

# 2 Pass the popcorn, please



## LEARNING AIMS

- Can ask for and give opinions
- Can write a film review
- Can describe different elements of a film

## Mad about movies

### Lead-in



- 1 Look at the pictures and say what type of film each one is. Use the words in the box to help you.

animation    comedy    fantasy    gangster movie    historical drama    horror  
 martial arts    romance    science fiction    war drama    western

- 2 Think of a film for each of the types in Ex 1. Compare your ideas with other students.
- 3 Work in groups and discuss these questions.
- 1 How often do you go to the cinema?
  - 2 What kind of films do you like watching?
  - 3 Who's your favourite actor?
  - 4 Is there an actor that you don't like? Who and why not?
  - 5 What's your favourite film?

### Reading

- 1 19 Read the film review on page 39 about *The Aviator*. How many types of film from Lead-in Ex 1 are mentioned?
- 2 Read the text again. How are these people connected to Howard Hughes?
- 1 Martin Scorsese
  - 2 Michael Drosnin
  - 3 Leonardo DiCaprio
  - 4 Katharine Hepburn
- 3 According to the text, are these statements true or false?
- 1 Leonardo DiCaprio plays the main character in the film.
  - 2 Howard Hughes worked for the government.
  - 3 Hughes was very rich.
  - 4 Hughes was a film director and a pilot.
  - 5 As a young man, Hughes didn't have many friends.
  - 6 As an old man, Hughes didn't have many friends.

- 4 What does the reviewer think of the film? Which parts of the text support your view?

- 5 Find these words in the text and complete the questions.

biography    convincingly    devote    hesitation    role

- 1 Would you like someone to write your \_\_\_\_\_ one day?
  - 2 Do you think that the leading \_\_\_\_\_ in a film should always be played by a well-known actor?
  - 3 If someone offered you a ticket to Universal Studios, would you accept without \_\_\_\_\_?
  - 4 Can you lie \_\_\_\_\_, or do you always have to tell the truth?
  - 5 Do you feel you have enough time to \_\_\_\_\_ to your interests?
- 6 Think about how you would answer the questions in Ex 5. Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions.



- 7 Work in groups and discuss these questions.
- 1 Can you think of any other films you've seen about real people's lives?
  - 2 Were they: a accurate? b interesting?
  - 3 What did you learn about the person?

## MOVIE TIME

# THE AVIATOR

Directed by Martin Scorsese, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Cate Blanchett

There are so many strange stories about Howard Hughes that Martin Scorsese can only tell a small part of it in just two hours and 49 minutes. *The Aviator* won five Oscars but, according to Michael Drosnin, who wrote the best-selling

**biography** *Citizen Hughes*, 'The Aviator is a horror movie without the monster – the real Howard Hughes is not in it.'

I agree with Drosnin. Leonardo DiCaprio, who plays the **role** of Hughes in the film, does not have the power and charisma of the real Howard Hughes. You have to remember that this was a man who bought businesses, property and even governments without a moment's **hesitation**.

In the film he inherits his father's company and becomes the richest young man in the United States. He then moves to Hollywood and becomes a film-maker, producing the war drama *Hell's Angels*, the comedy *The Front Page*, the gangster movie *Scarface* and the western *The Outlaw*.

### Glossary

\*recluse = someone who lives alone and avoids seeing other people

*The Aviator* only deals with a part of Hughes' life, from the 1920s to the 1940s – the most glamorous period of his life. During this period Hughes had many friends, and he had love affairs with many of the most famous actresses of the time, like Ava Gardner and Katharine Hepburn. Kate Beckinsale and Cate Blanchett play the roles of the two stars **convincingly**.

This was also the period of time when he became very interested in flying, and **devoted** more of his time to designing and flying aeroplanes.

Drosnin says that in order to understand Hughes, it is necessary to see him descend into corruption and madness as he gets older. In the final years of his life, Hughes became a paranoid recluse\*, with 20 cm long fingernails and dirty, long hair. But the movie does not deal with this part of his life. Instead, and unfortunately in my opinion, Scorsese has chosen only to remember the younger Hughes' spirit of adventure as an aviator.





**Listening and pronunciation**



- 20 Jack, Chloe and Ralph have just watched a film together. Listen to their conversation. What was each person's opinion of the film?
- Listen again. Who or what were these adjectives used to describe? Choose from the items in the box.

the action scenes    the film    Johnny Depp    the special effects

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1 fantastic              | 5 brilliant   |
| 2 funny and gorgeous     | 6 spectacular |
| 3 childish and not funny | 7 good        |
| 4 impressive             |               |

- 3 Which of these adverbs were used with each adjective in Ex 2?

absolutely    pretty    really    so    very

- 21 Listen and practice saying the adverbs and adjectives together. Pay particular attention to the intonation.

