

# The Fabelmans

***The Fabelmans*** is a 2022 American coming-of-age drama film directed and co-produced by Steven Spielberg, who co-wrote the screenplay with Tony Kushner. The film is a semi-autobiographical story loosely based on Spielberg's adolescence and first years as a filmmaker. The plot is told through an original story of the fictional Sammy Fabelman, a young aspiring filmmaker who explores how the power of films can help him see the truth about his dysfunctional family and those around him. It stars Gabriel LaBelle as Sammy, alongside Michelle Williams, Paul Dano, Seth Rogen, and Judd Hirsch in supporting roles. The film is dedicated to the memories of Spielberg's real-life parents, Leah Adler and Arnold Spielberg, who died in 2017 and 2020, respectively.<sup>[7]</sup>

Spielberg had conceived the project as early as 1999, with his sister Anne writing a screenplay titled *I'll Be Home*. The project was withheld for 20 years, since Spielberg had reservations about exploring his family's story over concerns that his parents would be hurt. Spielberg revisited the project in 2019 with screenwriter and frequent collaborator Kushner while they were making *West Side Story*, and the screenplay was completed in late 2020. Development of the film officially began soon after, with casting taking place between March and May 2021. Principal photography began that July in Los Angeles and wrapped in September.<sup>[8]</sup>

*The Fabelmans* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 10, 2022, where it won the People's Choice Award. Distributed by Universal Pictures, the film opened as a limited theatrical release in the United States on November 11, 2022, and then expanded to a wide release on November 23, grossing \$45.6 million against a \$40 million budget. It received critical acclaim and was named one of the top ten films of 2022 by the National Board of Review and the American Film Institute. *The Fabelmans* earned numerous awards and nominations including seven nominations at the 95th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress (Williams), and Best Supporting Actor (Hirsch). It also earned 11 nominations at the 28th Critics' Choice

*The Fabelmans*



Theatrical release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<span>Steven Spielberg</span>
<b>Written by</b>	<span>Steven Spielberg</span> <div></div> <span>Tony Kushner</span>
<b>Produced by</b>	<span>Kristie Macosko Krieger</span> <div></div> <span>Steven Spielberg</span> <div></div> <span>Tony Kushner</span>
<b>Starring</b>	<span>Michelle Williams</span> <div></div> <span>Paul Dano</span> <div></div> <span>Seth Rogen</span> <div></div> <span>Gabriel LaBelle</span> <div></div> <span>Judd Hirsch</span>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<span>Janusz Kamiński</span> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Edited by</b>	<span>Michael Kahn</span> <div></div> <span>Sarah Broshar</span>
<b>Music by</b>	<span>John Williams</span>
<b>Production companies</b>	<span>Amblin</span> <div></div> <span>Entertainment</span>

Awards, winning Best Young Performer (LaBelle), and five nominations at the 80th Golden Globe Awards, winning Best Motion Picture – Drama and Best Director.

## Plot

On a January night in 1952, in Haddon Township, New Jersey, Jewish couple Mitzi and Burt Fabelman take their young son Sammy to see his first film: *The Greatest Show on Earth*. Dazzled by a train scene, Sammy asks for a model set for Hanukkah, which he crashes late one night.

Mitzi, understanding Sammy's intentions, allows him to shoot another crash scene using Burt's 8mm camera. Sammy begins filming regularly, sometimes involving his sisters. Burt is offered a new job in Phoenix, Arizona, where he and the family move in early 1957. At Mitzi's insistence, Burt's best friend and business partner Bennie Loewy goes, too.

Years later, teenaged Sammy makes films with his friends in the Boy Scouts, begins utilizing post-production effects and earns a badge in photography. Later, the Fabelmans, including Bennie, take a camping trip with Sammy capturing footage of their vacation.

Shortly afterwards, Mitzi's mother dies, leaving her distraught. Providing him with film editing equipment, Burt suggests Sammy turn the vacation footage into a film to cheer Mitzi up. Sammy objects over the scheduling of his next film, but Burt, who sees his passion for film as simply a hobby, argues that the home movie is more important. The next morning, the Fabelmans receive a surprise visit from Mitzi's uncle Boris, a former lion tamer and film worker. That night, he speaks with Sammy about compromising his family with art, telling him that both aspects will continue to be at odds with one another.

Boris leaves, and Sammy begins editing the vacation footage, during which he finds evidence of Mitzi and Bennie having an affair. Sammy and Mitzi get into an argument after weeks of him treating her and Bennie harshly. In a fit of rage, she slaps him across the back after he shouts that he wishes she wasn't his mother. Distraught, Sammy shows her the compiled footage and promises to keep their secret.

The following week, Burt receives another promotion, requiring another move to Saratoga, California. Bennie stays in Phoenix, but not before gifting Sammy a new camera. Sammy refuses it until Bennie lets him pay \$35 for it. Despite purchasing the camera, Sammy decides to never use it.

Soon after arriving in his new neighborhood and school, Sammy becomes targeted by students Logan and Chad, who levy antisemitic abuse toward him. He also begins dating the devoutly Christian Monica. While having dinner with the Fabelmans, she suggests that Sammy film their Ditch Day at the beach, something he eventually accepts after Monica tells him her father owns a 16mm Arriflex camera that he would let him use.

After moving from a rental to their newly purchased home, Mitzi and Burt announce their divorce due to her extreme depression and his discovery of the affair. This leaves the family heartbroken.

	<u>Reliance Entertainment</u>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Universal Pictures</u>
<b>Release dates</b>	September 10, 2022 (TIFF) November 11, 2022 (United States)
<b>Running time</b>	151 minutes <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$40 million <sup>[3][4]</sup>
<b>Box office</b>	\$45.6 million <sup>[5][6]</sup>

At prom, Sammy declares his love for Monica and asks her to come with him to Hollywood after high school. Unwilling to throw away her own life's plans to attend Texas A&M University, she breaks up with him.

The Ditch Day film is played in front of Sammy's peers to a rapturous response. It glorifies Logan and vilifies Chad. When Logan confronts Sammy, confused over his positive portrayal, they reach an understanding, cemented when Logan fights Chad off when he tries to attack Sammy. The next morning, Mitzi and Sammy talk about their future together; just as she cannot give up her love for Bennie, she tells Sammy not to give up his love for filmmaking.

The following year, Sammy is living with his father in Hollywood. He wants to drop out of college but is unable to find work in filmmaking. Burt grudgingly accepts his son's passion and tells Sammy to keep on his path if it makes him happy. Sammy receives an offer to work on Hogan's Heroes.

Knowing he is more interested in filmmaking, show co-creator Bernard Fein invites Sammy to meet director John Ford, one of his greatest influences. During their brief meeting, Ford offers Sammy some pointers on framing such as never framing the horizon in the center of the frame. Newly invigorated, Sammy walks through the sunlit studio backlot. The camera first frames the horizon in the center, then suddenly tilts up to place it near the bottom of the frame, following Ford's advice.

## Cast

---

- Michelle Williams as Mitzi Fabelman, Sammy's encouraging but tempestuous mother and a skilled pianist
- Paul Dano as Burt Fabelman, Sammy's down-to-earth father and a computer engineer
- Seth Rogen as Bennie Loewy, Burt's co-worker and best friend who becomes a surrogate uncle to Sammy
- Gabriel LaBelle as Sammy Fabelman, the sixteen-year-old son of the family who aspires to become a filmmaker. He is based on Spielberg.
  - Mateo Zoryan Francis-DeFord as young Sammy
- Keeley Karsten as Natalie Fabelman, Sammy's second younger sister
  - Alina Brace as young Natalie
- Julia Butters as Regina "Reggie" Fabelman, the first younger sister of Sammy who has a strained relationship with him
  - Birdie Borria as young Reggie
- Judd Hirsch as Boris Podgorny, Sammy's eccentric granduncle and a former film worker and circus performer
- Sophia Kopera as Lisa Fabelman, Sammy's third younger sister
- Jeannie Berlin as Hadassah Fabelman, Burt's mother
- Robin Bartlett as Tina Schildkraut, Mitzi's mother
- Sam Rechner as Logan Hall, a high school bully
- Oakes Fegley as Chad Thomas, another high school bully



The Fabelman family, from left to right: Sammy Fabelman, Mitzi Fabelman, Burt Fabelman, Natalie Fabelman, Reggie Fabelman and Lisa Fabelman

- Chloe East as Monica Sherwood, a religious, boy-crazy high school student and Sammy's love interest
- Isabelle Kusman as Claudia Denning, a classmate and love interest of Logan's
- Chandler Lovelle as Renee, a girl whom Logan cheated on Claudia with
- Gustavo Escobar as Sal, a member of Sammy's Boy Scout troop who helps him make films
- Nicolas Cantu as Hark, another member of Sammy's Boy Scout troop who helps him make films
- Cooper Dodson as Turkey, another member of Sammy's Boy Scout troop who helps him make films
- Gabriel Bateman as Roger, another member of Sammy's Boy Scout troop who appears alongside his family in his first films
- Stephen Smith as Angelo, another member of Sammy's Boy Scout troop who helps him make films
- James Urbaniak as Grand View High School Principal
- Connor Trinneer as Phil Newhart
- Lane Factor as Dean, another member of Sammy's Boy Scout troop who helps him make films
- Greg Grunberg as Bernie Fein, the co-creator of *Hogan's Heroes*, who offers Sammy a chance to work on the show at CBS
- David Lynch as John Ford, the famous film director whose work influences Sammy's filmmaking
- Jan Hoag as Nona, a secretary who works at CBS
- Crystal the Monkey as Bennie, the Fabelmans' pet monkey

## Production

---

### Development

In 1999, Steven Spielberg said he had been thinking of directing a film about his childhood for some time. Titled *I'll Be Home*, the project was originally written by his sister Anne Spielberg. He explained, "My big fear is that my mom and dad won't like it and will think it's an insult and won't share my loving yet critical point of view about what it was like to grow up

with them."<sup>[10]</sup> In 2002, Spielberg said he was nervous about making *I'll Be Home*: "It's so close to my life and so close to my family — I prefer to make films that are more analogous. But a literal story about my family will take a lot of courage. I still think I make personal movies even if they do look like big commercial popcorn films."<sup>[11]</sup> Spielberg later revealed in November 2022 that his parents had also been "nagging" him to make a film about their lives prior to their deaths.<sup>[12][13]</sup> His mother died in 2017,<sup>[14]</sup> and his father in August 2020.<sup>[15]</sup>

"Everyone sees me as a success story... But no one really knows us until we're courageous enough to tell everyone who we are."

– Steven Spielberg, 2023<sup>[9]</sup>

### Writing



Steven Spielberg (left) directed and co-produced the film, and co-wrote the screenplay with Tony Kushner (right).

In 2004, while working on *Munich*, Spielberg told screenwriter Tony Kushner his life story, with Kushner telling him in response: "Someday you're going to have to make a film about this."<sup>[13]</sup> The 80–90 page plot outline for *The Fabelmans* was worked on in 2019 during filming of Spielberg's 2021 film version of *West Side Story*. Work on the screenplay for *The Fabelmans* began on October 2, 2020, during the lockdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and lasted for two months, ending in December 2020. Kushner reflected on the experience, saying, "We wrote three days a week, four hours a day, and we finished the script in two months: by leagues the fastest I've finished anything. It was a blast. I loved it."<sup>[16]</sup> Spielberg, at that time, felt that the climate caused by the pandemic convinced him that the time was now right to make the film, saying, "I started seriously thinking, if I had to make one movie I haven't made yet, something that I really want to do on a very personally atomic level, what would that be? And there was only one story I really wanted to tell ... My life with my mom and dad taught me a lesson, which I hope this film in a small way imparts ... Which is, when does a young person in a family start to see his parents as human beings? In my case, because of what happened between the ages of 7 and 18, I started to appreciate my mom and dad not as parents but as real people."<sup>[12]</sup> He gave drafts of the script to his sisters, Sue and Nancy, to ensure that their memories be included in the story and that the details in the film were portrayed as accurately as possible.<sup>[13]</sup>

On the meaning behind the family name "Fabelman", Kushner (who came up with that name) said, "Spielberg means play-mountain; 'spieler' is an actor in Yiddish, and a 'spiel' can be speech or can be a play ... I wanted to have some of that meaning, and I've always liked the German word 'fabel,' which means fable. And because the movie is autobiographical for Steven but it isn't an autobiography, it's not a documentary, so there's a fictional element as well. So I thought that 'Fabelman' was a nod to that."<sup>[17]</sup>

## Pre-production

In March 2021, Spielberg was announced to direct the film, with his involvement as co-screenwriter marking his first writing venture on a film since *A.I. Artificial Intelligence* (2001);<sup>[18]</sup> it was also reported that Kristie Macosko Krieger would produce the film with Kushner and Spielberg.<sup>[19]</sup> In March 2022, cinematographer Janusz Kamiński said the film would chronicle Spielberg's life from age seven to eighteen and deal with "his family, with his parents, conundrums with his sisters, but primarily deals with his passion for movie-making", while adding that it will touch on the themes of "young love, parental divorce, and early formative relationships ... It's a very beautiful, beautiful personal movie. It's very revealing about Steven's life and who he is as a filmmaker."<sup>[20]</sup> In September 2022, Spielberg expressed how personal the



film was to him, saying that "This film is, for me, a way of bringing my mom and dad back. And it also brought my sisters, Annie, Susie, and Nancy, closer to me than I ever thought possible. And that was worth making the film."<sup>[21]</sup>

## Casting



Gabriel LaBelle stars as Sammy Fabelman and Michelle Williams stars as Mitzi Fabelman.

