Movies & Languages Film Festival 2021-2022

The Father

About the movie (in English with English subtitles)

DIRECTOR/WRITER	Florian Zeller, Christopher Hampton
YEAR/COUNTRY	2020/ UK
GENRE	Drama
ACTORS	Anthony Hopkins, Olivia Colman, Mark Catiss

PLOT

Anthony (played by Anthony Hopkins) is an octogenarian retired engineer who is struggling to understand what is real and what is not, what actually happened and what did not. The film transports you into his mind, so that you too will struggle to differentiate reality from what? From dreams? From memories? From fiction? The film also explores the effects of age dementia on loved ones and carers, because as the film beautifully illustrates, this illness effects not only the direct sufferer, but those around.

The film is not particularly sad, but it was revealing and a little disturbing. Interestingly, everything takes place in three rooms, thus it could be considered a chamber drama, but the lack of different settings in some way enhances the realness (we hesitate to use the word "reality") of the whole situation.

We all know that Anthony Hopkins is a consummate actor, as indeed is Olivia Colman, but here, in our opinion, they deliver exquisite performances.

We strongly recommend that you DO NOT read the story of the film before you see it, if you do, you will lose the immersive effect it can have on you. You will witness and you will feel the same sense of disorientation as Anthony himself.
This is a film which you will remember for a very long time.

LANGUAGE

Standard British English, with no regional accents.

EXPRESSIONS WHICH YOU MAY NOT KNOW

You burst in on me	To enter a room where you are, suddenly and unexpectedly
Are you raving mad?	Raving = completely, totally
The rats are leaving the ship	A very old idiomatic expression meaning to abandon a situation which looks to be desperate
A carer	An "official" position referring to the person who looks after another person in need
Have I put my foot in it?	If you "put your foot in it", you make a gaffe, usually by saying something you shouldn't have done
We have guests this evening?	This looks like a statement, but is in fact a question. The "do" is missing, but rising intonation makes it a question
He has his ways	This is a nice way to say that someone can be a little difficult at times
I'm very intelligent, you need to bear that in min.	If you "bear something in mind", you consider it, you are aware of it
How shall I put this....	You might use this phrase when you want to say something "difficult" to someone
I'm losing all my leaves	A nice metaphoric phrase, pretty self-explanatory

EXPRESSIONS WHICH YOU MAY KNOW BUT WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY PERTINANT TO THIS FILM AND ITS STORY

Pardon me for breathing	This is a sarcastic comment where Anthony aplogises for actually existing. The listener would probably be offended hearing this remark
Ooopsie daisy	This is a remark you may hear from an older person when they drop something, bump into someone, something has gone wrong, etc. Nobody under 80 is likely to use this remark!
Let me be absolutely clear	This is a phrase we hear frequently from British politicians when, for once, they say something unequivocal
There is something funny going on	"Funny" has two meanings in English: 1. comical 2. strange, weird. Not to be confused with "fun", which means enjoyment. Example: *"The lesson was fun"* = it was enjoyable. Compared to *"The lesson was funny "* = it made me laugh
Paris? They don't even speak English there	A fairly typical semi-serious jibe at the French and example of British linguistic imperialism!

As Anthony's condition appears to deteriorate, so his language appears to become ever more aggressive. Consider these phrases:

I don't need her, I don't need anyone

Who are you? What are you doing here? What are you doing in my flat?

What do you know about it?

I'm going to outlive you

She refuses to listen. I don't need any help from anyone and I'm not going to leave my flat

And finally:

Who, exactly, am I?