**LANGUAGE STUDY**

**Asking for and giving opinions**

- 1 Look at phrases a-i from Jack, Chloe and Ralph's conversation. Which are examples of:

- |                                    |                                      |                             |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 asking for an opinion?           | 3 agreeing with an opinion?          |                             |
| 2 preparing to give an opinion?    | 4 not agreeing with an opinion?      |                             |
| a <i>What did you think of it?</i> | d <i>As far as I'm concerned ...</i> | g <i>Really?</i>            |
| b <i>In my opinion ...</i>         | e <i>I think ...</i>                 | h <i>If you ask me, ...</i> |
| c <i>Same here.</i>                | f <i>Me too.</i>                     | i <i>Oh, come on!</i>       |

Grammar reference page 58

- 22 Complete this dialogue by re-ordering the letters in italics. Listen and check your answers.

A: *atwh od uyo nithk fo* (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Leonardo DiCaprio?

B: *I kinht* (2) \_\_\_\_\_ he's gorgeous.

C: *em oto.* (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

A: *larelly? Fi ouy kas em,* (4) \_\_\_\_\_, Johnny Depp is more interesting.

C: *Ooh, asme reeh.* (5) \_\_\_\_\_. I prefer him, actually.

B: *ho, emoc no* (6) \_\_\_\_\_! Johnny Depp's too old now.

A: *sa arf sa m'I neconder* (7) \_\_\_\_\_, they both are.

- 23 Complete this dialogue. Listen and check your answers.

A: What do you (1) \_\_\_\_\_ *Hollywood movies*?

B: (2) \_\_\_\_\_ opinion, *they're boring*.

A: (3) \_\_\_\_\_? I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ *they're fantastic*.

B: If (5) \_\_\_\_\_ me, *Spanish films are much better*.

A: Oh, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on! *You see the same actors in every film*.

B: *True, but the acting is really great*.

- 4 Work with a partner. Prepare and practise your own dialogue, replacing the words in italics in Ex 3 with your own ideas.
- 5 Turn to page 61 and discuss the opinions.



- Vocabulary**
- 1 Look at this message board. After his conversation with Chloe and Jack, Ralph posted a message about the film. Which message is it? Look at listening script 20 on page 62 to help you.
  - 2 Which do you think is the worst mistake? Why? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

**Movie mistakes message board**

**The Lord of the Rings** (fantasy epic)  
Near the end of the film, when Frodo and Sam are talking about their journey, there is a **close-up** on the face of Frodo, and of his contact lenses. Did they have those in Middle Earth?

**Minority Report** (sci-fi)  
The eyes Tom Cruise's **character** receives are from a Japanese/Asian man called Mr Yakamoto in the movie. But how many Asians have got blue eyes?

**Reservoir Dogs** (gangster drama)  
As Mr Pink (**played by** Steve Buscemi) is running away from the police down the street; he runs past the same shop (called HOME CENTER) twice. Then the police following him do the same thing.

**Spiderman** (fantasy action)  
In the **scene** where Peter gets ready for school, he puts on his backpack, and grabs his coat. When the camera shows him outside the door, his coat is on under his backpack.

**Pirates of the Caribbean** (comedy)  
The film was **set** in the Caribbean in the 1600s. In one scene a cannon shot explodes. This is impossible because shells that exploded weren't invented until the mid-1800s.

**Gladiator** (historical drama)  
In the scene where Maximus, Juba and Hagen are eating, someone **in the background** asks about a radio. Er, I don't think radios had been invented in 180 AD.

Extract from *Whoops! Movie Goofs*

- 3 Find these words in the message board and complete the questions.

character   close-up   in the background   played by   scene   set

- 1 In which films does a \_\_\_\_\_ of the main \_\_\_\_\_ reveal a problem with the eyes?
- 2 Which films are \_\_\_\_\_ in the past?
- 3 Which role is \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Buscemi? What's the film?
- 4 Which film contains a \_\_\_\_\_ where a bag changes position?
- 5 In *Gladiator*, someone \_\_\_\_\_ asks about a radio. Why is this strange?

- 4 Answer the questions in Ex 3.

- Speaking and writing**
- 1 You are going to interview a partner. Read the instructions and prepare questions and your own answers. Then interview each other.

- 1 Ask your partner about a film that he / she knows and would like to talk about.
- 2 Find out what type of film it is.
- 3 Ask about the main characters in the film.
- 4 Find out which time and place the film is set in.
- 5 Find out the main story (the plot) of the film.
- 6 Ask your partner about the acting, the soundtrack (music) and the special effects.
- 7 Ask if your partner would recommend this film.

- 2 Write a review about the film you have just described. Use the ideas in Ex 1 to help you.

- 3 Find students who have written about a film that you've seen. Do you agree with their reviews?



CD-ROM

For more activities go to **Taste Unit 2**