In casting the film, Spielberg explained that "Part of it had to be organic, and it had to be authentic to me. It wasn't really about anything beyond who can I have the most profound connection with and that reminds me the most of the people that brought me into the world and raised me and gave me good values."<sup>[22]</sup> In March 2021, Michelle Williams was in negotiations to star as Mitzi Fabelman, the role inspired by Spielberg's mother Leah Adler, but with "an original voice". Spielberg himself had her in mind for the role after watching her performances in *Blue Valentine* (2010) and *Fosse/Verdon* (2019).<sup>[18][23][24]</sup> That same month, it was reported that Seth Rogen joined the cast to play Bennie Loewy, the role inspired by Bernie Adler, "the favorite uncle of young Spielberg", while Williams was confirmed to have been cast.<sup>[19]</sup> On April 8, 2021, Paul Dano joined the cast as Burt Fabelman, the role inspired by Spielberg's father Arnold.<sup>[25]</sup> Dano admitted that he felt intimidated by playing the role because "the stakes felt really high ... You're embodying one of the most important, influential, complicated figures in [Spielberg's] life. It was incredible to see how much of this was in his work the whole time. He's sharing a piece of himself that I find very moving. There's a real gift in it, when somebody of that stature and at that level of artistry is willing to do that."<sup>[26]</sup>

In May 2021, after a three-month search and over 2,000 contenders, Gabriel LaBelle entered final negotiations to portray the lead role, Sammy Fabelman, a young aspiring filmmaker based on Spielberg himself.<sup>[27]</sup> He would be confirmed the next month in addition to the casting of Julia Butters as Reggie Fabelman, the role inspired by Spielberg's sister Anne.<sup>[28]</sup> Later that June, Sam Rechner was cast as well.<sup>[29]</sup> In July, Chloe East, Oakes Fegley, Isabelle Kusman, Jeannie Berlin, Judd Hirsch, Robin Bartlett and Jonathan Hadary were added to the cast. Hadary's character was supposed to be the spirit of Sammy's grandfather during a family conference scene where, after young Sammy makes a Christmas film, "his grandmothers [the characters played by Berlin and Bartlett] argue over whether he sees ghosts, and Sammy says he saw his grandfather after he died". He called it a "charming scene" and it was filmed. The scene was ultimately cut from the film for being "unnecessary", and to keep the runtime under two and a half hours. Kushner added "This is a kind of epic story, it travels across 12, 15 years of time — and in order for it to have momentum, we couldn't afford to have it linger anywhere."<sup>[30][31][32]</sup> In August, Gabriel Bateman, Nicolas Cantu, Gustavo Escobar, Lane Factor, Cooper Dodson and Stephen Matthew Smith were cast.<sup>[33]</sup> They were later followed by newcomers Keeley Karsten, Birdie Borria, Alina Brace, Sophia Kopera, and Mateo Zoryan Francis-DeFord.<sup>[34]</sup> In February 2022, it was announced David Lynch would

also star in a then-undisclosed role, later revealed to be that of film director John Ford.<sup>[35]</sup> During the Q&A at an Academy Award-qualifying screening for the film on November 7, 2022, Spielberg revealed that it took three weeks to convince Lynch to be a part of the film, with Tony Kushner's husband Mark Harris taking credit for suggesting Lynch to Spielberg, and Laura Dern calling Lynch numerous times to get him to commit. In response, Lynch said he would take it as long as there were bags of Cheetos on set as refreshments.<sup>[36]</sup> He also requested that he be given his costume as Ford a week before filming his scene to break it in.

In September 2022, during the film's world premiere, LaBelle revealed that he initially did not win the part of Sammy following his first audition but did upon receiving a callback three months afterward. On finally reading the script and learning the details about his character being a fictionalized version of Spielberg himself as a teenager for mostly the entire



Paul Dano stars as Burt Fabelman and Seth Rogen stars as Bennie Loewy.

film, he recalled "When I was auditioning, the character's name was Teenage Sammy – I thought as opposed to Adult Sammy ... I get the script and you're reading it for 30 pages and he's 6 and 8 years old. Page 35 or so Teenage Sammy comes along. OK, good! Now this is my part. It's going to be a three-act movie, it's going to be a *Moonlight* or something. I kept waiting for my exit but it never came." Spielberg himself revealed that the role of Sammy was the hardest to cast, saying "As a kid growing up, I always had a lot of reasons why I was always in the corner, why I was always not the center of conversation ... I needed someone who wasn't going to bring too much self-awareness to Sammy."<sup>[37]</sup> Upon casting LaBelle, casting director Cindy Tolan said "With Gabe, there was a poignancy. He could convey the pathos that was needed and also the humor," while Spielberg added, "I wasn't looking for what I see in the mirror, I was looking for a young actor who could carry a lot of story by being curious and honest and engaging and unpredictable."<sup>[38]</sup>

## Filming

Principal photography began in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in Los Angeles on July 17, 2021, lasting for 59 days until ending on September 27, 2021. Additional filming took place at Zuma Beach in Malibu, California for the "Ditch Day" scenes, Susan Miller Dorsey High School for the high school scenes, and on soundstages in Santa Clarita, California.<sup>[39][40][41][42]</sup>

During the shoot, the cast gained access to home movies, photographs and recollections from Spielberg's family's past to learn what they were like and how to portray the fictionalized versions of them (the Fabelman family) on screen, while making them feel fresh and original. Paul Dano reflected "It was overwhelming and it was sort of a heavy cloak to bear because we were with someone who was having a big experience everyday, revisiting and reworking through a part of their life ... For somebody like Steven to share that much of himself with us – with the audience too – it was really a profound experience." In addition, Dano ordered and built a crystal radio set to get the feeling of how Arnold Spielberg was around electronics.<sup>[16][13]</sup> Seth Rogen described the experience as "emotional" and recalled that Spielberg was

"...crying a lot on set ... As we were shooting, I'd be like, 'Did this happen in real life?' and the answer was 'yes' a hundred percent of the time."<sup>[43]</sup> Gabriel LaBelle also rewatched some of Spielberg's films, such as *Empire of the Sun* (1987) and constantly had conversations with Spielberg to learn more about his life in order to prepare for playing Sammy.<sup>[38]</sup> The jewelry that Michelle Williams wore as part of the costumes for Mitzi Fabelman were in fact some of Leah Adler's, including a charm bracelet that had pictures of all four of her children.<sup>[13]</sup> According to an interview she did for the *Hollywood Insider* at the TIFF premiere, Julia Butters was gifted with Anne Spielberg's high school ring to wear while she played Reggie Fabelman.



To look the part of Sammy Fabelman, Gabriel LaBelle straightened his hair and changed the way he stood, walked and smiled to make the character look more like Spielberg as a teenager.

For the scenes of Sammy filming his own 8mm films, Spielberg decided to have the character recreate the exact ones he made during his childhood, and worked with Kamiński to ensure that they were portrayed as accurately as possible, but with improvements in the camera angles. Spielberg remarked "It was joyful being able to recreate those films ... I shot a lot of films when I was a kid on 8mm. It was unique in those days. Not a lot of people were going out and shooting in 8mm. It was physical; it was a craft. You had to sit there with a...splicer, and then you had to scrape the emulsion off the film in order to get a seal so when you put glue on it, you literally glued the film together. And I must say, I miss it."<sup>[44]</sup> Gabriel LaBelle's first two days on set involved a scene where Sammy and his friends film a recreation of Spielberg's World War II short film *Escape to Nowhere* (1961). On the experience, LaBelle remarked "It was a cool way to see how Steven walked and moved around back then ... I asked so many questions about *Saving Private Ryan*, because we were doing a war film. For the first two days, it was me, Steven, Tony, and Janusz, just hanging

out. Mitch Dubin, the A-camera operator, stormed the beaches of Normandy with a handheld camera for *Saving Private Ryan* – and now he's making this movie!"<sup>[45]</sup> The 8mm and 16mm camera props used in the film had real film inside them, with LaBelle being taught how to use the cameras so that what was shot with them on set could be developed for use in the film, as well as how to cut and splice film stock using the editing machines and film projectors of the period. LaBelle also got to keep the 8mm camera Sammy used to film the family camping trip and *Escape to Nowhere* short film as a souvenir after the completion of principal photography. To look the part of Sammy and make the character look more like Spielberg's teenage appearance, LaBelle had his hair straightened and changed the way he stood and walked, as well as retrained his muscles to mimic Spielberg's smile.<sup>[46][13][47]</sup>

LaBelle was unaware of the casting of David Lynch as John Ford until the day the scene he had to do with him was filmed. He recalled that once Lynch came onto the set, it enabled him to embody Sammy and how he was feeling, recalling "[Lynch is] a great guy. But leading up to it, Sammy's nervous, so I'm getting nervous."<sup>[48]</sup> The scene itself was written to historically match how the actual real-life encounter between Spielberg and Ford occurred, with the latter's dialogue written exactly word-for-word, most notably Ford's advice to Sammy about framing: "When the horizon's at the bottom, it's interesting. When the horizon's at the top, it's interesting. When the horizon's in the middle, it's boring as shit!"<sup>[49][50]</sup> The scene itself received acclaim by critics and audiences and won the award for Best Scene at the 2022 St. Louis Gateway Film Critics Association Awards.<sup>[51]</sup> The last shot of the film, where the camera breaks the fourth wall and re-frames the horizon on the image of Sammy walking on the studio lot, was already in the script prior to filming. Drew Taylor of *TheWrap* named it the best final shot of the year, saying that it leaves the movie on



"such a happy, hopeful note" and it metaphorically represents Spielberg's "admission that he might be the most revered filmmaker in the history of the medium, but he still screws up and he's still got plenty to learn. The master is still a student. It's easy to forget what John Ford yelled at you all those years ago."<sup>[52]</sup> Matthew Jacobs of *The Hollywood Reporter* also called the moment one of the best closing shots of Spielberg's career.<sup>[47]</sup> The film's iconic shot of Mateo Zoryan Francis-DeFord as young Sammy projecting his first 8mm film onto his hands was not initially planned until during pre-production when "Spielberg happened to project something on his hand while they were watching old home movies." Upon witnessing this, Kaminski knew it had to be incorporated, calling it a visual "metaphor of the entire movie: [Sammy] can have the image in his hand and shape it."<sup>[53]</sup>



David Lynch plays John Ford during the film's final scene, which fictionalizes and dramatizes the famous real-life encounter between Spielberg and Ford.

