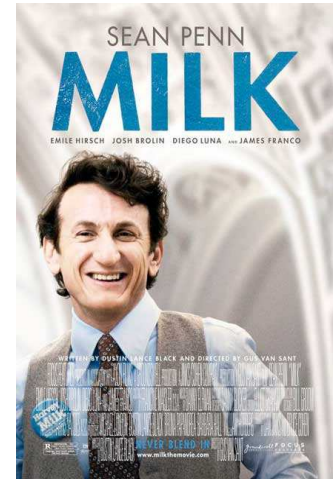


Milk

Director: Gus Van Sant
2008 (116')



Milk is Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in the USA. The film opens with Milk (played by Sean Penn), a 40-year-old office worker in 1970's New York City, who decides to move to San Francisco and change his life. And in doing so he helps change the lives and give hope to many more people, people oppressed and without voice because of their sexuality. "My name is Harvey Milk and I want to recruit you!" is his battle-cry. And many listened and were recruited to his fight for civil rights. This film is about activism and bravery; not just the activism and bravery of Harvey Milk but of all the people who fought against prejudice and intolerance in San Francisco and elsewhere in the 1970's.

Vocabulary and expressions:

Straight: Informal term to describe someone who is not gay

Supervisor: An elected administrative officer in certain U.S. counties and townships

Cute: Attractive; nice

Listen, Harvey, you're kind of cute for a suit.

I'm all ears: I am ready to listen to you

To be spotted: To be seen or noticed

But someone spotted me at the opera, sitting in a box, next to my lover. And I was fired.

To run for office: Put yourself forward as a candidate for public office

To turn a blind eye: To pretend not to see

They turn a blind eye if one of us is murdered.

A downer: Something that is particularly negative or depressing (Informal)

You know Harv', your whole rap's a real downer.

To be or stay in the closet: To hide one`s beliefs or sexuality from others
I am here tonight to say, we will no longer sit quietly in our closets.

Ring out the old, ring in the new: An expression used when a change is being made

Over the top: Exaggerated or extreme

It bugs the hell out of her: It really annoys or irritates her (Informal)

To come out: An expression used when someone made public their previously hidden homosexuality

We're going to tell everyone in the state to come out

To string somebody along: To trick or deceive somebody

You strung me along. And now you're throwing me to the wolves.

To blow a chance or opportunity: To waste a chance or opportunity

I gave you a chance, Harvey. I really did. You blew it. You really blew it.

Lavish: Extravagant; generous

I remember when your birthdays were a bit less... lavish

All hell breaks loose: A situation of chaos and, perhaps, destruction

What we hoped to do was to organize to the point that when we did lose, there would be a revolt... That all hell would break loose.

Out of touch: Not up-to-date or well-informed

You're looking more and more out of touch

A witch hunt: To investigate and harass somebody because of their political beliefs or non-conformity

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