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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Учебное пособие по домашнему чтению

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ

№ 1955

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Предназначено для студентов, обучающихся по направлению 080500 «Менеджмент», а также может быть использовано студентами других специальностей.

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TEXT 1. CHARLIE CHAPLIN

In a 1995 worldwide survey of film critics, Chaplin was voted the greatest actor in movie history. He was the first, and to date the last, person to control every aspect of the filmmaking process – founding his own studio, United Artists, with Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford and D.W. Griffith, and producing, casting, directing, writing, scoring and editing the movies he starred in. In the first decades of the 20th century, when weekly moviegoing was a national habit, Chaplin helped turn an industry into an art. In 1916, his third year in films, his salary of \$10,000 a week made him the highest-paid actor – possibly the highest paid person – in the world. By 1920, “Chaplinitis,” accompanied by a flood of Chaplin dances, songs, dolls, comic books and cocktails, was rampant. Filmmaker Mack Sennett thought him “just the greatest artist who ever lived.”

Born in London in 1889, Chaplin spent his childhood in shabby furnished rooms, state poorhouses and an orphanage. He was never sure who his real father was; his mother's husband Charles Chaplin, a singer, deserted the family early and died of alcoholism in 1901. His mother Hannah, a small-time actress, was in and out of mental hospitals. Though he pursued learning passionately in later years, young Charlie left school at 10 to work as a mime and roustabout on the British vaudeville circuit.

In 1910 he made his first trip to America. In 1913 he joined Sennett's Keystone Studios in New York City. There he made his first film *Making a Living* in 1914.

The actor, not the camera, did the acting in his films. Never a formal innovator, Chaplin found his person and plot early and never totally abandoned them. For 13 years, he resisted talking pictures, launched with *The Jazz Singer* in 1927. Even then, the talkies he made, among them the masterpieces *The Great Dictator* (1940), *Monsieur Verdoux* (1947) and *Limelight* (1952), were variations on his greatest silent films, *The Kid* (1921), *The Gold Rush* (1925), *The Circus* (1928) and *City Lights* (1931).

On Chaplin's first night in New York in September 1910, he walked around the theater district, dazzled by its lights and movement. “This is it!” he told himself. “This is where I belong!” Yet he never became a U.S. citizen. An internationalist by temperament and fame, he considered patriotism “the greatest insanity that the world has ever suffered.” As the Depression gave way to World War II and the cold war, the increasingly politicized message of his films, his expressed sympathies with pacifists, communists and Soviet supporters, became suspect.

Edgar Hoover's FBI put together a dossier on Chaplin that reached almost 2,000 pages. Wrongly identifying him a Jew passing for a gentile, the FBI found no evidence that he had ever belonged to the Communist Party. In 1952, however, two days after Chaplin sailed for England to promote *Limelight*. Loathing the witch-hunts and “moral pomposity” of the cold war U.S., and believing he had “lost the affections” of the American public, Chaplin settled with Oona and their family in Switzerland (where he died in 1977).

At the end of *City Lights*, when the heroine at last sees the man who has delivered her from blindness, we watch her romantic dreams die. “You?” she asks, incredulous. “Yes,” the Tramp nods, his face, caught in extreme close-up, a map of pride, shame and devotion. It's the oldest story in show business – the last shall yet be, if not first, at least recognized, and perhaps even loved.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Match the expressions on the left with their definitions on the right.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. to date | 1. звуковые фильмы |
| 2. weekly movie going | 2. обосноваться |
| 3. rampant | 3. выражать сочувствие в связи с чем-либо |
| 4. state poorhouses | 4. не желать принимать участие в «охоте на ведьм» |
| 5. a small-time actress | 5. политический подтекст |
| 6. work as a mime and roustabout | 6. процесс кинопроизводства |
| 7. talkies | 7. еженедельное посещение кинотеатров |
| 8. to abandon | 8. к данному моменту |
| 9. filmmaking process | 9. работать имитатором и разнорабочим |
| 10. to express sympathy with smth. | 10. безумный, неистовый |
| 11. to lose smb's affection | 11. продвигать, рекламировать |
| 12. to loath the witch-hunts | 12. большое преимущество |
| 13. to settle with | 13. отказываться от чего-либо |
| 14. to promote | 14. утратить чью-либо привязанность |
| 15. a politicized message | 15. заурядная актриса |

2. Suggest English synonyms and Russian equivalents for the following expressions. Reproduce the situations in the text in which they are used.

1. to turn a filmmaking process into an art;
2. the witch-hunt;
3. to consider patriotism “the greatest insanity that the world has ever suffered”;
4. a politicized message of one’s films.

3. Give a written translation of the first paragraph of the text.

4. Answer the questions:

1. What was Chaplin’s innovation in filmmaking?
2. Who did the acting in Charlie Chaplin’s films?
3. Why do you think Charlie Chaplin resisted talking pictures for many years?
4. Why did he leave America to settle in Switzerland?
5. What are the most famous (your favorite) Chaplin’s films?
6. Why do you think Charlie Chaplin is said to be the greatest actor in movie history? Are his films still popular nowadays?

5. Retell the text using the expressions and key-words from the text. The text should be closed. The vocabulary list can be opened. Try to use each of them.

6. Make a fact file of your favorite actor/actress. Work in pairs. Act as a journalist interviewing a film star. Choose the best questions to ask your partner from the list below (add more). Guess your partner’s favorite actor/actress name.

- Have you always wanted to be an actor?
- Have you achieved your ambitions?
- What are you working on at the moment?
- How many films have you starred in? What are they?
- Is there any special relationship in your life?
- How would you like people to remember you?
- Describe your typical working day.
- What have been the best/ worst moments in your career so far?