Judd Hirsch's couple of days on set involved filming a major monologue that his character Uncle Boris, inspired by Spielberg's real granduncle of the same name, gives to Sammy to inspire him to continue pursuing his ambitions while also warning him of the consequences that come with it. Hirsch compared his character to "a seer from Greek mythology, a soothsayer used by the gods to communicate with mortals." On acting alongside Gabriel LaBelle for the scene, he told *Vanity Fair* in November 2022 that on set "When I looked at it [the script] and I met Gabriel, I said, I'm gonna *destroy* this boy ... My part is to tell him that horrible things are gonna happen to him—even though it has to happen. So I walked out of there and I said, Who the hell am I...some oracle? You know, an oracle comes and stands in his room and takes him apart and tells him he has to be a director." Hirsch's performance and the monologue itself were met with acclaim from critics and viewers, which resulted in a huge round of applause from the audience during the TIFF world premiere.<sup>[54]</sup>

## Production design

To recreate the three houses that Spielberg lived in during his childhood in Haddon Township, New Jersey, Phoenix, Arizona, and Saratoga, California, production designer Rick Carter worked off floor plans that the director sketched from memory and then took artistic license with the spaces to fit the emotional mindset of Sammy. More attention was paid to the set in Phoenix, "...because, as a filmmaker, he became more himself. So not only the equipment that was there is accurate, but all the storyboards that Sammy used to make his movies. And Steven drew all the storyboards, and he still draws his storyboards the way he did as a teenager."<sup>[55]</sup> Carter and set decorator Karen O'Hara also worked off photos and memories that Spielberg and his three sisters provided. All of the house interiors were built on soundstages. Carter also noted that the differences between the two houses had to do with him and his team having "the most pictures and home movies of the Phoenix house. The New Jersey [house] we had less, but we knew the rough plan and had a couple photos that at least indicated the tone of the paint color. It's not an exact re-creation, but the Phoenix house was especially close. My attempt the whole time was to have him to be able walk in and feel like he was close to being back."<sup>[56]</sup>

The Los Gatos rental house that the family moved to in California was entirely fictional, as the Spielberg family actually lived in various rental apartments and temporary homes. According to Carter, the house in the film "served the function of the script to have them be in this one place they were moving into while

waiting for this other house to get made. He's moving to the promised land, but it doesn't turn out to be so promised in California. In the beginning, it's actually rainy and dark and gloomy, and all the kids at the school are a third bigger than he is".<sup>[56]</sup>

For John Ford's office at the end of the film, Carter and his team used the director's 1957 film *The Wings of Eagles* as a direct reference, which features Ward Bond playing a character inspired by Ford. "It's a much more elaborate office than the one we did, but we still got some of the sensibility from those images," Carter said. "We were able to take that and say, 'Let's now take the elements that are important—the Western-style furniture and the Academy Awards but, more specifically, these sort of [Frederic] Remington-esque paintings.' Some of them really are Remingtons. We got the rights to them and they have literally those horizons the way they are. But to really make the point of the low horizon, we painted a picture that is actually from a still frame of *The Searchers* to make it very, very clear that this is low horizon, this is high horizon. Then, he can make his point about, 'Those are interesting'. What I think everybody enjoyed about that was that it was such an emotional movie up to that point, and then you have somebody who takes all that emotion and reduces it to just 'Do a good shot'. I think that there's a kind of a release. If you want [the emotion] to be dramatic, you have to make the image dramatic, and that's what Steven Spielberg has become a master at over his lifetime."<sup>[56]</sup>

## Visual effects

The film's tornado sequence was filmed using [Industrial Light & Magic's StageCraft](#) virtual production technology. [Pablo Helman](#), who served as [visual effects supervisor](#), suggested the idea to Spielberg and Kamiński after working with the technology on the [Disney+](#) series *The Mandalorian* and *Obi-Wan Kenobi* and described the process as shooting "background plates with an array of cameras driving through the scene and then stitching those into a 360-degree plate we could move around wherever we wanted." The background plates were filmed digitally with a rig containing six [Red Monstro 8K](#) digital cameras with [Nikon Nikkor](#) zoom lenses and the team spent three weeks adding the tornado and other digital elements to make the scenery more "cloudy" and threatening, followed by two days of camera tests in the StageCraft Volume.

The final sequence was filmed on the LED stage at Manhattan Beach Studios, using an [ARRI Alexa Mini](#) LF camera and [Panavision](#) PVintage lenses to complement and seamlessly match the 35mm cinematography of the rest of the film. Helman revealed that Spielberg enjoyed experimenting with the new technology and that "StageCraft is a different way of working, and of course, some directors are shy of working far in advance and making commitments ... Steven has never been that way. After you finish a movie with him, two or three weeks later, you have your cut. He knows exactly what he needs for the edit and has a very specific shooting economy."<sup>[57]</sup>

## Music



[The Fabelmans - Main Theme](#)

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 — 🔊 ⋮

A 15-second sample of the film's main theme, composed by [John Williams](#)

---

*Problems playing this file? See [media help](#).*

The score was composed and conducted by John Williams, marking his 29th film collaboration with Spielberg and approaching the 50th anniversary of their first film *The Sugarland Express*, released in 1974.<sup>[58]</sup> On June 23, 2022, Williams revealed that this and *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* may be the last two films he will score before retirement.<sup>[59][60]</sup> Recording of the score began in March 2022, following Williams's concert performance with the Vienna Philharmonic at Vienna's Musikverein.<sup>[61]</sup> In July, stills from the recording sessions were revealed by one of the film's crew members, revealing that scoring of the film is underway.<sup>[62]</sup> Along with his usual orchestral style, Williams opted for a score mostly relying on piano, with Joanne Pearce Martin, principal pianist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, providing the piano solos.<sup>[63]</sup>

The film features source classical music selected by Spielberg himself, some of which are performed on piano in the film by the character of Mitzi Fabelman, from composers such as Friedrich Kuhlau, Erik Satie, Muzio Clementi, Johann Sebastian Bach and Joseph Haydn.<sup>[64]</sup> The film's soundtrack was released digitally by Sony Classical on November 11, 2022, and was released on physical CD on December 9, 2022.<sup>[65][66]</sup>

The film includes pop songs of the film's time period which are not featured on the soundtrack album, such as "Walk On By" by Dionne Warwick and "Goodbye Cruel World" by James Darren, the latter of which being used to accompany the montage sequence of Sammy Fabelman documenting his high school's Ditch Day on film.<sup>[7]</sup> Scott Joplin's "Elite Syncopations" (1902) also appears twice in the film. Music sampled from Elmer Bernstein's score to *The Magnificent Seven* (1960) and Alfred Newman's score to *How the West Was Won* (1962) respectively underscore the screenings of *Gunsmog* and *Escape to Nowhere* when Sammy plays them for his family and friends at the Boy Scout assemblies.<sup>[67][68]</sup>

## Themes and interpretations

---

The film has been characterized as focusing on the interrelationship and coexistence of family and passion, as well as the themes of trauma, control, the consequences of inaction and the importance of empathy and compassion. Kole Lyndon Lee of *ScreenCraft* analyzed how these themes were used in some of Spielberg's other films to relate to how Sammy used his filmmaking "to cope with his personal reality and trauma" in the midst of his struggles at home and at school.<sup>[69]</sup> Yoni Mayer of Yeshiva University's *The Commentator* noted the film's three-minute sequence of Sammy editing the footage of the camping trip and uncovering Mitzi's affair with Bennie, while Burt sits on the couch in the living room and listens to Mitzi play Bach's Concerto in D Minor, BWV 974: II. Adagio on her piano, as representative of the tension between "family" and "art," using the scene's cinematography, intercut editing and music to present that aspect visually without a single line of dialogue.<sup>[70]</sup>



The moment where Sammy (Gabriel LaBelle) sees a vision of himself in the mirror filming the announcement of his parents' divorce with his 8mm camera as it happens in front of him was widely analyzed.

Sarah Buddery of *Little White Lies* noted how the film ties in with the theme of technology and music in a similar way as Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977), relating that although Mitzi and Burt separate in part due to their differences, *Close Encounters* saw those elements work together in "beautiful, communicative harmony".<sup>[71]</sup> Ronald Meyer of *Collider* added on the subject of how Mitzi and Burt see things differently by referencing the opening scene where they and younger Sammy are in line to see *The*

*Greatest Show on Earth* and they explain to him the "majesty of cinema." Burt's teaching to Sammy is more technical and explains to him the "persistence of vision," while Mitzi re-frames it more on the artistic side and with simplicity when she says one of this film's most famous lines, "Movies are dreams that you never forget." This type of side to the character was implied by Spielberg in the 2017 HBO documentary *Spielberg*, where he likens her real-life counterpart Leah Adler to Peter Pan, saying "She was a sibling, not a parent."<sup>[72]</sup>

The scene where Sammy, while watching Mitzi and Burt announce their divorce to the family, sees a vision of himself filming this moment with his 8mm camera in the mirror over the mantelpiece, has been widely analyzed. Serena Irani of *The Michigan Daily* and David Sims of *The Atlantic* interpreted Sammy's emotional reaction in this scene as "transfixed as he is horrified by the notion, and perhaps the inevitable knowledge that he will one day make this film," relating it to how the divorce of Spielberg's parents in real life had a large impact on his work.<sup>[73][74]</sup> Kayla Laguerre-Lewis of *Screen Rant* called the scene the one that drives home why Spielberg's films connect personally to his past, specifically his parents' divorce, comparing it to how the theme was handled in *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982).<sup>[75]</sup> It was also noted how the divorce, both in real life and in this film, may have also reflected Spielberg's being drawn to make *Catch Me If You Can* (2002) due to similarities between Sammy's use of filmmaking to escape the problems in his family and con artist Frank Abagnale's use of his actions to escape his own reality as a result of his own parents' break-up.<sup>[72]</sup>

## Release

---

*The Fabelmans* was sneak previewed on July 26, 2022, in Nanuet, New York.<sup>[76]</sup> It had its world premiere at the Princess of Wales Theatre during the Toronto International Film Festival on September 10, 2022, where it received two standing ovations from the audience, one before the film when Spielberg took the stage to introduce it, and a longer one preceding the post-film Q&A. The crowd was also reported to have been loudly chanting Spielberg's name while outside waiting to get into the theater during the red carpet arrivals.<sup>[2][77][78]</sup> On the announcement of the premiere, TIFF CEO Cameron Bailey remarked: "It's different from a typical Spielberg blockbuster, but it is just as easily impactful in terms of the emotional effect it's going to have on people. If you love movies, this is going to be a very powerful film for you to watch. I'm excited that it's launching in an environment that celebrates cinema."<sup>[79]</sup> Upon winning the festival's People's Choice Award, Spielberg remarked "I'm glad I brought this film to Toronto! This is the most personal film I've ever made, and the warm reception from everyone in Toronto made my first visit to TIFF so intimate and personal for me and my entire Fabelman family ... a very special thank you to all the movie fans in Toronto who have made this past weekend one I'll never forget."<sup>[80]</sup> For his performance, Gabriel LaBelle was also named a 2022 TIFF Rising Star.<sup>[81]</sup>

It held its European premiere at the Rome Film Festival on October 19, 2022, which was followed by its United States premiere at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles on November 6, 2022, as the closing night film of the 2022 AFI Fest. It also closed the Miami International Film Festival on November 10, 2022, with Paul Dano virtually receiving the festival's Precious Gem Award.<sup>[82][83][84]</sup> The French premiere took place at the Lumière Film Festival on October 18, 2022.<sup>[85]</sup> It also screened as the opening night film of the 20th Morelia International Film Festival on October 23, 2022, the 63rd Thessaloniki International Film Festival on November 3, 2022,<sup>[86]</sup> and the 44th Cairo International Film Festival on November 13, 2022.<sup>[87][88]</sup> It also opened the 15th edition of "The Contenders" film series at the Museum of Modern Art

in New York City on November 10, 2022, followed by a conversation with the cast.<sup>[89]</sup> The film's United Kingdom premiere took place on January 18, 2023 at The Curzon Mayfair in London, with Spielberg, LaBelle and Krieger in attendance.<sup>[90]</sup>

It held its German premiere at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival on February 21, 2023, as part of the *Homage* section (where Spielberg's other films *Bridge of Spies* (2015), *Duel* (1971), *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), *Jaws* (1975), *Munich* (2005), *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) and *Schindler's List* (1993) were also screened) and at the awards ceremony, where Spielberg received an honorary Golden Bear for lifetime achievement. On the announcement, festival directors Mariette Rissenbeek and Carlo Chatrian remarked: "With an incredible career, Steven Spielberg has not only enchanted generations of viewers all over the world, but has also given a new meaning to the 'cinema' as the factory of dreams ... Be it in the everlasting magic world of teenagers or in the reality that history has carved forever, his movies take us to a different level, where the big screen becomes the adequate surface for our emotions to be fulfilled. If Berlinale 2023 represents a new beginning we couldn't find a better start than the one offered by Spielberg's great work."<sup>[91][92]</sup>

