

## Foreign Language Film Festival 2010-2011

### *Julie & Julia*

**About the movie** (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Nora Ephron
YEAR / COUNTRY	2009 / USA
GENRE	Comedy/Drama
ACTORS	Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, Stanley Tucci, Chris Messina, Linda Emond, Jane Lynch



#### PLOT

*Julie & Julia* is a film based on two books: *My Life in France*, Julia Child's autobiography, and *Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen*, a popular memoir by Julie Powell.

The film begins in 2002 when Julie Powell, a young writer trapped in a somewhat unpleasant job, attempts to liven things up by cooking every recipe in Child's cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, in 365 days, and blogs about it to motivate herself and document her progress.

Woven into the story of Julie's life and blob work in Queens, New York, in the early 2000s, is the story of Julia Child's time in Paris in the 1950s where she attends Le Cordon Bleu to learn French cooking and begins collaborating on a French cookbook for American housewives. The film carefully highlights the similarities in the situations and challenges encountered by Julie and Julia (both women) in pursuing their respective goals.

This enjoyable film has won various awards and nominations, most notably for the acting of Meryl Streep (Julia Child).

Bon Appétit.

#### LANGUAGE

Standard American English, some slang. French.

#### GRAMMAR

##### QUESTION TAGS

Question tags consist of an auxiliary verb and a personal pronoun. There are a few basic rules:

1. If there is an auxiliary (**do**, **be**, **have**) or modal auxiliary verb in the main clause, it is repeated in the question tag. For example:

*He hasn't eaten yet, **has he?***

*She should be in bed by now, **shouldn't she?***

2. If there is an ordinary verb in the main clause, **do** is in the question tag. For example:

*You know how to speak English, **don't you?** (Present)*

*They went to California last year, **didn't they?** (Past)*

*He had a heart attack last year, **didn't he?** (Past – have as ordinary verb)*

3. Normally an affirmative statement has a negative question tag and vice versa. For example:

*You're coming, **aren't you?***

*He doesn't like jazz, **does he?***

4. I am is followed by the question tag **aren't I?** For example: *I'm stupid, **aren't I?***
5. After an imperative, **will you?** or **would you?** are the most common forms. **Will you?** Is the only form possible after a negative imperative. For example:
- Pay attention, **will you?**                      Don't be late, **will you?***  
*Shut the door, **would you?***
6. Negative expressions like **no, nothing, nowhere and nobody** in the main clause are followed by an affirmative question tag. For example:
- He takes no interest in his studies, **does he?***
7. **Somebody/someone, everybody/everyone and nobody/no-one** are followed by **they** in a Question tag. For example.
- Nobody called, **did they?***  
*Everybody was happy, **weren't they?***
8. **Nothing/anything** in the main clause is followed by **it** in a question tag. For example:
- Nothing could be finer, **could it?***  
*Anything could happen now, **couldn't it?***

#### VOCABULARY

Lingo: a language or way of speaking	The real deal: true, authentic
To get settled in: to become established in some way, e.g. residence	Total bliss: total happiness
To kill time: doing something while waiting for something to happen	To braise: to cook slowly in fat and little moisture in a closed pot
To poach (in cooking): to cook something in a simmering liquid	Drano: a product used to unblock drains
Whisked (in cooking): something mixed very quickly	To get through something: to endure something
It was dragging on: it was going slowly	Frothy: foamy
To swindle: to obtain something by fraud or deceit	To breed like rabbits: to reproduce with lots of offspring (children)
Dry collection: not very exciting or interesting collection	To be grilled: to be aggressively interrogated
Dropping like flies: getting sick and incapacitated	Wrap things up: to finish something
Look on the bright side: look at the positive aspects of a possibly bad situation	Cold-blooded: not showing emotion
Raining cats and dogs: raining heavily	High rise: an apartment building with many floors
Leave me alone!: stop teasing me	Bloomingdales: a famous department store
Amherst: a university in Massachusetts, U.S.A.	It's Versailles!: it's like a palace, very luxurious
Pay Pal: method for asking for money on a web site	Flip something over: turn something upside-down
To figure it out: to understand something	A schmuck: a stupid, clumsy person