

REF: 228

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Franchise x6 Discs

# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

## Title: Monty Python – The Meaning of Life



Franchise 1-3 Discs

Library Image



ISBN: 5050582224276

### Information

Release Title: **Monty Python – The Meaning of Life**  
07<sup>th</sup> July 1983 (United Kingdom)

Publication:

Origin: United Kingdom

AKA:

Release date: United States – 31<sup>st</sup> March 1983

Genres: Comedy, Musical

Disc Nos. – 4

Certification: 18

Duration: 1h 47m

Region Code:

Region:

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

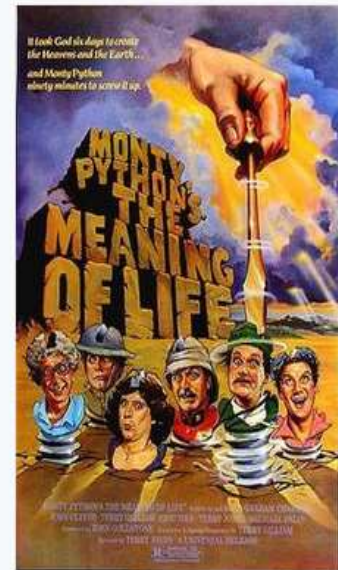
Filming locations: Battersea Power Station, Battersea, London, England, UK (chase, sketch: Find The Fish)

Sound mix: Dolby Stereo

Pal – Colour

Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

### Monty Python's The Meaning of Life



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Terry Jones
Written by	Graham Chapman John Cleese Eric Idle Terry Gilliam Terry Jones Michael Palin
Produced by	John Goldstone
Starring	Graham Chapman John Cleese Terry Gilliam Eric Idle Terry Jones Michael Palin
Cinematography	Peter Hannan
Edited by	Julian Doyle
Music by	John Du Prez
Production companies	Celandine Films The Monty Python Partnership
Distributed by	Universal Pictures
Release dates	31 March 1983 (United States) 23 June 1983 (United Kingdom)
Running time	90 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
Country	United Kingdom <sup>[2]</sup>
Language	English
Budget	\$9 million <sup>[3]</sup>
Box office	\$42.7 million

# 1 - Title: Monty Python – The Meaning of Life

## Storyline

Six fish in a restaurant's tank greet each other, then see their friend being eaten. This leads them to question the meaning of life. In the first sketch, "The Miracle of Birth", maternity doctors ignore a woman in labour while trying to impress the hospital's administrator. In Yorkshire, a Roman Catholic man loses his job and informs his numerous children that he must sell them for scientific experiments ("Every Sperm Is Sacred"). A Protestant man looks on disapprovingly and proudly remarks that Protestants can use contraception and have sex for pleasure (although his wife observes that they never do).

In "Growth and Learning", a class of boys learn school etiquette before partaking in a sex education lesson, which involves watching their teacher have sex with his wife. One boy laughs and is forced into a violent rugby match pitting pupils against the school masters as punishment. "Fighting Each Other" features three scenes concerning the British military. First, during the Battle of Verdun in World War I, a British officer tries to rally his men during an attack, but they instead present him with going-away gifts. Second, a modern army RSM bullies his soldiers to say what they'd rather be doing than drill practice, then dismisses each in turn. Lastly, in 1879 during the Anglo-Zulu War, a soldier finds his leg has been bitten off. Suspecting a tiger, the soldiers hunt for it and find two men in a tiger costume.

An announcer introduces "The Middle of the Film," during which bizarre characters challenge the audience in a segment called "Find the Fish." "Middle Age" involves an American couple visiting a Hawaiian restaurant with a medieval torture theme, where, to the interest of the fish, the waiter offers a conversation about philosophy and the meaning of life. The customers are unable to make sense of it and move on to a discussion of live organ transplants. In "Live Organ Transplants", two paramedics visit an organ donor and remove his liver while he is alive. His wife is reluctant to donate her liver, but she relents after a man steps out of a refrigerator and reminds her of humanity's insignificance in the universe ("Galaxy Song"). Executives of an American conglomerate debate the meaning of life before a raid by The Crimson Permanent Assurance briefly interrupts them.