## Theatrical

*The Fabelmans* was released by Universal Pictures in select theaters in Los Angeles and New York City on November 11, 2022, with a nationwide release on November 23 in the United States.<sup>[93]</sup> It became Spielberg's first film to be distributed by Universal since *Munich* (2005).<sup>[18][40]</sup> Universal also distributed the film in some international territories, but as part of Amblin Partners' deal with Mister Smith Entertainment, there are some exceptions, as the film has been sold to Entertainment One for the United Kingdom, StudioCanal for Australia, WW Entertainment for Benelux, Leone Film Group for Italy,<sup>[84]</sup> Reliance Distribution for India<sup>[94]</sup> and Nordisk Film for Scandinavia.<sup>[95]</sup>

## Home media

*The Fabelmans* was released on video on demand (VOD) on December 13, 2022, and on digital January 17, 2023. It was released on DVD, Blu-ray and Ultra HD Blu-ray on February 14, 2023, by Universal Pictures Home Entertainment, and grossed \$1,586,785 in video sales.<sup>[96][97][6]</sup>

On VOD, it ranked #1 on iTunes Movies following the Oscar nomination announcements on January 24, 2023.<sup>[98]</sup> By March 9, 2023, according to Samba TV, it had been watched on VOD in 360,000 households in the United States since the announcements, over-indexing by the highest margin of any film in the Los Angeles DMA by 60%. By February 21, according to JustWatch, it topped the Canadian streaming charts following the announcements, ahead of *Triangle of Sadness* and *Tár*.<sup>[99][100]</sup>

## Marketing

The poster to promote the film's world premiere at TIFF was released on September 7, 2022, with the official theatrical release version of it being released on September 29, 2022.<sup>[101]</sup> The trailer premiered online on September 11, 2022. The music for the trailer was composed by Felix Erskine of Cavalry



Music.<sup>[102][103]</sup> Universal spent approximately \$8.5 million on the film's advertising campaign.<sup>[104]</sup> Another trailer, set to Ben Folds' cover of The Beatles song "Golden Slumbers", was released on December 13, 2022.<sup>[105]</sup>

## Reception

---

### Box office

As of August 27, 2023, *The Fabelmans* has grossed \$17.3 million in the United States and Canada, and \$28.3 million in other territories, for a worldwide gross of \$45.6 million.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

In the United States, the film made \$161,579 from four theaters in its opening weekend for an average of \$40,395 per-screen, the third highest average for a Fall 2022 platform release, behind *Till* and *The Banshees of Inisherin*.<sup>[106]</sup> The film expanded alongside *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery*, *Strange World*, *Devotion*, and the wide expansion of *Bones and All*, and was projected to gross around \$3–5 million from 638 theaters over the five-day weekend.<sup>[107]</sup> *Variety* called the projections "a disappointing result for a \$40 million movie, especially one that hails from the most successful director of his time" and compared the situation to the poor \$38 million domestic box office returns of Spielberg's *West Side Story* the year before.<sup>[104][108]</sup>

It made \$400,000 on its first day of wide release, with an additional \$480,000 on Thanksgiving Day and \$880,000 on Black Friday, resulting in a 5-day weekend total of \$3.4 million.<sup>[109][110]</sup> After four weeks in theaters, Spielberg's film grossed \$6 million domestic, making it the worst financial performance ever for a Spielberg film, with the general public's trending lack of interest in prestige films, a muted reception from older audience demographics and the large decline in popularity and relevance of Spielberg and his filmography cited as the reasons.<sup>[111][112]</sup> The film crossed the \$10 million mark worldwide during Christmas weekend.<sup>[113][99]</sup> Following the Academy Award nomination announcements, the film earned a 14% boost in grosses.<sup>[114]</sup> It performed better in the United Kingdom, grossing \$1.3 million on its opening weekend, finishing fourth.<sup>[115]</sup> It was also a success in France, grossing \$2.2 million on its opening weekend, also finishing fourth.<sup>[116]</sup>

### Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 92% of 390 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 8.2/10. The website's consensus reads: "Part memoir, part ode to the power of the movies, *The Fabelmans* finds Steven Spielberg digging at the family roots that helped make him a beloved filmmaker -- and proves he hasn't lost his magic touch."<sup>[117]</sup> Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 85 out of 100, based on 65 critics, indicating "universal acclaim".<sup>[118]</sup> Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A" on an A+ to F scale.<sup>[119]</sup>

Chris Evangelista of */Film* called it "...one of Spielberg's warmest, funniest films" and highlighted Kamiński's cinematography.<sup>[120]</sup> Steve Pond of *TheWrap* wrote "The film shows a light touch that doesn't detract from the very real depths that are being explored. That *The Fabelmans* is one of Steven Spielberg's most personal movies was never in doubt; that it's also one of his most original and most satisfying in years is a welcome bonus."<sup>[121]</sup> Pete Hammond of *Deadline Hollywood* praised the performances of Williams, Dano, LaBelle and Butters, calling the former "gut-wrenchingly great", while saying that Dano was "terrific as the genuinely nice and loving father torn between following his own career and caring for his



Critics singled out the image of younger Sammy Fabelman using "his hands as a makeshift screen, aiming the projector at his open palms" as the film's iconic shot.

wife and family under increasingly difficult circumstances." He described LaBelle's performance as "sensational throughout, a young man with a love for movies, but tortured by growing pains and a family drifting apart." He also referred to David Lynch's cameo as being "worth the price of admission alone".<sup>[7]</sup>

Ross Bonaime of *Collider* wrote "For decades, Spielberg has shown us ourselves through the magic of his movies, and with *The Fabelmans*, he finally shows us who he is, the good and the bad, and pain and the joys, the magic and the mayhem."<sup>[122]</sup> Peter Debruge of *Variety* named it the frontrunner for the *Academy Award for Best Picture*, while writing "...this endearing, broadly appealing account of how Spielberg was smitten by the medium –

and why the prodigy nearly abandoned picture-making before his career even started – holds the keys to so much of the master's filmography. More similar to Woody Allen's autobiographical *Radio Days* than it is to European art films such as *The 400 Blows* and *Amarcord* (the more highbrow models other directors typically point to when re-creating their childhoods), *The Fabelmans* invites audiences into the home and headspace of the world's most beloved living director, an oddly sanitized zone where even the trauma – which includes anti-Semitism, financial disadvantage and divorce – seems to go better with fresh-buttered popcorn."<sup>[123]</sup>

David Ehrlich of *IndieWire* was mixed about the film and gave it a B+, writing that Spielberg "...may not have been able to fix his parents' marriage, but for more than half a century his films have been reconciling the family that Arthur and Leah Spielberg made possible. 'The Fabelmans' doesn't do that as well as the director's best work, but it dramatizes his process of making peace with his dreams so beautifully that it almost doesn't matter. To me, this is a far cry from a magnum opus. For Spielberg, it feels like the greatest show on Earth."<sup>[124]</sup> Brian Tallerico of *RogerEbert.com* praised the screenplay, calling it "...a graceful gem, moving through different chapters of the life of this relatively average family that would just happen to produce an unaverage filmmaker."<sup>[125]</sup> Benjamin Lee of *The Guardian* was mixed, saying that "There remains a remove though still, Spielberg giving us a slightly too stage-managed version of himself and his family, some gristle missing from the darkest moments."<sup>[126]</sup> Tomris Laffly of *The Playlist* wrote "It's Spielberg's most personal film, one that gorgeously revives the memories of his childhood and youth with a lavish sense of wistfulness and an aptly Hollywood-ized, fable-like touch."<sup>[127]</sup>



The performances of Michelle Williams and Judd Hirsch garnered critical acclaim, earning them *Academy Award* nominations for *Best Actress* and *Best Supporting Actor* respectively.

John DeFore of *The Hollywood Reporter* called it "...a vivid capturing of the auteur's earliest flashes of filmmaking insight and a portrait, full of love yet unclouded by nostalgia, of the family that made him."<sup>[128]</sup> Justin Chang of *Los Angeles Times* called it "A uniquely confessional work, in which a great artist freely and happily acknowledges the manipulation inherent in the art form he was born to master."<sup>[129]</sup> Leah Greenblatt of *Entertainment Weekly* wrote that "If it all feels a little sanitized and idealized, it's also consistently lovely – and after 75 years and 34 films, who more than Spielberg has earned the right to revisit his stardust memories?"<sup>[130]</sup> Richard Lawson of *Vanity Fair* wrote that "Not all memoir is generous. It can be intriguingly solipsistic, or maddeningly vain. But because there's always been a curious blankness to Spielberg's public persona – cheerful and engaged but never quite known – *The Fabelmans* does feel like something of a gift."<sup>[131]</sup>

David Fear of *Rolling Stone* wrote that "If the movie does adhere to [Steven Spielberg's] signature beats, and feature so many recognizable Spielbergisms, occasionally to its detriment, it's still one of the most impressive, enlightening, vital things he's ever done."<sup>[132]</sup> Peter Travers of *ABC News* was positively overwhelmed by the film, saying "Bring out the Oscars for 'The Fabelmans,' a personal best from Steven Spielberg in no small part because it's a family picture about Spielberg's own family. Sentimental? Sure. Sappy? Never. No movie this year cuts a clearer path to the heart and the power of imagination."<sup>[133]</sup> Anthony Lane of *The New Yorker* praised the film, saying "'The Fabelmans' may look nice 'n' easy as it swings along, with a pile of laughs to cushion the ride, and a nifty visual gag in the closing seconds, but take care. Here is a film that is touched with the madness of love."<sup>[134]</sup>

Anna Swanson of *Film School Rejects* praised the film, saying "By laying bare indiscretions and frustrations, Spielberg is ostensibly airing out the dirty laundry and then treating it with the empathy that can only come from an adult perspective on childhood memories. As they're depicted in the film, Burt and Mitzi are far more nuanced and complicated than any kid believes their parents to be when they're young. It's a touching, mature gesture that ultimately flatters all involved."<sup>[135]</sup> Kyle Buchanan of *The New York Times* praised Michelle Williams' performance, writing that she "...really goes for it, attacking this part like someone who knows she's been handed her signature role."<sup>[136]</sup> In a later review for the paper, Manohla Dargis named it a *New York Times* Critic's Pick, calling the film "...somewhat of a fable and wonderful in both large and small ways, even if Spielberg can't help but soften the rougher, potentially lacerating edges."<sup>[137]</sup>

Alison Willmore of *Vulture* wrote that "Spielberg, an incredibly precise filmmaker, never seems certain as to what a movie about his life, or about that of a slightly outsize proxy, should look like, and that uncertainty is actually the warmest and most vulnerable quality *The Fabelmans* has."<sup>[138]</sup> Johnny Oleksinski of *New York Post* praised the film, calling it "...gripping, visually mesmeric, boasts an exceptional, grounded script by Tony Kushner and is acted to the hilt. A no-holds-barred Michelle Williams skyrockets to the front of the Oscar race with an unforgettable performance."<sup>[139]</sup> Todd Gilchrist of *The A.V. Club* praised the film, calling it "A measured and incredibly intimate look at Spielberg's upbringing as he developed his aptitude for storytelling through a medium that mesmerized him... as an extraordinary device that not only unveils powerful truths, but often shapes them as well."<sup>[140]</sup> David Sims of *The Atlantic* singled out LaBelle, Williams and Dano's performances and praised Spielberg's use of storytelling, saying that "Viewers expecting a stirring childhood memoir about the power of cinema may be surprised at how bittersweet and raw the story actually is. But that vulnerability is what makes the film a triumph."<sup>[141]</sup> Joyce Carol Oates, the author of the Marilyn Monroe biography *Blonde*, which was adapted into a film in 2022, slammed the film as "remarkably mediocre" and that it "discourages young filmmakers", criticizing every element of the plot, performances and screenplay, saying "By making a blonde-Aryan-antisemite the pseudo hero of his high

school movie the young Fabelman disarms enemies & wins a pseudo friend. Is this an acknowledgment of the superficial triteness of the director's career as an entertainer?" She did however praise the scene with David Lynch. Her comments received online backlash for showing disrespect to Spielberg's work and to viewers who felt connected to the film.<sup>[140]</sup>

