

## Foreign Language Film Festival 2006-2007

### *Walk the Line*

**About the movie** (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	James Mangold
YEAR / COUNTRY	2005 USA
GENRE	Biography
ACTORS	Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon



#### PLOT

The movie traces the life of Johnny Cash, one of the most unique artists/musicians in American history, a country singer who left a mark on the 1950's and 1960's. It is an intimate story of him and his very humble beginnings, his career, his problems, and of a woman, June Carter, who more than helping him took part in his singing, problems and life. Americans, regardless of social standing or regional upbringing, who lived through those two decades would never say that country music and the social themes related to it were predominant aspects of that period. However, all of those Americans would immediately remember Johnny Cash. James Mangold, the director, did not begin this movie with the idea of making one of the greatest movies of all time, but he did begin with the idea of telling the story of two very special individuals, and he did it beautifully.

#### LANGUAGE

Initially (the first 15 minutes) the movie is dealing with Cash's upbringing in Arkansas and the language is very difficult, mainly due to the strong Southern/Midwestern accents. However, when Cash leaves Arkansas the language becomes much easier to understand. Characters remain with a slight 'country' accent, but students will have no problem adapting to it.

#### VOCABULARY

The Scripture: the Bible	Air sickness bag: sacchetto per il mal d'aria
Preacher: Protestant priest	To stick: to remain, to remain in one's mind
The Gospel: the Bible (the New Testament)	Stock car driver: race car driver
To mess around: to waste time	To cherish: to appreciate a lot
Audition: prova	To long to see: to desire greatly to see
Gutter: the edge of the street	Starch: amido
To drag on: to continue slowly and painfully	Mean: nasty
He had it coming: lo meritava	Chains and stripes: prison environment
To get tangled: finire nei guai, venire incastrato	Jail: prison
To get the blues: to get sad	A rough patch: difficult period in life
Shoe shine: cleaning of shoes	A big spread: a nice house and surroundings
To be in the spot light: to receive a lot of attention	I got it stuck: l'ho fatto incastrare
To come up with: arrivare ad una soluzione	Pots and pans: pentole e padelle
To be sharp: to be intelligent.	Hymnal: religious song book
To keep track of: seguire i movimenti di una persona o una cosa	To get on a high horse: to act like an important person
She/he's got sass: ha grinta	Big shot: important person
To pile out of: uscire in massa	Warden: head of a prison
To get right down to it: talk about the important things	To do hard time: to go to prison
Bill board: cartello pubblicitario	Tough: difficult
To go down the pot: andare in rovina	Re-runs: to show a program again after its first running
Reel: canna da pesca con mulinello	The stunt you pulled: the stupid thing you did
To turn the tide: ribaltare la situazione	To be reved up: to be excited

