

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002)



Genre: **Comedy / Romance**

Runtime: **96 min**

Country: **USA / Canada**

Language: **English / Greek**

Plot Summary

This film looks at the American immigrant family, and the tension that has existed between many immigrant parents who want their children to marry a person from their own ethnic background, and those children who find partners from elsewhere in the great American “melting pot.” (mix of cultures). Toula is a 30 year old woman who lives with her Greek parents in their comfortable Chicago home, but who is sad and lost, partly because she thinks she’s too old and unattractive to ever find a husband. One day she decides she cannot work forever in her parents’ Greek restaurant, so she returns to school to study computers, gets a job in her Aunt Voula’s travel agency, learns to use makeup, and then meets Ian, a warm and charming high school teacher. Soon after, Ian and Toula fall in love and decide to get married.

Gus has a hard time accepting that his oldest daughter is going to marry a long-haired American with no Greek background, but after Ian agrees to become a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, Gus has no choice but to accept him into his family. Soon, all of Toula’s relatives, including her parents, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles and 27 cousins, are preparing for a traditional Greek wedding, with Ian and his very conservative parents soon caught up in all the love and insanity that such an event produces.

A note on the language used in this film: Toula’s parents and aunt are first generation Americans so they often speak non-standard English.

Questions for Discussion

1. Which character in the film did you like most and why?
2. Which scene in the film did you like most and why?
3. If you were Ian, would you have agreed to join another church in order to marry Toula?
4. How does your family compare to Toula’s? And Ian’s family?
5. This movie seems to be about Greek-American culture. In fact, it is about **all** kinds of “ethnic” Americans. Do you agree?