Stephanie Zacharek of *Time* ranked the film as the best movie of 2022.<sup>[141]</sup> Zacharek would furthermore praise Williams and Dano's performances as part of Time's Top 10 movie performances of 2022, describing Williams as "a portrait of a woman so full of life she doesn't know where to put it all...Williams captures Mitzi's all-encompassing incandescence and her isolation," and Dano "In him we see the sum of all the things that so many men of that generation just didn't know how to be; we also see a deep well of love, no less real for being left unexpressed."<sup>[142]</sup> Due to the film being released in the United Kingdom a year after its premiere, *Time Out* and *Empire* both ranked the film at number 16 on their respective lists of "The best movies of 2023," with Phil de Semlyen writing for *Time Out*: "It's been an era of filmmakers recreating their childhoods on screen, with Alfonso Cuarón, Paolo Sorrentino and Lee Isaac Chung all parlaying their own younger lives into Oscar-worthy dramas in recent years. But of all of these cine-reminiscences, Steven Spielberg's feels the most alive to the possibility that it might even be misremembering or misinterpreting events – and thus it feels like the most guileless and honest of the lot. With Spielberg's on-screen surrogate, Gabriel LaBelle's Sammy Fabelman, to the fore, its many moments of hurt and wonderment are dazzlingly realised."<sup>[143][144]</sup> The film appeared twice on *Sight and Sound*'s annual polls for the "50 best films of the year," ranking number 20 on its 2022 list and number 26 (in a five-way tie with *The Beast*, *Beau Is Afraid*, *The Delinquents* and *Rotting in the Sun*) on its 2023 list.<sup>[145][146]</sup>

Adam Nayman of *The Ringer* named the frame of younger Sammy Fabelman (Mateo Zoryan Francis-DeFord) "projecting his own painstakingly captured Super 8 footage onto his outstretched palms" in the dark as one of the best shots of 2022, calling it "...a holy trinity that, as visualized by Steven Spielberg at his late-career image-making peak, signifies something deeply metaphysical about filmgoing and filmmaking — that the artist must imagine himself amidst the audience."<sup>[147]</sup> Christian Zilko of *IndieWire* called the moment one of the most "dazzling" shots from the 2023 Academy Award contenders, saying that it perfectly "captures the way the character [Sammy] saw filmmaking as a way to look for control in a chaotic world."<sup>[148]</sup> Pete Volk of *Polygon* and Marshall Shaffer of *Slant Magazine* named the "hallway scene" where Logan Hall confronts Sammy Fabelman over the way the latter portrayed him in the "Ditch Day" film and the two of them ultimately coming to an understanding, as one of the best movie scenes of 2022, with Volk calling it "...a powerful moment in a movie filled with them, and it gets right to the heart of Spielberg's story of the undeniable power of images and the responsibility of those who wield them."<sup>[149][150]</sup> The film has also appeared on a number of critics' lists of the best films of 2022, ranking first place on several.<sup>[151][152][153][154][155]</sup>

Upon the film's release in France, it received an average score of 4.9 out of 5 from critics on *AlloCiné* from 43 reviews, with all but 6 giving the film 5 stars, making it become the highest-rated film of the 21st century in the country. *Cahiers du Cinéma* wrote that Spielberg, at age 76, had "come to represent like no other, the idea of cinema as wonder, at a time when the relationship to the spectacular and the cinema seems more tormented than ever" and declared that the film will "undoubtedly remain the most important and singular

film of his career." The film would then ultimately rank number 4 on the magazine's list of the Top 10 Films of 2023, making it Spielberg's fourth film to make the annual listing following War of the Worlds (2005), Lincoln (2012) and The Post (2017).<sup>[156][157][158][159]</sup>

## Legacy

Since its release, the film has been called one of Spielberg's best films, his "most personal," and one of the best films of the 2020s. Filmmaker Denis Villeneuve praised the film, calling it "...the best movie ever made about the power of cinema. It's a miracle. To say that I was deeply moved by this movie is an understatement. *The Fabelmans* is a pure act of artistic generosity made by one of the greatest filmmakers of our time."<sup>[160]</sup> Indian filmmaker S. S. Rajamouli also lauded the film, expressing how he was able to relate to the portrayal of the Fabelman family in the film by saying "Luckily for me, I keep my whole family in the film business, my wife, my son, my brother, my brother's wife – everyone is with me making movies, so I don't miss my family."<sup>[161]</sup> Filmmaker Guillermo del Toro called it "Beautiful, moving, healing – *The Fabelmans* is a superb work about three 'f's: Family, Forgiveness and Film."<sup>[162]</sup> Producer Judd Apatow felt seen by the film and its portrayal of growing up in an ever-changing world and how it affects life itself, saying "As a child of divorce, I felt a deep connection to this story about a family struggling to hold together, how the traumas of a disintegrating marriage affect a young man and how it leads to him developing his creative muscles as a way to process his pain and interpret the world ... It's a terrifying endeavor to open up oneself and your family — to share the most personal details that shaped you. Personally, I related to so much of it, especially that feeling you have as a child when you realize your parents are not perfect and you need to learn how to survive in the world without them."<sup>[163]</sup>

In 2023, *Collider* ranked the film as the "Best Drama Movie of the 2020s, So Far," writing that Spielberg put "into beautiful words and images the issues that he's been struggling with for his entire life; he's desperately trying to piece together a broken family while pursuing his addiction to telling stories."<sup>[164]</sup> It also ranked number 2 on the site's list of the "10 Great Coming-of-Age Movies of the Last 5 Years," number 8 on its list of the "10 Best Period Coming-of-Age Movies & TV Shows," number 15 on its list of the "25 Best Coming-of-Age Movies of All Time" and number 19 on its list of the "25 Best Movies of the 2020s, So Far," writing that "Despite the movie having a few slow-moving parts, its masterfully made direction could at times seem like a fable."<sup>[165][166][167][168]</sup> *CinemaBlend* included it on its list of "10 Great Movies And Documentaries Highlighting Jewish-American History to Watch."<sup>[169]</sup> In September 2023, *MovieWeb* ranked the film at number 7 on its list of the "Best Modern Movies Shot on Film," writing that the decision to shoot the film on "Kodak 35mm, 16mm, and 8mm to display the various aspects of the evolution of filmmaking within the film" makes it "an emotional and technical triumph and shows that Spielberg is still one of the best."<sup>[170]</sup> *The A.V. Club* included the character of Mitzi Fabelman on its list of the "15 Best movie moms of all time," with Cindy White writing "She's not a perfect person, but the movie asks us to understand and forgive her (as, we assume, Spielberg forgave his mother) for wanting a fuller, more creative life than her scientifically minded husband could give her. Thanks to [Michelle] Williams' delicate performance, it's not hard to do."<sup>[171]</sup>

## Accolades

*The Fabelmans* received seven nominations at the 95th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, but failed to win any due to it receiving a divided reception by the Academy and strong competition from *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, which won the award.<sup>[172][173]</sup> It also received five nominations at the 80th Golden Globe Awards, winning Best Motion Picture – Drama and Best Director for Spielberg, and



received 11 nominations at the 28th Critics' Choice Awards, including Best Picture, winning Best Young Performer for LaBelle, and two nominations at the 29th Screen Actors Guild Awards including Best Ensemble Cast of a Motion Picture and Best Supporting Actor (for Dano).<sup>[174]</sup>

It also received two awards from the National Board of Review, including Best Director for Spielberg and Breakthrough Performance for LaBelle (shared with Danielle Deadwyler for *Till*), making this the second Spielberg film to win both of these awards together since 1987's *Empire of the Sun*.<sup>[175]</sup> With his 53rd nomination for Best Original Score with this film, John Williams broke his own record as the most Oscar-nominated person alive at the age of 90.<sup>[176]</sup> Williams also received a nomination for Best Score Soundtrack for Visual Media at the 66th Annual Grammy Awards for his work on the score, but lost to Ludwig Göransson for his score on *Oppenheimer* (2023).<sup>[177]</sup>

With his Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor, Judd Hirsch became the first actor to receive two nominations over four decades apart, with this being his second nomination and first since the 53rd Academy Awards in 1981, where he was nominated for *Ordinary People* (1980). It is also the first TIFF People's Choice Award winner to not win any of its Oscar nominations since David Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises* (2007) and Spielberg's first film to not win any since *Ready Player One* (2018).

## Possible sequel

---

When asked about whether he would consider making a sequel to the film, Spielberg told *W Magazine* in February 2023: "I never say never, but I don't know what to do next. I was so emotionally invested in *The Fabelmans*, I left a vast body of water between myself and the next project. I didn't plan ahead at all. I haven't found my passion. And I can't work without passion. I won't."<sup>[178]</sup> During a virtual conversation with S. S. Rajamouli, Spielberg said that he will not rule out the possibility of a sequel, but confirmed that there are currently no immediate plans.<sup>[161]</sup>

## See also

---

- *Spielberg*, a 2017 HBO documentary film about Spielberg's life, most of which inspired the plot for this film.

## References

---

1. Rosen, Christopher (January 12, 2022). "*West Side Story* cinematographer Janusz Kaminski on his legendary collaboration with Steven Spielberg" (<https://www.goldderby.com/feature/janusz-kaminski-west-side-story-video-interview-1204719591/>). *Gold Derby*. Retrieved January 17, 2022.
2. "*The Fabelmans* (12A)" (<https://www.bbfc.co.uk/release/the-fabelmans-q29sbgvjdg1vbjpwwc0xmda3odg1>). British Board of Film Classification. Retrieved December 2, 2022.
3. "'The Fabelmans' Projected to Make \$4 Million in 600 Theaters This Weekend" (<https://www.worldofreel.com/blog/2022/11/liw7jl0y0m6wtf8q7nh6ztc2n27r1d>). *World of Reel*. November 30, 2022. Retrieved March 3, 2023.
4. "These Movies—'Babylon' To 'The Fabelmans' To 'She Said'— Bombed At The Box Office. Can Awards Season Change Their Luck?" (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/conormurray/2023/01/10/these-movies-babylon-to-the-fabelmans-to-she-said--bombed-at-the-box-office-can-awards-season-change-their-luck/>). *Forbes*. January 10, 2023. Retrieved March 3, 2023.

5. "*The Fabelmans* (2022)" (<https://www.boxofficemojo.com/title/tt14208870/>). *Box Office Mojo*. IMDb. Retrieved August 30, 2023.
6. "*The Fabelmans* (2022) - Financial Information" ([https://www.the-numbers.com/movie/Fabelmans-The-\(2022\)](https://www.the-numbers.com/movie/Fabelmans-The-(2022))). *The Numbers*. Nash Information Services, LLC. Retrieved August 30, 2023.
7. Hammond, Pete (September 11, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Toronto Review: Steven Spielberg's Cinematic Memoir Becomes Glorious Tribute To Art And Family" (<https://deadline.com/2022/09/the-fabelmans-toronto-review-steven-spielbergs-cinematic-memoir-1235114855/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved December 24, 2022.
8. "'The Fabelmans' Production Notes" (<https://dam.gettyimages.com/viewer/universal/3mpm2z6687jf89h3z64jcpj>) (.DOCX). Universal Pictures/Getty Images. Retrieved November 24, 2023.
9. Rubin, Rebecca (January 10, 2023). "Steven Spielberg Calls 'The Fabelmans' an Act of 'Courage' in Moving Golden Globes Speech" (<https://variety.com/2023/film/news/steven-spielberg-golden-globes-best-director-1235482662/>). *Variety*. Retrieved December 2, 2023.
10. Stephen J., Dubner (February 14, 1999). "Steven the Good" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20211209000115/https://www.nytimes.com/1999/02/14/magazine/steven-the-good.html>). *The New York Times Magazine*. Archived from the original on December 9, 2021. Retrieved December 8, 2021.
11. "Spielberg's future imperfect" (<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/spielbergs-future-imperfect/MY5KHO5AUKLSK3IB2WEOJOFT7I/>). *The New Zealand Herald*. June 21, 2002. Retrieved December 9, 2021.
12. VanHoose, Benjamin (November 2, 2022). "Steven Spielberg Says His Parents Were 'Nagging' Him to Make Movie About Them Before Their Deaths" (<https://people.com/movies/steven-spielberg-late-parents-nagged-him-to-make-movie-about-them/>). *People*. Retrieved November 5, 2022.
13. Keegan, Rebecca (November 2, 2022). "Steven Spielberg: The Origin Story" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-features/steven-spielberg-paul-dano-michelle-williams-in-interview-the-fabelmans-1235253097/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved November 5, 2022.
14. Barnes, Mike (February 21, 2017). "Leah Adler, Mother of Steven Spielberg, Dies at 97" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/general-news/leah-adler-dead-mother-steven-spielberg-was-97-978312/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved March 7, 2023.
15. Moreau, Jordan (August 26, 2020). "Arnold Spielberg, Father of Steven Spielberg, Dies at 103" (<https://variety.com/2020/film/news/arnold-spielberg-dead-dies-steven-spielberg-father-1234748936/>). *Variety*. Retrieved March 7, 2023.
16. Foreman, Alison (September 11, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Screenwriter Tony Kushner on Adapting Steven Spielberg's Real Life: 'I Freaked Out'" (<https://www.indiewire.com/2022/09/steve-spielberg-the-fabelmans-red-carpet-1234761017/>).
17. Chuba, Kirsten (November 7, 2022). "Seth Rogen on Emotional Filming of Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans': 'I Saw Him Cry Dozens of Times'" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/seth-rogen-steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-1235256796/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*.
18. Kroll, Justin (March 9, 2021). "Steven Spielberg To Direct Untitled Project Loosely Based On His Childhood; Michelle Williams In Talks For Role Inspired By His Mom" (<https://deadline.com/2021/03/steven-spielberg-untitled-project-childhood-michelle-williams-1234709935/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210309194427/https://deadline.com/2021/03/steven-spielberg-untitled-project-childhood-michelle-williams-1234709935/>) from the original on March 9, 2021. Retrieved March 9, 2021.