"The Autumn Years" starts off with a musician in a French restaurant singing about the joys of having a penis ("The Not Noël Coward Song"). As the song ends, the ill-tempered glutton Mr. Creosote enters the restaurant, causing the fish to scatter and hide. He vomits continuously and devours an enormous meal. After the maître d'hôtel persuades him to eat an after-dinner mint, Creosote's gut explodes, splattering the other diners around the customers. In "The Meaning of Life", the restaurant's cleaning woman proposes that life is meaningless before revealing that she is a racist. A waiter leads the audience to the house where he was born, recalls his mother's lessons about kindness, and then becomes angry when his point trails off.

"Death" features a condemned man choosing the manner of his own execution: being chased off the Cliffs of Dover by topless women in sports gear and falling into his own grave below. In a short-animated sequence, despondent leaves commit suicide by throwing themselves from the branches of a tree. The Grim Reaper enters an isolated home and convinces the hosts and dinner guests, with difficulty, that they are all dead. They accompany the Grim Reaper to Heaven, revealed to be the Hawaiian restaurant from earlier. They enter a Las Vegas-style hotel where it's always Christmas and meet the characters from the previous sketches ("Christmas in Heaven").

The song ends abruptly for "The End of the Film". The hostess from "The Middle of the Film" opens an envelope and blandly reveals the meaning of life: "Try and be nice to people, avoid eating fat, read a good book every now and then, get some walking in, and try and live together in peace and harmony with people of all creeds and nations".

## Cast

Graham Chapman as Chairman / Fish No. 1 / Doctor / Harry Blackitt / Wymer / Hordern / General / Coles / Narrator No. 2 / Dr Livingstone / Transvestite / Eric / Guest No. 1 / Arthur Jarrett / Geoffrey / Tony Bennett-esque singer  
John Cleese as Fish No. 2 / Dr Spencer / Humphrey Williams / Sturridge / Ainsworth / Waiter / Eric's assistant / Maître D' / Grim Reaper  
Terry Gilliam as Window Washer / Fish No. 4 / Walters / Middle of the Film announcer / M'Lady Joeline / Mr Brown / Howard Katzenberg  
Eric Idle as Gunther / Fish No. 3 / 'Meaning of Life' singer / Mr Moore / Mrs Blackitt / Watson / Blackitt / Atkinson / Perkins / Victim #3 / Man in Front / Mrs Hendy / Man in Pink / Noël Coward / Gaston / Angela

Terry Jones as Bert / Fish No. 6 / Mum / Priest / Biggs / Sergeant / Man with Bendy Arms / Mrs. Brown / Mr Creosote / Maria / Leaf Father / Fiona Portland-Smythe

Michael Palin as Window Washer / Harry / Fish No. 5 / Mr Pycroft / Dad / Narrator No. 1 / Chaplain / Carter / Spadger / Regimental Sergeant Major / Pakenham-Walsh / Man in Rear End / Female TV Presenter / Mr Marvin Hendy / Governor / Padre / Leaf Son / Debbie Katzenberg

The main company of Monty Python members, who appeared in multiple roles in nearly every section of the film, was supported by featured cast mates:

Carol Cleveland

Simon Jones

Patricia Quinn

Judy Loe

Andrew Bicknell

Mark Holmes

Valerie Whittington

Matt Frewer

John Scott Martin

### Parents Guide

#### Certification

Argentina:18 Australia:M Brazil:18 Canada:18A (British Columbia) Canada:R (Manitoba/Nova Scotia) Canada:R (original rating, Ontario) Canada:13+ (Quebec) Canada:14A (2016, Alberta) Canada:PG (2003, re-rating, Ontario) Chile:14 Denmark:15 Finland:K-16 France:Tous publics Greece:K-16 Hong Kong:III (recommended rating) Hungary:16 Iceland:12 Indonesia:D Ireland:15 Ireland:15 (re-rating) Ireland:(Banned) (original rating, 1983-1990) Italy:VM14 Japan:R15+ Malaysia:(Banned) Malaysia:18 Mexico:C Netherlands:6 New Zealand:R16 Norway:16 (original rating) Norway:15 (re-rating) Peru:14 Poland:16 (TV rating) Portugal:M/18 Russia:16+ Singapore:M18 (cut) South Korea:18 (2001) Spain:12 Sweden:15 United Kingdom:18 (original rating) United Kingdom:15 (2000, re-rating) United States:TV-14 (DLSV) United States:R (certificate #26970) United Arab Emirates:18+ West Germany:16

**Sex & Nudity** –Moderate **Violence & Gore** – Moderate, **Profanity** –Moderate, **Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking** – Mild  
**Frightening & Intense Scenes** – Mild

