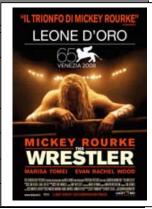
Foreign Language Film Festival 2009-2010

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

Cut it out: to stop doing something
To work out: to exercise
To pace yourself: to time yourself in order not to go
too slow or too fast
To get even: to get revenge
To be into something: to be very interested in something
Steady: well-balanced
Deli counter: the delicatessen counter
A turn on: an exciting or stimulating person or thing
Awesome: fantastic
Thigh: coscia
Spring chicken: a young person
To stalk someone: to follow someone suspiciously
Spooky: haunted
Fun house: haunted house at an amusement park
To screw something up: to make something go
wrong