19. Kroll, Justin (March 22, 2021). "Steven Spielberg Taps Seth Rogen For Major Role In Next Film Loosely Based On Director's Childhood; Rogen Would Play Favorite Uncle Of Young Spielberg" (<https://deadline.com/2021/03/steven-spielberg-seth-rogen-childhood-uncle-1234719603/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210323012848/https://deadline.com/2021/03/steven-spielberg-seth-rogen-childhood-uncle-1234719603/>) from the original on March 23, 2021. Retrieved March 23, 2021.
20. St. Lawrence, Chris (March 20, 2022). "Framing the Magic of *West Side Story* with Cinematographer Janusz Kamiński – Exclusive Interview" (<https://discussingfilm.net/2022/03/20/framing-the-magic-of-west-side-story-with-cinematographer-janusz-kaminski-exclusive-interview/>). *DiscussingFilm*. Retrieved March 22, 2022.
21. Nolfi, Joey (September 11, 2022). "Steven Spielberg made his life story into *The Fabelmans* to bring his late 'mom and dad back'" (<https://ew.com/movies/steven-spielberg-fablemans-bri-ng-back-late-mom-dad/>). *Entertainment Weekly*. Retrieved March 22, 2022.
22. Soares, Isabella (September 20, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Cast and Character Guide: Who's Who in Steven Spielberg's Film" (<https://collider.com/the-fabelmans-cast-character-guide-steven-spielberg-michelle-williams/>). *Collider*. Retrieved September 20, 2022.
23. Kit, Borys (March 9, 2021). "Steven Spielberg, Michelle Williams Teaming for Coming-of-Age Drama" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/steven-spielberg-michelle-williams-teami-ng-for-coming-of-age-drama>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210309192332/https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/steven-spielberg-michelle-williams-teaming-for-coming-of-age-drama>) from the original on March 9, 2021. Retrieved March 9, 2021.
24. Buchanan, Kyle (September 11, 2022). "In 'The Fabelmans,' Steven Spielberg Himself Is the Star" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/11/movies/steven-spielberg-michelle-williams-the-fa-belmans.html>). *The New York Times*.
25. Kroll, Justin; D'Alessandro, Anthony (April 8, 2021). "Steven Spielberg To Direct Untitled Project Loosely Based On His Childhood; Michelle Williams In Talks For Role Inspired By His Mom" (<https://deadline.com/2021/04/paul-dano-to-play-role-inspired-by-steven-spielberg-s-father-in-directors-childhood-movie-1234730278/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210823210929/https://deadline.com/2021/04/paul-dano-to-play-role-in-steven-spielberg-childhood-movie-1234730278/>) from the original on August 23, 2021. Retrieved April 8, 2021.
26. Keegan, Rebecca (March 2, 2022). "Paul Dano on His Terrifying Batman Villain and Why He's No Longer Scared of Going Hollywood" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/mo vie-features/paul-dano-the-batman-riddler-the-fabelmans-1235101919/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved March 7, 2022.
27. Kroll, Justin (May 26, 2021). "Steven Spielberg Taps Newcomer Gabriel LaBelle To Star In Untitled Film Based On Director's Childhood" (<https://deadline.com/2021/05/steven-spielber g-gabriel-labelle-younger-spielberg-untitled-film-loosely-based-on-directors-childhood-1234763409/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210526170154/https://deadline.com/2021/05/steven-spielberg-gabriel-labelle-younger-spielberg-untitled-film-loosely-based-on-directors-childhood-1234763409/>) from the original on May 26, 2021. Retrieved May 26, 2021.
28. Kroll, Justin (June 15, 2021). "Steven Spielberg Taps Julia Butters For Role Inspired By His Sister In Untitled Amblin Film Loosely Based on His Childhood" (<https://deadline.com/2021/06/steven-spielberg-julia-butters-sister-film-childhood-1234775936/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210616005900/https://deadline.com/2021/06/steve n-spielberg-julia-butters-sister-film-childhood-1234775936/>) from the original on June 16, 2021. Retrieved June 15, 2021.

29. D'Alessandro, Anthony (June 18, 2021). "Steven Spielberg Amblin Pic Based On His Childhood Adds Australian Actor Sam Rechner" (<https://deadline.com/2021/06/steven-spielberg-amblin-pic-based-on-his-childhood-adds-australian-actor-sam-rechner-1234777877/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210618161836/https://deadline.com/2021/06/steven-spielberg-amblin-pic-based-on-his-childhood-adds-australian-actor-sam-rechner-1234777877/>) from the original on June 18, 2021. Retrieved June 18, 2021.
30. Dawn, Randee (February 20, 2023). "Why these scenes from five best picture nominees didn't make the cut" (<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/awards/story/2023-02-20/why-these-scenes-were-cut-from-their-films>). *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved April 16, 2023.
31. Kroll, Justin (July 14, 2021). "Chloe East, Oakes Fegley And Isabelle Kusman Round Cast Of Steven Spielberg's Next Film Loosely Based on His Childhood" (<https://deadline.com/2021/07/chloe-east-oakes-fegley-isabelle-kusman-steven-spielberg-1234793138/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210714203154/https://deadline.com/2021/07/chloe-east-oakes-fegley-isabelle-kusman-steven-spielberg-1234793138/>) from the original on July 14, 2021. Retrieved July 14, 2021.
32. Vary, Adam B. (July 27, 2021). "Steven Spielberg Casts Judd Hirsch, Jeannie Berlin, Robin Bartlett and Jonathan Hadary in Film Based on His Childhood (Exclusive)" (<https://variety.com/2021/film/news/steven-spielberg-judd-hirsch-jeannie-berlin-robin-bartlett-jonathan-hadary-the-fabelmans-1235027950/>). *Variety*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210727153233/https://variety.com/2021/film/news/steven-spielberg-judd-hirsch-jeannie-berlin-robin-bartlett-jonathan-hadary-the-fabelmans-1235027950/>) from the original on July 27, 2021. Retrieved July 27, 2021.
33. Vary, Adam B. (August 12, 2021). "Steven Spielberg Adds Six Child Actors to Semi-Autobiographical Film *The Fabelmans* (Exclusive)" (<https://variety.com/2021/film/news/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-cast-1235040414/>). *Variety*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210818083939/https://variety.com/2021/film/news/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-cast-1235040414/>) from the original on August 18, 2021. Retrieved August 23, 2021.
34. Kroll, Justin (August 23, 2021). "Amblin Adds Six To Cast Of Steven Spielberg's *The Fabelmans*, Loosely Based On His Childhood" (<https://deadline.com/2021/08/amblin-steven-spielbergs-semiautobiographical-1234819693/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210823210929/https://deadline.com/2021/08/amblin-steven-spielbergs-semiautobiographical-1234819693/>) from the original on August 23, 2021. Retrieved August 23, 2021.
35. Murphy, J. Kim (February 4, 2022). "David Lynch Joins Cast of Steven Spielberg's *The Fabelmans* (Exclusive)" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/news/david-lynch-the-fabelmans-steven-spielberg-1235172006/>). *Variety*. Retrieved February 4, 2022.
36. Ellwood, Gregory (November 7, 2022). "'The Fablemans' Finally Lands in LA As Best Picture Buzz Grows" (<https://theplaylist.net/the-fablemans-finally-lands-in-la-as-best-picture-buzz-grows-contender-countdown-20221107/>). *The Playlist*. Retrieved November 9, 2022.
37. Coyle, Jake (September 12, 2022). "A big break comes with a big task: Playing Steven Spielberg" ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/a-big-break-comes-with-a-big-task-playing-steven-spielberg/2022/09/12/0e3300da-32b8-11ed-a0d6-415299bfebd5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/a-big-break-comes-with-a-big-task-playing-steven-spielberg/2022/09/12/0e3300da-32b8-11ed-a0d6-415299bfebd5_story.html)). *The Washington Post*. Retrieved September 19, 2022.
38. McHenry, Jackson (October 26, 2022). "Suddenly Sorta Spielberg: Gabriel LaBelle beat out 2,000 actors to play a version of the famed director as a teen by embracing the meta-ness" (<https://www.vulture.com/2022/10/gabriel-labelle-steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans.html>). *Vulture*. Retrieved October 26, 2022.
39. "*The Fabelmans*" ([https://www.varietyinsight.com/production\\_restart\\_full\\_view.php?track\\_id=188844](https://www.varietyinsight.com/production_restart_full_view.php?track_id=188844)). *Variety Insight*. Archived ([https://web.archive.org/web/20210309202943/https://www.varietyinsight.com/production\\_restart\\_full\\_view.php?track\\_id=188844](https://web.archive.org/web/20210309202943/https://www.varietyinsight.com/production_restart_full_view.php?track_id=188844)) from the original on March 9, 2021. Retrieved August 23, 2021.

