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# ONBOARD WITH WILL SMITH



Sony Pictures chose to host the press junket for Will Smith's new movie, *Seven Pounds* aboard the architect-designed Silver Sturgeon earlier this year.

Journalists from ITN, the BBC and Channel 4 were among fifty members of the press who boarded the Silver Sturgeon at Savoy Pier from 10.45am on the 14th of January to quiz Hollywood's superstar actor, Will Smith, on his new movie. The journalists, including Mark Dolan, Steve Jones, Lizo Mzimba and Julia Metcalfe, were treated to a cruise of central London and nibbled on bowls of Thai green curry, Cumberland sausages with mustard mash, and wild mushroom risotto in the Ensign Room.

The River Room set the stage for the interviews as Will Smith fielded questions relating to the launch of his newest movie. The gripping mystery and surprising love story, *Seven Pounds*, premiered on the same evening in London's Leicester Square.

A film by Gabriele Muccino (from *The Pursuit of Happyness*), *Seven Pounds* is the emotionally suspenseful tale of a man with a haunting secret who sets out to redeem himself by drastically changing the lives of seven total strangers. Once his plan is set in motion, nothing can alter it. Or so he thinks. What Ben Thomas never expects is that he will fall in love with one of the strangers – and that it is she who will start to change him.

"I was blown away conceptually by the script", Will Smith says, "and by its ideas about finding purpose, about the powerful necessity to attach meaning to our lives. It's an incredible modern love story I don't think I've seen before".

Reuniting the team that had been so successful and had become so close to each other on *The Pursuit of Happyness*, *Seven Pounds* set out to give Smith an opportunity to play a character he's never played before, to go into new and exciting territory. The Italian director, Muccino, had built an exceptional rapport with Smith during their last project, even developing a shorthand way of communicating with the actor.

View a clip of one of Will Smith's interviews:  
» Will Smith talking to Julia Metcalfe



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