

G7250 GRAN TORINO (USA, 2008)

Credits: director, Clint Eastwood ; writer, Nick Schenk ; story, Dave Johannson, Nick Schenk.

Cast: Clint Eastwood, Christopher Carley, Bee Vang, Ahney Her.

Summary: Melodrama set in contemporary Detroit. A film about the flowering of a old man's better nature and about Americans of different races learning to respect one another. Walt Kowalski (Eastwood) is a cantankerous, racist, beer-chugging retired Detroit autoworker, a lapsed Catholic and Korean War veteran who keeps a shotgun ready to hand to protect his own security. Walt sits on his porch all day long, when he's not doing house repairs or working on his prized 1972 Gran Torino, a car he helped assemble on the Ford assembly line, and watches the world change around him. His wife has just died, he considers his sons to be overweight meddlers working at meaningless jobs, and his granddaughter is a self-centered greed machine. He is still troubled by memories of the Korean War and he calls the Asians moving into the neighborhood "gooks" and "chinks." But he gets to know Thao (Vang), the fatherless Hmong teenage boy who lives next door. Walt watches as a carload of Hmong gangstas try to enlist the quiet, studious Thao into their thuggery. When they threaten Thao to make him try to steal the Gran Torino, Walt catches him red-handed. Thao's older sister Sue (Her) apologizes and offers Thao's services for odd jobs. Walt accepts reluctantly. When Sue is threatened by some black bullies, Walt intervenes. Thus Walt's life becomes linked with these people, although Sue has to explain that the Hmong are mountain people from Vietnam who were U.S. allies during that war and found it advisable to leave their homeland when the war was lost.

Alexander, Al. "Eastwood drives 'Gran torino'" The patriot ledger [Quincy, MA] (Dec 26, 2008), p. 25.

Arnold, William. "Gran torino: Clint Eastwood is still kicking butt at 78" Seattle post-intelligencer (Dec 25, 2008), Life and arts, p. C1.

Beale, Lewis. "Clint still makes our day; Others have (and have not) done the same" Newsday (Dec 29, 2008), Explore LI, p. B5.

Breznican, Anthony. "Classic cars make Eastwood's day; But symbolism is what drives 'Gran torino'" USA today (Dec 11, 2008), Life, p. 6D.

Bunch, Sonny. "Gran torino" Washington times (Dec 24, 2008), p. B1.

Burr, Ty. "Dirty Harry's neighborhood; Eastwood reworks icon's legacy in 'Gran torino'" Boston globe (Dec 25, 2008), p. G26.

"Clint talks 'Torino'" Chicago tribune RedEye edition (Dec 19, 2008), p. 48.

Dargis, Manohla. "Hope for a racist, and maybe a country" New York times (Dec 12, 2008), p. C1.

Ebert, Roger. "The artful codger" Chicago sun-times (Dec 19, 2008), Movies, p. B1.

Foundas, Scott. "Clint Eastwood, America's director" Denver westword (Dec 25, 2008), p. ?

_____. "Forgiven" Village voice 53/50 (Dec 10-16, 2008), p. 58.

_____. "Gran Torino is Eastwood's most personal film yet" Denver westword (Dec 25, 2008), p. ?

Gire, Dann. "Humanity blends with violence in 'Gran torino'" Chicago daily herald (Dec 18, 2008), Time out!, p. 18.