40. Couch, Aaron (March 22, 2021). "Steven Spielberg Enlists Seth Rogen to Play Filmmaker's Uncle in Coming-of-Age Drama" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/steven-spielberg-enlists-seth-rogen-to-play-filmmakers-uncle-in-coming-of-age-drama>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210408203733/https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/steven-spielberg-enlists-seth-rogen-to-play-filmmakers-uncle-in-coming-of-age-drama>) from the original on April 8, 2021. Retrieved May 4, 2021.
41. Sakoui, Anousha (August 5, 2021). "Hollywood booms despite Delta variant as production surges" (<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/business/story/2021-08-05/hollywood-is-booming-despite-delta-as-production-activity-surges-past-prepandemic-levels>). *Los Angeles Times*. Archived ([https://web.archive.org/web/20210821211053/https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/business/story/2021-08-05/hollywood-is-booming-despite-delta-as-pr oduction-activity-surges-past-prepandemic-levels](https://web.archive.org/web/20210821211053/https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/business/story/2021-08-05/hollywood-is-booming-despite-delta-as-production-activity-surges-past-prepandemic-levels)) from the original on August 21, 2021. Retrieved August 20, 2021.
42. "How 5 Oscar-Nominated Movie Sets Were Made" (<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/how-5-oscar-nominated-movie-sets-were-made>). March 11, 2023.
43. Richards, Bailey; Brody, Lanae (October 4, 2022). "Seth Rogen Says Steven Spielberg Was 'Very Emotional' on 'The Fabelmans' Set: 'He Was Crying a Lot' " (<https://people.com/movies/seth-rogen-says-steven-spielberg-was-very-emotional-on-the-fabelmans-set-he-was-crying-a-lot>). *People*. Retrieved October 4, 2022.
44. Ravindran, Manori (September 11, 2022). "Steven Spielberg: Mining Personal History for 'The Fabelmans' Was 'Very, Very Hard to Get Through' " (<https://variety.com/2022/film/global/steven-spielberg-fabelmans-press-conference-1235368582/>). *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved September 11, 2022.
45. Williams, Owen (October 24, 2022). "Steven Spielberg Recreated His First War Movie Escape To Nowhere For The Fabelmans – Exclusive Image" (<https://www.empireonline.com/movies/news/steven-spielberg-recreated-his-first-war-movie-escape-to-nowhere-for-the-fabelmans-exclusive-image/>). *Empire*. Retrieved October 24, 2022.
46. Pond, Steve (November 9, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Star Gabriel LaBelle on Playing Steven Spielberg and Being 'Spoiled' " (<https://www.thewrap.com/the-fabelmans-gabriel-labelle-interview-2022/>). *The Wrap*. Retrieved November 9, 2022.
47. Jacobs, Matthew (December 22, 2022). "How 'The Fabelmans' Star Gabriel LaBelle Perfected Spielberg's Smile" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-features/the-fabelmans-gabriel-labelle-interview-spielberg-1235283740/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved December 24, 2022.
48. Brady, Erin (September 16, 2022). "Steven Spielberg Recruited David Lynch To Terrify The Fabelmans Star Gabriel LaBelle" (<https://www.slashfilm.com/1012485/steven-spielberg-recruited-david-lynch-to-terrify-the-fabelmans-star-gabriel-labelle/>). *Film*. Retrieved September 17, 2022.
49. Daniels, Robert (November 24, 2022). "The Fabelmans' Brilliant David Lynch Cameo is All About Perspective" (<https://www.vulture.com/2022/11/the-fabelmans-ending-and-david-lynch-cameo-explained.html>). *Vulture*. Retrieved December 24, 2022.
50. Travis, Ben (December 19, 2023). "David Lynch Talks Playing John Ford In Spielberg's The Fabelmans: 'It's True, A Horizon In The Middle Is Boring As Shit' – Exclusive" (<https://www.empireonline.com/movies/news/david-lynch-interview-john-ford-fabelmans-exclusive/>). *Empire*. Retrieved December 19, 2023.
51. "Annual StLFCA Awards" (<http://www.stlfilmcritics.org/awards>). St. Louis Gateway Film Critics Association. Retrieved December 11, 2022.
52. "The 9 Best Final Shots of 2022 in Movies" (<https://www.thewrap.com/best-movie-endings-final-shots-of-2022/>). December 28, 2022.



53. "10 Behind-the-Scenes Facts You Might Not Know About 'The Fabelmans' " (<https://www.indiewire.com/gallery/the-fablemans-behind-the-scenes-facts-trivia-best-picture/mcdfabe-uv033-2/>). March 7, 2023.
54. Breznican, Anthony (November 18, 2022). "Judd Hirsch May Win an Oscar for This Scene" (<https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2022/11/judd-hirsch-fabelmans-speech-clip>). *Vanity Fair*. Retrieved November 18, 2022.
55. Gray, Tim (November 25, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's 'Fabelmans' Production Design is Invisible Art" (<https://variety.com/2022/artisans/awards/steven-spielberg-fabelmans-production-design-1235441130/>). *Variety*. Retrieved November 30, 2022.
56. Murthi, Vikram (December 15, 2022). "Houses in Motion: Production Designer Rick Carter on The Fabelmans" (<https://filmmakermagazine.com/117836-production-designer-rick-carter-the-fabelmans/>). *Filmmaker*. Retrieved February 21, 2023.
57. Kadner, Noah (April 24, 2023). "Virtual Production—When The Fabelmans Met The Mandalorian" (<https://blog.frame.io/2023/04/24/virtual-production-when-the-fabelmans-met-the-mandalorian/>). *Frame.io Insider*. Retrieved April 26, 2023.
58. Burlingame, Jon (February 7, 2022). "As John Williams Turns 90, No Signs of Slowing Down, With *Fabelmans*, *Indiana Jones* and Birthday Gala in the Offing" (<https://variety.com/2022/artisans/news/john-williams-turns-90-celebrating-1235172996/>). *Variety*. Retrieved February 7, 2022.
59. Tangcay, Jazz (June 23, 2022). "Legendary Film Composer John Williams Eyes Retirement After Scoring 'Indiana Jones 5' " (<https://variety.com/2022/artisans/news/john-williams-retirement-indiana-jones-5-1235301599/>). *Variety*. Retrieved June 23, 2022.
60. Coyle, Jake (June 23, 2022). "John Williams, 90, steps away from film, but not music" (<https://apnews.com/article/john-williams-indiana-jones-star-wars-music-af541b3979fd6c0ea624bb200c322f42>). *Associated Press News*. Retrieved June 23, 2022.
61. Hernández, Javier C. (February 8, 2022). "John Williams, Hollywood's Maestro, Looks Beyond the Movies" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/08/arts/music/john-williams-hollywood-film.html>). *The New York Times*. ISSN 0362-4331 (<https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0362-4331>). Retrieved November 8, 2022.
62. McCall, Kevin (July 6, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Behind-The-Scenes Images Show John Williams Composing Film's Score" (<https://collider.com/the-fabelmans-bts-images-john-williams-composing-score/>). *Collider*. Retrieved November 8, 2022.
63. Linton, Siena (January 27, 2023). "What classical music is in Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans', and does Michelle Williams really play the piano?" (<https://www.classicfm.com/composers/williams/the-fabelmans-soundtrack-michelle-piano-playing/>). *Classic FM*. Retrieved December 2, 2023.
64. Desowitz, Bill (November 2, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Is a Best Picture Oscar Frontrunner, but Spielberg's Latest Could Be a Crafts Player, Too" (<https://www.indiewire.com/2022/11/20/23-oscars-the-fabelmans-craft-predictions-1234777915/>). *IndieWire*. Retrieved November 8, 2022.
65. "Upcoming Soundtrack Albums" (<http://filmmusicreporter.com/upcoming-soundtrack-albums/>). *Film Music Reporter*.
66. "'The Fabelmans' Soundtrack Album Details" (<https://filmmusicreporter.com/2022/10/28/the-fabelmans-soundtrack-album-details/>). *Film Music Reporter*. October 28, 2022.
67. "Soundtracks of Cinema: 'The Fabelmans' " (<https://vaguevisages.com/2023/01/12/the-fabelmans-soundtrack-movie-songs/>). January 12, 2023.
68. "The Fabelmans (2022)" (<https://www.soundtrack.net/movie/the-fabelmans/>). Soundtrack.Net.

69. "The Fabelmans: How Steven Spielberg Uses Filmmaking to Cope" (<https://screencraft.org/blog/the-fabelmans-how-steven-spielberg-uses-filmmaking-to-cope/>). *Screen Craft*. March 8, 2023.
70. "The Fabelmans: A Review and Analysis" (<https://yucommentator.org/2022/12/the-fabelmans-a-review-and-analysis/>). *The Commentator*. December 25, 2022.
71. "How The Fabelmans represents a culmination of Spielberg's cinematic interests" (<https://lwlies.com/articles/spielberg-fabelmans-close-encounters-et/>). *Little White Lies*. January 17, 2023.
72. "8 Connections Between 'The Fabelmans' and Steven Spielberg's Other Movies" (<https://collider.com/connections-between-the-fabelmans-and-steven-spielbergs-other-movies/>). *Collider*. January 17, 2023.
73. "Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' through the looking glass" (<https://www.michigandaily.com/art/s/film/spielbergs-the-fabelmans-through-the-looking-glass/>). *The Michigan Daily*. January 22, 2023.
74. Sims, David (November 11, 2022). "*The Fabelmans* Is Steven Spielberg's Most Honest Movie Yet" (<https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2022/11/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-movie-review/672078/>). *The Atlantic*. Retrieved November 11, 2022.
75. "The Fabelmans Ending Explained (In Detail)" (<https://screenrant.com/fabelmans-ending-explained/>). *Screen Rant*. February 10, 2023.
76. Ruimy, Jordan (July 27, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' Screens to Positive Reactions [Updated]" (<https://www.worldofreel.com/blog/2022/7/5imxxfjk3yvv3kkf2ixpdca3d5vj4h>). *World of Reel*. Retrieved August 3, 2022.
77. Hipes, Patrick (July 22, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's *The Fabelmans* To World Premiere At Toronto Film Festival" (<https://deadline.com/2022/07/the-fabelmans-premiere-toronto-film-festival-steven-spielberg-1235074987/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved July 22, 2022.
78. Lang, Brent; Sharf, Zack; Donnelly, Matt (September 11, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' Scores Lengthy TIFF Standing Ovation, Director Insists He's Not Retiring" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/news/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-tiff-standing-ovation-not-retiring-1235339017/>). *Variety*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
79. Lang, Brent (July 28, 2022). "Toronto Film Festival CEO Cameron Bailey on Landing Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' and Returning to Splashy Premieres" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/markets-festivals/toronto-film-festival-cameron-bailey-on-landing-spielberg-fabelmans-covid-protocols-1235328189/>). *Variety*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
80. Rubin, Rebecca (September 18, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' Wins Toronto International Film Festival's People's Choice Award" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/news/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-toronto-film-festival-peoples-choice-award-1235375979/>). *Variety*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
81. Weaver, Jackson (September 9, 2022). "TIFF 2022 is supported by young talent. Here are some of the stars leading the charge" (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/entertainment/tiff-young-stars-1.6576909>). *CBC News*. Retrieved September 19, 2022.
82. Gardner, Chris (September 6, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' to Close AFI Fest" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/steven-spielberg-fabelmans-afi-fest-los-angeles-1235212956/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved September 6, 2022.
83. Zee, Michaela (October 6, 2022). "Miami Film Festival to Open With 'Glass Onion,' Close With 'The Fabelmans'" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/news/miami-film-festival-gems-glass-onion-the-fabelmans-1235394299/>). *Variety*. Retrieved October 6, 2022.
84. "'The Fabelmans' di Spielberg in programma alla Festa e ad Alice nella città" (<https://www.romacinemafest.it/it/thefabelman/>). *Rome Film Festival*. October 7, 2022. Retrieved October 7, 2022.

85. "Steven Spielberg's" ([http://r.newsletter.institut-lumiere.org/mk/mr/gUZ0ZG-topG2PWpZ3\\_U-ybEawUpQB556XNRJwW5wI18nWDRNOB3IWHCqPEOA9ESVvYIHKZ73SE7HLTNS\\_vNnqbhYJZgdHm98ijjDnwF6x8jSaZ2xnNaLRkInUokVlyGZw7NZZPgtlhJJu0IQ5bwjy65YuW](http://r.newsletter.institut-lumiere.org/mk/mr/gUZ0ZG-topG2PWpZ3_U-ybEawUpQB556XNRJwW5wI18nWDRNOB3IWHCqPEOA9ESVvYIHKZ73SE7HLTNS_vNnqbhYJZgdHm98ijjDnwF6x8jSaZ2xnNaLRkInUokVlyGZw7NZZPgtlhJJu0IQ5bwjy65YuW)).
86. "63 TIFF: Curtain-rise with Steven Spielberg's magic touch" (<https://www.filmfestival.gr/en/all-news-en/28115-63-tiff-curtain-rise-with-steven-spielberg-s-magic-touch/>). *Thessaloniki International Film Festival*. October 10, 2022. Retrieved October 10, 2022.
87. Vourlias, Christopher (October 18, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' to Open Cairo Film Festival" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/global/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-cairo-film-festival-1235406742/>). *Variety*. Retrieved October 18, 2022.
88. Gallardo, Gustavo R. (October 23, 2022). "THE FABELMANS, Steven Spielberg's Autobiography on the Power of Movies, Is Presented" (<https://moreliafilmfest.com/en/fabelmans-steven-spielbergs-autobiography-power-movies-presented>). *Morelia International Film Festival*. Retrieved October 24, 2022.
89. Lang, Brent (October 25, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' to Open MoMA's The Contenders Series (EXCLUSIVE)" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/news/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-moma-contenders-series-full-lineup-1235413704/>). *Variety*. Retrieved October 25, 2022.
90. Gregory, Claire (January 18, 2023). "Steven Spielberg says antisemitism 'on the rise' - as new film The Fabelmans shows prejudice he faced as a teen" (<https://news.sky.com/story/steven-spielberg-says-antisemitism-on-the-rise-as-new-film-the-fabelmans-shows-prejudice-he-faced-as-a-teen-12789797>). *Sky News*. Retrieved December 2, 2023.
91. "Steven Spielberg to Receive Honorary Golden Bear at Berlinale" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/steven-spielberg-berlin-golden-bear-festival-1235267993/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. November 22, 2022.
92. "Berlinale 2023 Lauds Steven Spielberg with an Honorary Golden Bear and Homage" (<https://www.berlinale.de/en/2023/news-press-releases/224194.html>).
93. D'Alessandro, Anthony (June 22, 2022). "Universal Sets L.A. & NY Runs For Steven Spielberg's *The Fabelmans* – Update" (<https://deadline.com/2022/06/steven-spielbergs-the-fabelmans-based-on-filmmakers-childhood-sets-2022-theatrical-release-1234885646/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved June 22, 2022.
94. "Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' Gets Prestige Drama Treatment in India Release by Reliance Entertainment (EXCLUSIVE)" (<https://variety.com/2023/film/news/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-india-release-1235487162/>). *Variety*. January 12, 2023. Retrieved January 16, 2023.
95. Wiseman, Andreas (March 3, 2022). "Amblin Partners & Nordisk Film Renew Distribution Partnership" (<https://deadline.com/2022/03/amblin-nordisk-steven-spielberg-distribution-deal-1234969288/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved June 29, 2022.
96. McClintock, Pamela (November 27, 2022). "Thanksgiving Box Office: 'Black Panther 2' Feasts on \$64M as 'Strange World' Flops with \$18.6M" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/black-panther-wakanda-forever-box-office-strange-world-1235270031/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*.
97. Tingley, Anna (January 18, 2023). "'The Fabelmans' Gets Digital and Blu-ray Release" (<https://variety.com/shop/how-to-watch-the-fabelmans-online-streaming-1235492607/>). *Variety*. Retrieved January 1, 2023.
98. Brueggerman, Tom (February 20, 2023). "Three Different Movies Top VOD Charts, as 'The Fabelmans' Joins the Leaders" (<https://www.indiewire.com/features/general/vod-charts-the-fabelmans-1234811723/>). *IndieWire*. Retrieved June 7, 2023.

