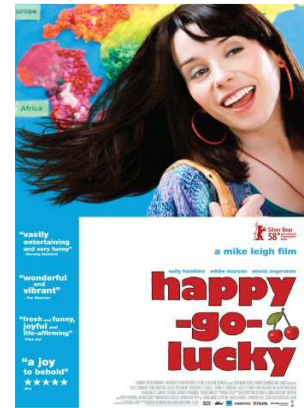


Happy-go-lucky

Director: Mike Leigh
2008 (118')



Poppy is a young woman in the prime of her life. In fact, she loves just about everything in her life; her family, her friends, her job. She has an optimism and an enthusiasm that affect all whoever comes into contact with her, even if they don't share this particular life view. In Happy-Go-Lucky Mike Leigh directs what must be his most positive film and which has at its core his most life-affirming character, Poppy, played to critical acclaim by Sally Hawkins. If the heroine of the piece is happy-go-lucky then this is not true of all those around her, especially those who have been dealt a difficult hand by life.

Vocabulary and expressions:

To nick something: A colloquial expression meaning to steal something
I aint nicked nothing.

Chilled out: A colloquial expression meaning to be calm and without stress
I'm totally chilled out about it.

Lippy: Lipstick

To have a run-in with someone: To have an argument or disagreement with sb
I had a run-in with my mum.

To be bothered: To have an interest in or care about something
Some parents just can't be bothered.

Bear with me: Hear me out; listen to what I must say

To tell sb off/give sb a telling-off: Tell sb you are angry with them because of something they have done
What? He gave you a telling-off?

Uptight: Not calm or relaxed; easily annoyed or irritated
He's a little bit uptight.

Handy: Useful or easy to use

To dilly-dally: A colloquial expression meaning to hesitate or not act

Don't dilly-dally!

A nutter: An informal word for mad or insane

He sounds like a nutter.

I didn't bargain for that: I didn't expect that

Mate: Friend

I'm your mate, aren't I?

To be down in the dumps: To be sad or slightly depressed about something

A bit down in the dumps, is he?

Search me: If you say this in response to a question it means that you have no idea what the answer is

What was that all about? Search me!

To give somebody the creeps: To give sb a feeling of fear or horror

It gives me the creeps, to be honest.

To be out of order: To behave in an unacceptable way

You're out of order, Scott!

Excerpts from reviews of the film:

Happy-Go-Lucky is as funny, serious, life-affirming and beautifully performed as anything Leigh has done... Philip French, The Observer

There's something raw in Hawkins that wins our empathy for Poppy. Thanks to her, Happy-Go-Lucky is more than a movie, it's a gift. Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

Leigh always finds plot in character, and 'Happy-Go-Lucky' is more of a portrait than a story; a film that's built around one performance. Dave Calhoun, Time Out London

What do you think?

- Do you agree with the comments made by the reviewers above?
- How do you feel towards the character Poppy?
- Do you share Poppy's optimism?
- How do you feel towards the other characters in the film?
- Why do you think Mike Leigh made this film?
- What other thoughts do you have with regard to the film?

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