- Goldstein, Patrick. "The big picture; Eastwood rewrite's a writers life" Los Angeles times (Dec 9, 2008), Calendar, p. E1.
- "Gran torino" New York post (Dec 29, 2008), p. 32.
- Guzman, Rafer. "Gran torino" Newsday (Dec 12, 2008), p. B15.
- Hartl, John. "Dirty Harry's redemption" Seattle times (Dec 25, 2008), ROP zone, p. B3.
- Headlam, Bruce. "The veteran power of Clint Eastwood" International herald tribune (Dec 16, 2008), p. 9.
- Hiscock, John. "Go ahead, offer this actor another good script; His family now makes Clint's day; Gran torino could put the cap on Clint's acting career unless another great role come along" Toronto star (Dec 14, 2008), p. E1.
- Honeycutt, Kirk. "Gran torino" Hollywood reporter 407 (Dec 5, 2008), p. 31.
- Hornaday, Ann. "The gruff rider; With 'Gran torino,' a well-armed Eastwood delivers once again" Washington post (Dec 25, 2008), p. C1.
- Horton, Robert. "'Gran torino': A complete professional at work; Film icon Clint Eastwood plays a bigot who faces down gangbangers and learns lessons about intolerance in 'Gran torino'" The herald [Everett, WA] (Dec 25, 2008), p. ?
- Howell, Peter. "A showdown in Motor City" Toronto star (Dec 19, 2008), p. E4.
- Kennedy, Lisa. "Hero with high mileage" Denver post (Dec 25, 2008), p. D10.
- Lacey, Liam. "Grumpy old vigilante" Globe and mail [Toronto, Ont.] (Dec 19, 2008), p. R10.
- LaSalle, Mick. "Clint Eastwood trots out Dirty Harry, senior edition" San Francisco chronicle (Dec 19, 2008), p. E1.
- Lemire, Christy. "Review: Eastwood back with a roar in 'Gran torino'" Associated Press (Dec 10, 2008), Entertainment news
- Long, Tom. "'Torino' idles through story" Detroit news (Dec 25, 2008), My time, p. 6M.
- Longwell, Todd. "'Gran' illusion" hollywoodreporter.com (Dec 8, 2008), Cover story.
- McCarthy, Todd. "Race drives Clint's 'Torino'" Variety (Dec. 8-14, 2008), p. 61.
- Monaghan, John. "Clint Eastwood makes Detroit's day; 78-year-old star's gritty performance is best thing about locally made 'Gran torino'" Detroit free press (Dec 25, 2008), Play, p. 4Z.
- _____. "Detroit a leading role in his new drama, 'Gran torino'" Detroit free press (Dec 21, 2008), Entertainment, p. 1F.
- Monk, Katherine. "Clint Eastwood resurrects tough guy persona in Gran torino; But there's a twist – he ends up protecting the car thief who stole his prized 1972 Gran torino, his teenaged neighbor" Vancouver sun (Dec 26, 2008), p. C7.
- Morgenstern, Joe. "Film/review: 'Gran torino' is the perfect Eastwood vehicle" Wall Street journal (Dec 19, 2008), p. W4.
- Neil, Dan. "Car guys will get title of Eastwood film; Actor/director's latest film title, 'Gran torino,' pays homage to Detroit" Houston chronicle (Dec 29, 2008), p. 4.
- _____. "Critic's notebook; When Detroit drove itself off a cliff; The title star of 'Gran torino' is a metal hulk that illustrates what went bad in Motor City" Los Angeles times (Dec 24, 2008), Calendar, p. E1.
- Patterson, John. "Film & music: On film: "With his new film, Clint Eastwood is finally disavowing the racism and vengefulness of Dirty Harry. You might even see this as an apology" The guardian [London] (Dec 19, 2008), p. 2.
- Phillips, Michael. "Clint drives back to 'Dirty Harry' land" Chicago tribune (Dec 19, 2008), Live! Movies, p. 1.
- Quarles, Alicia. "Eastwood: Unknown 'Gran torino' cast 'a chance'" Associated Press (Dec 10, 2008), Entertainment news

- Rickey, Carrie. "Clint Eastwood's crusty tale of a crusty character" Philadelphia inquirer (Dec 25, 2008), p. E1.
- Rodriguez, Rene. "Movies: Hanging tough with the old master Clint Eastwood" Miami herald (Dec 21, 2008), p. M1.
- Sarris, Andrew. "Clint makes my day as aged avenging angel" New York observer (Dec 9, 2008), Movies, p. ?
- Schwarzbaum, Lisa. "Gran torino" Entertainment weekly no. 1026 (Dec. 19, 2008), p. 40.
- Shanahan, Mark. "The tough guy in the director's chair" Boston globe (Dec 26, 2008), p. G8.
- Strauss, Bob. "Review; Clint's well-etched portrait of racist offsets clunky storytelling" Oakland tribune [CA] (Dec 17, 2008), p. ?
- _____. "Watching Eastwood still a 'Gran' old time" Long Beach press-telegram [CA] (Dec 12, 2008), p. U1.
- Thompson, Gary. "Clint the cranky: Eastwood as a vet, coping with shifting 'hood in 'Gran torino'" Philadelphia daily news (Dec 24, 2008), p. 32.
- Tobin, Paulette. "Crookston to Hollywood; Minnesota native cowrites story for new Clint Eastwood film 'Gran torino'" Grand Forks herald (Dec 26, 2008), p. A1, A7.
- Turan, Kenneth. "At the movies/Critic's pick; 'Gran torino'" Los Angeles times (Dec 18, 2008), Calendar, p. E3.
- _____. "Movie reviews; Vintage Clint; Eastwood at 78, is still a potent action figure in 'Gran torino'" Los Angeles times (Dec 12, 2008), Calendar, p. E1.
- Verniere, James. "Movies: 'Gran' slam!; Clint Eastwood scores another winner as ornery vet on a tear" Boston herald (Dec 25, 2008), The edge, p. 27.
- Weitzman, Elizabeth. "Nobody gangs up on Clint" Daily news [New York, NY] (Dec 12, 2008), Now, p. 47.