

Foreign Language Film Festival 2007-2008

Good Night and Good Luck



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	George Clooney
YEAR / COUNTRY	2005 USA
GENRE	Drama / History
ACTORS	George Clooney, David Strathairn

PLOT

In the 1950's, at the beginning of the Cold War, Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin led a Congressional Committee whose aim was to cleanse the country of Communist infiltrators; this cleansing resulted in a witch-hunt where many totally innocent people lost their jobs or even committed suicide. TV journalist Edward R. Murrow (David Strathairn), for the most part supported by his producer and closer friend Fred Friendly (George Clooney) courageously uses his popular TV talk show to criticize McCarthy's methods and his convictions.

LANGUAGE

The language is quite difficult in that Ed Murrow's TV show was one of the more intellectual talk shows of the time. In the discussion that revolves around exposing Senator McCarthy's witch-hunt some difficult legal and technical expressions, as well as, slang are used.

VOCABULARY

To foul one's nest: to makes one's own life difficult	"On what meat does this our Caesar feed?": from Shakespeare's play. How did Caesar get so powerful?
To get up off our surpluses: to begin to do something about the situation	"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves": another quote from Shakespeare's play
A bit tough: a little difficult	Evidence: prova (in Italian)
Footage: part of a film, or the film coverage of something	Lengthy house cleaning: freeing the situation of all suspect people
To take a hike: to tell someone to go away	Lefty: person on the left
Guilty of a security breach: to let top secrets out	Hang over: the headache one has after drinking
To be severed: to be cut	To pay dues: to pay the necessary sum to become a member of an organization
To get audited: to have the taxman study your taxes	To trump: the group of cards (hearts, diamonds etc.) that wins against all the other cards. To say something during a discussion that obviously discredits the other person
Hearsay: rumour, gossip	Pack of jackals: a group of wild animals
Son not bear the iniquity of his father: a son should not be responsible for his father's sins	Disregard: intentionally not paying attention to something
Pinko: communist	Perched on the high drive: to be looking at the situation from above (from a presumptuous or arrogant position)
To poke a stick at: to criticize in a cutting way	Oath: giuramento (in Italian)
No pun intended: 'pun' means play on words; the idea here is that he didn't want to say a pun	To lay off: mettere in cassa integrazione (in Italian)
Gullible: easily persuaded	Knickerbockers: New York basketball team
If it walks like a duck, it talks like a duck: legal expression meaning if something has all the attributes of another thing then technically it should be judge as that thing	
Commie: Communist	