

Movies & Languages Film Festival 2022-2023

Mrs Harris goes to Paris

About the movie (in English with English subtitles)

DIRECTOR	Anthony Fabian
YEAR/COUNTRY	2022/ United Kingdom, Hungary
GENRE	Historical comedy, drama
ACTORS	Lesley Manville, Isabelle Huppert, Lambert Wilson, Alba Baptista, Lucas Bravo, Ellen Thomas, Rose Williams, Jason Isaacs.



PLOT

The story is set in 1957. Mrs. Harris is a cleaning woman in London whose life is “one of tireless drudgery” but she keeps her “chin up,” all the while hoping that her husband will still come home from WWII. Her life begins to change when at a rich client’s she is “ravished” by a Christian Dior “gown”. A series of events and coincidences allow her to “make moonlight,” and go to Paris where she finds herself in the middle of “Haut couture,” the famous garbageman’s strike, and French post-war philosophy. She enchants the city and manages to be a kind of “fairy godmother” for everyone, and of course the Parisians with all their charm manage to enchant her as well. The film tells a lovely story about a woman who “dares to dream” while giving quite an accurate picture of the Paris of that time.

LANGUAGE

The film has a lot of English working-class and upper-class expressions or slang. Another difficulty that the audience may encounter is the frequent use of English understatement, i.e., “It’s become a bit pressing” meaning ‘it’s urgent’. And it is also filled with British sayings like “When the lady ups and leaves the gents don’t last 10 minutes” meaning ‘It’s really women who keep the situation under control, not men’.

VOCABULARY

Shove over: move over	Much obliged: very thankful to you
Bombs away: let’s start	Blimey: an exclamation, like “WOW”
Hang on: wait a moment	The binmen: the workers who collect the trash/rubbish/garbage
Trusty sidekick: reliable assistant	As long as you’re in one piece: if you are healthy and can still work/go
Bookmaker or bookie: the intermediary who organizes the gambling at sports events, in this case dog racing	A frock: a dress



I'm in clover: I'm happy and prosperous	I'm not one to make a fuss: I'm not a person who causes problems or brings attention to themselves
To be crabby: to always be complaining	Scrubbing floors: cleaning floors
Foot loose and fancy free: to be happy without any obligations	Odds and ends: miscellaneous things
The wedding is going to be the death of me: the wedding is going to take all my energy and money	My clumsy clogs: my humble self
Balmier shores: better days or a better situation	To give it a miss: not to do something or go somewhere
To tighten our belts: to become more cautious about how much money we spend	All this hoo-ha: all this commotion/fuss/excitement
I was ravished: I was absolutely amazed	Woolworth's: a store that has inexpensive things
Things have been a bit bloody of late: recently things have been a bit difficult	To curl up with a juicy mystery: to relax while reading a good book
His lordship: a respectful way to address a man with a title	Grub's up: dinner is ready
To go simple on me: to become stupid	Toad (frog) in the ditch (hole): an English dish with sausages
You ducks: an affection way of calling someone	Seamstress: a woman who sews for a living
A dodgy ticker: a heart that isn't healthy	We mend but don't forget: we learn how to live with our pain/sadness but we don't forget it
To settle up: to pay me for all of the work that has been done	To be balmy: to be a bit crazy
It's become a bit pressing: it's become urgent	A gown: a dress worn for an occasion
She's lost her marbles: she has gone crazy	The full flower of our youth: to be young and healthy; to be at one's best period in life
Hat's off to you girl: praise to you because you took a risk, or dared to dream	Don't write me off yet: to ignore me; don't say that I'm too old yet
Plain as the nose on your face: it is very clear/evident	Allow me to make amends: let me repair or better the situation
Your stake back and a wee more: the money you bet in return and a little more	To make moonlight: to create dreams or enchanting situations
I'd have looked a right Charlie: I'd have looked very stupid	Old trumps: old women
To let the pot brew: to let the tea sit for a moment	To knit a tea cozy: to make a wool cover for the teapot
You poor mite: you poor little boy	Life was one of tireless drudgery: life was very boring and filled with hard work
Allure: attraction or fascination	No wonder you've got all that front on you: I can understand why you appear so formal
That's fine and dandy: that's wonderful	To keep things up to scratch: to keep things clean and organized
We're two peas in the pod: we are exactly the same kind of person	As sure as eggs is eggs: the situation is clear and easy to see



To lift myself out of the rut: to get out of my difficult situation	It's just the ticket: it's the perfect thing that I need
To give up the ghost: to die	Chin up: to not get depressed and to continue going
Ghastly publicity stunt: something sensational that is done to attract attention	Full settlement: all of the money that was owed

