

Away we go

Director: Sam Mendes
2009 (90')



The first film in our new season of 'Film in English' is a romantic comedy which weaves its way across North America as a young couple try to find a place in which to begin a new chapter in their lives. Verona and Burt, a thirty-something couple expecting their first child, are not really sure how or where they want to live and so set out on a journey to get some ideas and inspiration from friends and relatives living in the US and Canada. What they find is, in turns, sad, funny and ridiculous.

See the trailer for the film: <http://www.imdb.com/video/imdb/vi3933405977/>

Vocabulary and expressions:

To be pregnant: To be expecting a child

Porch: veranda; a raised platform at the front or back of the house often covered with a roof

nice and toasty: comfortable and warm

A fuck-up: Someone who has made a mess of their lives (an offensive term)

Are we fuck-ups?

Itinerary: A plan of a journey, including the route and the places you will visit

Dyke: informal and offensive word for lesbian

What's your line of work? / What line of work are you in?: What's your job?

Pretty: pretty is sometimes used before an adjective meaning 'quite' or 'rather'

It's pretty cool.

Drought: A long period of time during which no rain falls

To ride something out: To survive or get through a serious situation

I think we've just gotta ride it out.

To put a wager on something: To place a bet on something; to gamble on

something happening

I put a wager on it.

Mellow: Calm and relaxed

Stroller (American English): A pushchair; a small chair on wheels used for wheeling small children around

Tilted: Not straight; slopes or inclines to one side

To count on sb. or sth.: To rely on; to depend on

Are you counting on this job interview tomorrow?

A horse's ass (American English): A stupid and annoying person

What a horse's ass!

To have a miscarriage: When the pregnant woman loses the foetus inside her

In one fell swoop: If something is done in or at one fell swoop it is done on a single occasion or by a single action

To slouch down: To crouch down low to the ground (often when hiding)

We all slouched down.

To squeal: To make a long, high-pitched sound

Grace and I just ran out of the truck squealing.

Some questions to consider:

What kind of a couple are Verona and Burt?

What are they looking for or trying to escape from?

Is there a way of 'getting it right' when it comes to living our lives or is it all relative?

Which characters in the film were the most interesting?

There were two stories told by characters in the film, 'Maple Syrup' and 'The Orange Tree'. In what way were they relevant to the film as a whole?

What was the significance of the ending?

Was the film another romantic love story or was there something more to it?

Do you like films like this?

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