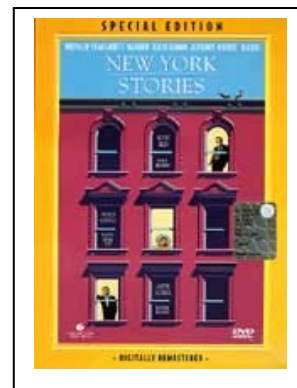


▣ **ABOUT THE MOVIE** ▣ (subtitled version)

TITLE	New York Stories
DIRECTOR	M. Scorsese, F. Ford Coppola, W. Allen
YEAR AND COUNTRY	1989 USA
GENRE	Comedy
ACTORS	First episode, "Life Lessons", Nick Nolte, Rosanna Arquette. Second episode, "Life without Zoë", Heather McComb, Giancarlo Giannini, Talia Shire. Third episode, "Oedipus Wrecks", Woody Allen, Mae Questel, Mia Farrow, Julie Kavner.



PLOT

With New York as their background, three famous directors tell us stories of the rich and famous (and not so famous). "Life Lessons" portrays a rich, famous, painter, Lionel Dobie (Nick Nolte), who uses his position and power to attract women. He tries to control his young assistant, Paulette (Rosanna Arquette), who is no longer in love with him, but she is onto his game and leaves him. He goes on to "greener pastures"... "Life without Zoë" instead, tells the story of a young millionaires, Zoë (Heather McComb), whose parents (Giancarlo Giannini and Talia Shire) are so busy with their work that they have practically no time for her. In the end, she saves her flutist father from a sticky situation, and her mother rediscovers her. In "Oedipus Wrecks", a 55-year-old Jewish lawyer, Sheldon Mills (Woody Allen), is continually embarrassed by his terrible mother (Mae Questel), who treats him like a child. Sheldon wants to marry a Gentile woman, Lisa (Mia Farrow), and his mother doesn't approve. She disappears (just what Sheldon wanted!) after a magician's trick and he has a few days of tranquility with Lisa until his mother reappears - in the sky like a huge advertising poster, criticizing him and telling passersby about his most intimate vicissitudes. Lisa leaves him and his mother comes back home. Sheldon meets another woman, Treva (Julie Kavner) who manages to ingratiate herself with her future mother-in-law and all ends well.

LANGUAGE

The language and accents are varied. "Life Lessons" brutal slang by Lionel, provincial overtones but trendy speech by Paulette. Some art terms like "to stretch canvas" (to mount a piece of canvas on a frame so it can be painted). "Life without Zoe" is in high-class accents and language modified by kid's slang on the part of Zoe. Both Giannini and Zoe's Arabian friend have accents. "Oedipus Wrecks" - typical Yiddish accents and expressions on the part of Sheldon and his mother, while Lisa has a cultured New York accent. ("Oedipus Wrecks" is an ironic homophonic play on the name of Sophocles's tragedy, "Oedipus Rex").

VOCABULARY

Turn cartwheels across the floor: express joy physically	To make ends meet: to have enough money to live on
To feel seasick: to be nauseous	Flute-playing was banned by law: there was a law against flute playing
I'm gonna get slaughtered: I'll be severely criticized	To dilly dally: to waste time Crooks: criminals To clam up: shut up (a clam is a shellfish)
To hassle with cabs: try to find a taxi	A big bash: a big party
A sanitary engineer: ironic name for a plumber	Preppy: a boy/girl who attends an exclusive private school and/or adopts its way of dressing, acting, etc
You had a fling; big deal: you had a love story; so what?	To see through someone: not be fooled by someone's mask
I'm getting weird: I'm going crazy	To hail a taxi: to signal to a taxi to pick you up
Howl like a gut-shot dog: scream like a dog that has been shot in the stomach	The difference between a flutist and a flautist. 50 bucks a week more: flautist is a sophisticated version of flutist Bucks: dollars
To pawn: get money temporarily for a jewel or other object of value	She speaks at the top of her lungs: she speaks as loud as possible
To jeer at you: to make fun of you	Bed wetter: someone who urinates in bed
To score and split: to take to bed and then leave	Alimony: money paid to a divorced spouse A drumstick: the leg of a cooked chicken/other fowl
Women are called chippies because they chip away at you. This is a play on words: a <u>chippie</u> is a loose woman, <u>to chip</u> means to cut off small pieces.	To hover: hang above in the air You're a fraud: you're a fake Drudgery: hard work To let someone down: to disappoint someone