

▣ ABOUT THE MOVIE ▣

TITLE	Philadelphia
DIRECTOR	Jonathan Demme
YEAR AND COUNTRY	1993 USA
GENRE	drama
ACTORS	Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, Jason Robards, Antonio Banderas, Roberta Maxwell, Karen Finley, Joanne Woodward

PLOT

1990s: Andrew Beckett, a young and brilliant gay lawyer (Hanks), is fired by a prestigious law firm on trumped up charges of professional incompetence. In reality it is because he is battling AIDS. After much searching, he finds a lawyer Joe Miller (Washington) to represent him in his lawsuit, based on discrimination, against his former firm. Together they win the suit, but Beckett dies shortly after the verdict. More than a film about AIDS, it is film about prejudice against gays and people infected with AIDS. The film is based on a true story.

LANGUAGE

Most of the language in the film is formal and technical.
 Medical terms are used in talking about the detection and treatment of AIDS.
 Legal terms are used in the courtroom scenes.
 Colloquial idiomatic expressions are primarily used in derogating homosexuals and their behaviour.
 People unfamiliar with these terms will get an education.

VOCABULARY

AZT: drug for treating AIDS	lawsuit/suit: a case before a court
brief: a written plan for a legal case	making flippy flop: having sex
counsellor: attorney, lawyer	no sweat: no problem
crackerjack: high quality, highly skilled person	paralegal: a legal clerk
E.R.: emergency room in a hospital	plaintiff: one who commences a personal action or lawsuit to obtain a remedy for his /her rights
faggot, queer, tutti-frutti, homo: derogatory terms for homosexuals	restraining order: a preliminary legal order sometimes issued to keep a situation unchanged pending decision upon an application for an injunction
gay: homosexual	settlement: an agreement between two litigating entities
going ballistic: becoming very angry or upset	to prep: to prepare
hard copy: printed on paper	top notch: high quality, one of the best
it's a bitch: it's difficult, problematic	Webster's: very common American dictionary
it's your call: it's your decision to make	