

Midnight In Paris

[music: *Bistro Fada* by *Stephane Wrembel*]

Hello and welcome to the *nomadamin* English podcast. I'm Amin Bahmani Yeganeh, an English teacher and the founder of *nomadamin*. Every episode, a fascinating subject is chosen to help you improve your English, and gain new perspectives on the world. I, the storyteller, will be using intermediate English, at times with **a pinch of** higher-level language to push you forward a bit. But don't worry. If you miss something, you can always skip back and listen again. Full transcripts are also offered at <http://nomadamin.com/podcast>.

[Introduction]

In this episode, we're taking a look at one of my favorite movies ever, *Midnight In Paris*, written and directed in 2011, by the one and only *Woody Allen*. Now, if you know me at all, you'd say I love **pretty much** every one of his movies. Fair enough! But even among his movies, this one is right up the list of the best ones. So, **with no further ado**, let's jump into it. Honestly, I can't wait for this one anymore.

[Director]

Let's start with the man himself, Mr. *Woody Allen*. Needless to say, he's a **renowned** American filmmaker, known for his entertaining storytelling, unique sense of humor, **nihilistic** yet fun **approach** towards life, and remarkable ability to capture the essence of cities. Not that he's ever cared or anything, but it's also worth mentioning that *Allen* has won four *Academy Awards*, including one as the best director for this **very** movie, *Midnight In Paris*.

[Plot]

But, what is this movie about? The plot **revolves around** *Gil Pender*, a writer played by *Owen Wilson*, who finds himself in Paris with his fiancée and her family. While wandering the streets at midnight, *Gil* discovers a mysterious **portal**, let's say something like a time machine, that transports him back to the 1920s, the golden age of art and literature in Paris, where he gets to meet iconic **figures** such as *Scott Fitzgerald*, *Gertrude Stein*, and above all *Ernest Hemingway*.

[Concepts]

I'd say the main idea is based on how people **cherish** nostalgia. The story raises the question whether the past was in fact as good as how we imagine it was. Or, maybe, nostalgia is just a **trick** our minds play to give us a place to escape to, y'know, when perhaps we are not quite happy with how things currently go. I guess, it'd be fair to say that the movie, somehow, tries to remind us of how we

can, and maybe should, appreciate the present moment, live it passionately, and make the most of it.

Another highlighted point of the movie, **in my eyes**, is the **significance** of imagination, the idea that we can live in our own world as much as the **so-called** real world, if not more! And who's to say which of the two is the main one.

[music: *Ballad du Paris* by Francois Parisi]

[Quotes]

Here are a few lines from the movie giving you a taste of it and what it's about:

- *Gil: "That's what the present is. It's a little unsatisfying because life's a little unsatisfying."*
- *Gertrude Stein: "We all fear death and question our place in the universe. The artist's job is not to **succumb** to **despair**, but to find an **antidote** for the emptiness of existence."*
- *Paul: "Nostalgia is denial - denial of the painful present. The name for this denial is golden-age thinking, the **notion** that a different time period is better than the one one's living in. It's a **flaw** in the romantic imagination of those people who find it difficult to **cope with** the present."*

[Reviews]

Midnight in Paris has received much **acclaim** for its imaginative **appeal** and *Allen's* skillful direction. It even won the *Academy Awards* for *Best Original Screenplay*, and as mentioned before, *Best Director*.

The New York Times **hailed** it as "*a **mesmerizing** and **bittersweet** valentine to the city of love and to the artistic spirit.*"

[Other Movies]

If you enjoyed *Midnight in Paris*, and let's be honest, who wouldn't?! I highly recommend checking out some of *Woody Allen's* other films. Boy..., where to even begin?! Well... **off the top of my head**, *Annie Hall* is an absolute **classic**, known for its **witty** humor and exploration of love and relationships. *Manhattan* is another **gem**, which beautifully captures the **charm** and complexity of New York City.

[Closing]

And that brings us to the end of this episode, although I can go on and on talking about this movie, **I'm telling ya!**

The *nomadamin* podcast is and will be free to make high-quality education accessible to everyone. So, if you enjoy listening to this podcast, please make a

donation using the button on the player or the link in the description to support the channel and play your part.

With the hope that this episode has given you an idea for the next movie you wanna watch, until next time, **au revoir!**



Words List

a pinch of: a small amount of something

pretty much: almost, nearly

with no further ado: with no more delay

renowned: famous

nihilistic: of the idea that existence is senseless and useless

approach: a way of dealing with a situation or problem

very: used to emphasize you are talking about one particular thing or person

to revolve around: to have someone or something as a main subject or interest

portal: a doorway, gate

figure: a person

to cherish: to adore, to admire, to love

trick: an action intended to deceive, either as a way of cheating someone or as a joke or form of entertainment

in my eyes: in my opinion

significance: importance

so-called: used to show a word that is used to describe something is not suitable

to succumb: to give up, to surrender

despair: hopelessness, desperation

antidote: a remedy, cure

notion: idea, belief

flaw: fault, imperfection, weakness

to cope with: to deal with, to manage

acclaim: admiration, praise

appeal: attractiveness

to hail: to praise, to admire

mesmerizing: very attractive, making you want to keep looking

bittersweet: containing a mixture of sadness and happiness

off the top of my head: without careful thought or investigation, from the knowledge you have in your memory

classic: a well-known piece of writing, music, or film which is of high quality and lasting value

witty: humorous, amusing

gem: a precious stone

charm: appeal, attractiveness

I'm telling ya: used to emphasize that what you are saying is true

au revoir: goodbye