

## Foreign Language Film Festival 2009-2010

### *The Wrestler*

#### **About the movie**

DIRECTOR	Darren Aronofsky
YEAR / COUNTRY	2008 / USA
GENRE	Drama
ACTORS	Mickey Rourke, Evan Rachel Wood, Marisa Tomei



#### PLOT

Mickey Rourke plays Randy (Ram) Robinson. Ram was a great wrestling star 20 years ago, but now finds himself old and still wrestling. What's more he finds that having dedicated his life to wrestling there is not much else in it. One night, after a particularly brutal match, he has a heart attack and is forced to consider where his life is going. He tries to get closer to the people he cares about the most, Cassidy, a strip tease artist (Marisa Tomei) who he has known for many years, and his estranged daughter (Evan Rachel Wood). Though he manages to move a bit closer to them, he is overcome by the failure and futility of his life in the end, and ultimately returns to wrestling despite the obvious danger it poses for his health.

#### LANGUAGE

The language of the movie reflects very much the lower class working worlds of wrestling and strip tease. It is very much slang and phrasal verbs which describe for example not only wrestling moves but also states of mind and emotions. It is particularly difficult because so much of the language is made up of phrasal verbs which do not translate easily into other languages.

#### GRAMMAR

##### Phrasal verbs:

-Verbs made up of two or three words (verb+adverb/preposition). They may contain the same verb but have different meanings, depending on the preposition or adverb which follows.

Example:

They **turned up** unexpectedly (= arrived)

He **turned down** the invitation (= refused)

-Some phrasal have several meanings.

Example:

She **put on** her clothes (= she got dressed)

She **put on** weight (= her weight increased)

There are many phrasal verbs used also in this film.

e.g. Ram tells one of his friends, "Now you **hang in there**". This means that he should continue to work hard and practice.

## VOCABULARY

To hang in there: to continue or to stay well	Cut it out: to stop doing something
Low blow: an illegal punch, or action or words designed to hurt	To work out: to exercise
To milk something: to obtain everything you can from something	To pace yourself: to time yourself in order not to go too slow or too fast
To work something: to put a lot of energy into something	To get even: to get revenge
A come back: <i>rivincita</i>	To be into something: to be very interested in something
Ram jam: Ram's particular wrestling move. He gets on the top rope and jumps onto his opponent	Steady: well-balanced
To be coming up: something that will happen soon	Deli counter: the delicatessen counter
To hook up with: to meet at a certain time and place	A turn on: an exciting or stimulating person or thing
I got it: I understand the joke or situation	Awesome: fantastic
2 by 4: piece of wood 2 inches thick and 4 inches deep	Thigh: <i>coscia</i>
Scar: <i>cicatrice</i>	Spring chicken: a young person
Dude: <i>tizio</i>	To stalk someone: to follow someone suspiciously
Bucks: dollars	Spooky: haunted
Bug spray: insecticide	Fun house: haunted house at an amusement park
Bow: bend ( <i>inclinarsi</i> ) Staple gun: <i>pinzatrice</i>	To screw something up: to make something go wrong