shirley. Though he himself is prejudice, because of his need to work, he gets over any race problems quickly. The real problem, however, is not him. He must take Don on a long concert tour in the deep south of the USA, which is a notoriously racist area, where problems for both of them are likely to occur. They start out on the road moving slowly but surely towards Birmingham, Alabama, which is known to be one of the hottest spots of all. As they move further south, the two men begin to get used to each other and actually grow fond of each other. While the racial problems they encounter intensify, their understanding of each other and their friendship is strengthened.

LANGUAGE

The people in the movie are from all walks of life and so is their English; that is to say, janitors and bartenders talk to each other in rough New York English or in poor black Southern US English. Whereas, Don Shirley and his musicians usually speak in a very erudite way.

Interesting Historical Points and people

Carnegie Hall: is one of the biggest concert Halls in New York

Famous Black rock and Roll singers from the South mentioned in the film:

Little Richard

Chubby Checkers

Aretha Franklin

Sam Cooke

Liberace: was a famous white pianist

Nat King Cole: one of the few black singers who was allowed to sing on TV

The Panhandle: the poor part of Northern Florida

'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country' this is part of John F. Kennedy's inaugural address in 1961.

VOCABULARY

The Sanitation Department: is the City Department responsible for garbage collecting	'To knock off 20' hamburgers: to rapidly eat 20
'White Castle': was a famous hamburger place	Elephant tusks: the big white protruding teeth of an elephant
To jinx something: to bring bad luck to something	'In the bowels of Hell': means in the deepest and darkest part of hell
To work joints: to work in night clubs	To take a leak: to pee
A bouncer: is the strong guy in front of a club who decides to let people in or not	The Tri-State area: means the area in the three states surrounding New York City, or New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut
A butler: is a man servant who serves rich people	Genteel: gentlemanly-like
Rheingold: is a brand of a beer	'Give us a chance to win back our loot' Loot: money
To squash him: to beat him up	Fancy pants: is a man who wears colorful clothes
'I'm flush right now': I don't have any money	A Spook: is a bad name for a black man
'A jungle bunny': is a bad name for a black man	A brillo pad: is a durable piece of plastic that is hard and used to clean pots and pans. A brillo pad is also a negative way to describe a black person's hair
A commode: a toilet	
To be sore at: to be angry with	
A hillbilly: a stupid person from a rural area	The himees: the Jewish people
A grease ball: a person who look dirty and unclean	The Deli: the delicatessen
A ransom: is that money you may ask for in exchange for something else	A bullshit artist: a person who can tell a story which is not true, but people will believe him
Grits and colored greens: food that black people eat	Ritzy joints: expensive restaurants and bars
The Plains of Iowa: the flat lands of the State of Iowa	A "Deer" is an animal. Tony writes "Deer" instead of "Dear"
To pay them off: to bribe them	I get by: I manage to survive
A wad of cash: a lot of cash	To bribe: to pay money to get them to do what you want them to do
We gave it a shot: we tried to do it	To expound: to talk well about something