

## Foreign Language Film Festival 2007-2008

### *The Peacemaker*

**About the movie** (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Mimi Leder
YEAR / COUNTRY	1997 / USA
GENRE	Dramatic, thriller
ACTORS	George Clooney, Nicole Kidman, Marcel Iures, Alexander Balue



#### PLOT

This film was made in 1997, just after the end of the Bosnian War and that is the context of the climax. Russian officers are selling nuclear warheads to whoever has enough money to buy them. Dr. Julia Kelly (Nicole Kidman) is a brilliant nuclear physicist, head of the Anti-Nuclear Smuggling Group. A train carrying nuclear warheads in the former Soviet Union has crashed into another train. She finds out that the accident is part of a diabolical plot to cover up a theft of nukes.

The Special Forces of the US Army, assign Colonel Thomas Devoe (George Clooney) to help her recover the stolen bombs. Together they manage to overcome their differences (she is diplomatic, he breaks all the rules and is very direct) in their fight against the clock to recover the last nuclear warhead which is directed towards the United Nations. The tension is palpable.

#### LANGUAGE

Clooney and Kidman and the American characters speak good clear American English, the Slavs speak more or less heavily accented English according to their country of origin, Bosnia or Russia. There are some Austrian accents when the heroes are in Austria. There is quite a bit of military slang and acronyms but it is generally understandable in the context.

#### VOCABULARY

To page someone: to call them on a loudspeaker	Take them out: eliminate them Chopper: helicopter
Brakes squeal: the noise train brakes make	Out of range: not close enough to hit or see on radar
Smuggle: take something forbidden across a border	Black-marketeering: selling illegal goods
Briefing the President: giving him information on a subject	Snipers: hidden marksmen Gridlocked: trapped by both vertical and horizontal lines
The warhead has to be ignited by its own nuclear trigger: it cannot be set off, e.g., by a pistol shot,	Make something up: invent something Dumpster: a vehicle into which waste is thrown
Bar brawl: a fight in a bar Tab: bill Couple of rounds: buying drinks for people twice	He looks bug-eyed: his eyes are popping out of his head from surprise
SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle): fashionable 4-wheel drive vehicle.	Hijacking: stealing on a grand scale
Cut me a great deal: gave me a bargain	Mumbling: talking under your breath
Princeton blue-blooded backbone of our country: Princeton's aristocratic graduates, the US's spine	Tracking: following the movements of something Warhead: front of a missile armed with explosives
Like Ivana Trump on a subway: like Berlusconi in a slum	(What a) pity: (How) unfortunate! To dismantle: to take apart
Bemoaning the loss of empire: crying over their colonies' independence	A press leak: giving the media secret information Put your group on point: make them responsible
Sketchy : undetailed Casualties: the dead/ wounded	Alley: a narrow street between two rows of houses Check something out: inspect something.
My personal agenda: my individual list of things to do	Hook on: attach with a curved implement. Cluster bombs: bombs that explode in a group.