

## ▣ ABOUT THE MOVIE ▣

<b>TITLE</b>	The Devil's Advocate
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Taylor Hackford
<b>YEAR AND COUNTRY</b>	1997 USA
<b>GENRE</b>	Legal thriller
<b>ACTORS</b>	Keanu Reeves (the lawyer, Kevin Lomax), Al Pacino (the Devil, aka John Milton), Mary Ann Lomax (Charlize Thieron), Judith Ivy (Kevin's mother)

## PLOT

This film is about the triumph of evil over good, despite all efforts. Kevin Lomax is a young, highly successful lawyer working in Alachua County, Florida, who has never lost a case – although at a certain point he becomes aware that some of his clients are guilty. He has a lovely wife and a good relationship with his religious mother. John Milton runs a high-class legal office in New York. He hears of Lomax's success and sends someone down to make him an offer he can't refuse: a huge salary, a beautiful house and a prestigious position. Once in New York, Lomax is so busy that he rarely sees his wife, who gets is not happy with just spending money and having nothing to do. She starts having visions, but her husband is too busy to really care. At a certain point John Milton reveals himself to be the Devil incarnate: he can be in two places at once, kill people at a distance and make holy water smoke. It emerges that Milton is actually Lomax's father, whose great plan is to produce an all-powerful grandson by getting Lomax to have sex with a half-sister Milton has fathered. Then he will start a law office that will defeat God for ever. Mary Ann is driven crazy by Milton, and eventually..

## LANGUAGE

The accent is mainly that of northern Florida, and often heavy south, although some characters speak with a less perceptible New York accent. The change in pronunciation of some vowel sounds (e.g. "wait" is pronounced more like "white", "need" sounds like "nade") and other regional features ("wasn't" sounds more like "want") tends to make many characters difficult to understand. There are not too many legal terms, but the dialogue is very fast and full of colloquial and slang expressions. John Milton as the Devil is particularly hard to follow as he combines vulgar language with literary concepts in such an original way as to produce a poetical diatribe. This, combined with the speed of delivery makes the film very challenging for any non-native speaker.

## VOCABULARY

"Had to close out some day": It had to come to an end some time	to bail on someone/something: to leave or escape from (originally a sinking ship)
discovery: producing facts, documents and objects to be used in a court case so that the other party can inspect them.	to be (way) out of line : to do or say something you shouldn't/have (absolutely) no right to do or say
go figure it: what a strange thing to say/to happen	to overrule: to refuse to allow; to reverse a decision.
In a timely fashion: within the prescribed time limits	to plea bargain: to change the accusation and/or answer to it upon mutual agreement between lawyers of opposing sides
it's in the pipeline: it is being done; the necessary process has been started	to set someone up: to put someone in a position they do not want to be in and cannot do anything about
let's wrap it up: let's finish off our business i.e. conclude the case	we got the inside track: we have confidential information
malice aforethought: with the intention of hurting someone or doing wrong	you are under oath: you have promised God – and the court - that what you say is true
recess: suspension of proceedings	