99. D'Alessandro, Anthony (March 9, 2023). "Oscar Halo Effect: 'Top Gun: Maverick' Most Viewed In Streaming Post-Noms, 'Elvis' Most Watched Overall, 'Avatar 2' Biggest At Box Office" (<https://deadline.com/2023/03/oscars-box-office-streaming-top-gun-maverick-avatar-2-the-way-of-water-elvis-1235283443/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved June 7, 2023.
100. "Triangle of Sadness and the Fabelmans top streaming charts in Canada" (<https://cultmtl.com/2023/02/triangle-of-sadness-and-the-fabelmans-top-streaming-charts-in-canada/>). *Cult MTL*. February 22, 2023.
101. Vlessing, Etan (September 7, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' Releases New Poster" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-releases-new-poster-1235213955/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved September 7, 2022.
102. O'Rourke, Ryan (September 11, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Trailer Embraces the Magic of Movie-Making" (<https://collider.com/the-fabelmans-trailer-stein-spielberg-michelle-williams-paul-dano/>). *Collider*. Retrieved September 11, 2022.
103. "The Fabelmans | Trailer Music | Felix Erskine (Full Official Version)" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXqz5nv6q2M>). *YouTube*.
104. "Disney to Dominate Thanksgiving Box Office With 'Strange World' and 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' " (<https://variety.com/2022/film/box-office/black-panther-strange-world-thanksgiving-box-office-estimates-1235438896/>). *Variety*. November 22, 2022. Retrieved November 22, 2022.
105. "2022 Movies: The Fabelmans – Trailer Song" (<https://commercial-song.net/2022/12/2022-movies-the-fabelmans-trailer-song/>). December 14, 2022.
106. Fuster, Jeremy (November 13, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Earns Solid \$40,000 Average at Specialty Box Office" (<https://www.thewrap.com/fabelmans-box-office-release-spielberg/>). *The Wrap*.
107. D'Alessandro, Anthony (November 21, 2022). "Disregard The Corporate Noise: Disney Will Dominate Thanksgiving Box Office With 'Wakanda Forever' & 'Strange World' " (<https://deadline.com/2022/11/box-office-wakanda-forever-strange-world-disney-bob-iger-thanksgiving-1235179433/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved November 22, 2022.
108. "Even With 'Black Panther,' Don't Expect Thanksgiving Box Office to Improve" (<https://www.thewrap.com/thanksgiving-box-office-poor-results/>). *TheWrap*. November 23, 2022. Retrieved November 23, 2022.
109. "'Wakanda Forever' Conquering \$55M-\$60M Over Thanksgiving Stretch, 'Strange World' Thrown Out Of Orbit, 'Knives Out 2' Slicing Through Adult Competition – Box Office Update" (<https://deadline.com/2022/11/box-office-wakanda-forever-strange-world-bones-and-all-timothée-chalamet-thanksgiving-1235180803/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. November 24, 2022. Retrieved November 24, 2022.
110. Rubin, Rebecca (November 25, 2022). "Box Office: 'Strange World' Struggling With \$2.4 Million as 'Wakanda Forever' Triumphs With \$8 Million on Thanksgiving" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/box-office/thanksgiving-box-office-strange-world-struggling-black-panther-wakanda-forever-triumphs-1235441633/>). *Variety*. Retrieved November 25, 2022.
111. "Like 'Jaws' Before It, Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' May Rewrite Box Office History" (<https://www.indiewire.com/2022/12/steven-spielberg-the-fabelmans-rewrite-box-office-history-1234788979/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. November 24, 2022. Retrieved December 10, 2022.
112. Eriksen, Kaare (December 1, 2022). "'Fabelmans' Fumble Points to Box-office Blues for Prestige Films" (<https://variety.com/vip/fabelmans-fumble-points-to-box-office-blues-for-prestige-films-1235447094/>). *Variety*. Retrieved December 16, 2022.
113. "'Avatar' sequel sails to 2nd week atop the box office" (<https://www.npr.org/2022/12/26/1145503768/avatar-sequel-sails-to-2nd-week-atop-the-box-office>). *NPR*. December 26, 2022.

114. Friedman, Roger (January 29, 2023). "Box Office: 'Fabelmans', 'Tar', 'Women Talking', All Oscar Movies Up, 'Whale' Beached, Billie Eilish Bonanza" (<https://www.showbiz411.com/2023/01/29/box-fabelmans-tar-women-talking-all-oscar-movies-up-whale-beached-billie-eilish-bonanza>). *Showbiz411*. Retrieved January 29, 2023.
115. "'Avatar: The Way of Water,' Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan' Rule U.K. Box Office" (<https://variety.com/2023/film/box-office/avatar-the-way-of-water-shah-rukh-khan-pathaan-uk-box-office-1235507839/>). January 31, 2023.
116. "Box-office 1er jour : The Fabelmans séduit les cinéphiles" (<https://www.boxofficepro.fr/box-office-1er-jour-the-fabelmans-seduit-les-cinephiles/>). *Boxoffice Pro*. February 23, 2023.
117. "*The Fabelmans*" ([https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the\\_fabelmans](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_fabelmans)). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved December 21, 2023.
118. "*The Fabelmans*" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/the-fabelmans>). *Metacritic*. Fandom, Inc. Retrieved January 28, 2023.
119. Lang, Brent (November 13, 2022). "Box Office: 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' Rules With \$330 Million Global Launch, \$180 Million Domestic Debut" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/news/box-office-black-panther-wakanda-forever-marvel-steven-spielberg-fabelmans-1235431385/>). *Variety*.
120. Evangelista, Chris (September 11, 2022). "The Fabelmans Review: One Of Steven Spielberg's Warmest, Most Autobiographical Films [TIFF]" (<https://www.slashfilm.com/1002613/the-fabelmans-review-one-of-steven-spielbergs-warmest-most-autobiographical-films-tiff/>). *SlashFilm.com*.
121. Pond, Steve (September 10, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Film Review: Steven Spielberg's Sweet Memory Piece Picks Up Steam As It Goes" (<https://www.thewrap.com/the-fabelmans-film-review-steven-spielberg-michelle-williams/>). *The Wrap*.
122. "'The Fabelmans' Review: Steven Spielberg Crafts Another Moving Masterpiece With His Autobiographical Tale - TIFF 2022" (<https://collider.com/the-fabelmans-review-steven-spielberg/>). *Collider*. September 11, 2022.
123. Debruge, Peter (September 11, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Review: Steven Spielberg Takes a Sweet, Heavily Filtered Selfie of His Formative Years" (<https://variety.com/2022/film/reviews/the-fabelmans-review-steven-spielberg-1235368194/>). *Variety*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
124. Ehrlich, David (September 11, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Review: Spielberg's Heartfelt Biopic About Movie History's Biggest Divorce" (<https://www.indiewire.com/2022/09/the-fabelmans-review-1234760956/>). *IndieWire*.
125. Tallerico, Brian (September 11, 2022). "TIFF 2022: The Fabelmans, Glass Onion" (<https://www.rogerebert.com/festivals/tiff-2022-the-fabelmans-glass-onion>). *RogerEbert.com*.
126. Lee, Benjamin (September 11, 2022). "The Fabelmans review – Steven Spielberg's sweet but sanitised personal drama" (<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2022/sep/11/the-fabelmans-review-steven-spielberg-drama>). *The Guardian*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
127. Laffly, Tomris (September 11, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Review: Steven Spielberg Bares His Soul In His Most Personal Film [TIFF]" (<https://theplaylist.net/the-fabelmans-review-steven-spielberg-bares-his-soul-in-his-most-personal-film-tiff-20220911/>). *The Playlist*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
128. DeFore, John (September 11, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Review: Steven Spielberg's Deeply Moving Childhood Memoir" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-reviews/the-fabelmans-steven-spielberg-michelle-williams-paul-dano-seth-rogen-tony-kushner-1235217237/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
129. Chang, Justin (September 11, 2022). "Toronto Film Festival launches two must see movies in 'The Fabelmans' and 'Glass Onion'" (<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2022-09-11/glass-onion-the-fabelmans-reviews-toronto-2022>). *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.




130. Greenblatt, Leah (September 11, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' review: Steven Spielberg raids boyhood memories for a tale of how a filmmaker is born" (<https://ew.com/movies/movie-reviews/fabelmans-steven-spielberg-michelle-williams-paul-dano/>). *Entertainment Weekly*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
131. Lawson, Richard (September 11, 2022). "Spielberg Shares an Emotional, Complex Self-Portrait In *The Fabelmans*" (<https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2022/09/spielberg-the-fabelmans-review-awards-insider>). *Vanity Fair*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
132. Fear, David (September 11, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Is the Steven Spielberg Movie We've Been Waiting Four Decades for Him to Make" (<https://www.rollingstone.com/tv-movies/tv-movie-features/fabelmans-review-steven-spielberg-toronto-film-festival-1234588514/>). *Rolling Stone*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
133. Travers, Peter (November 11, 2022). "Review 'The Fabelmans': Michelle Williams delivers a career-best performance" (<https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Culture/review-fabelmans-michelle-williams-delivers-career-best-performance/story?id=93054415>). *ABC News*. Retrieved November 11, 2022.
134. Lane, Anthony (November 11, 2022). "Steven Spielberg's 'The Fabelmans' and the Madness of Love" (<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/11/21/steven-spielbergs-the-fabelmans-and-the-madness-of-love>). *The New Yorker*. Retrieved November 11, 2022.
135. Swanson, Anna (September 15, 2022). "*The Fabelmans* is a Personal Journey Through Memories and Moviemaking" (<https://filmschoolrejects.com/the-fabelmans-review-tiff/>). *Film School Rejects*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
136. Dargis, Manohla (November 10, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' Review: Spielberg's Own Sentimental Education" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/10/movies/the-fabelmans-review-spielberg.html>). *The New York Times*. Retrieved November 10, 2022.
137. Williams, Alison (September 15, 2022). "Don't Worry, *The Fabelmans* Doesn't Overdo the 'Magic of Movies' Shtick" (<https://www.vulture.com/article/steven-spielbergs-the-fabelmans-movie-review.html>). *Vulture*. Retrieved October 14, 2022.
138. Oleksinski, Jonny (September 16, 2022). "'The Fabelmans' review: Spielberg's latest is the best movie of the year" (<https://nypost.com/2022/09/11/the-fabelmans-review-spielbergs-latest-is-the-best-of-the-year/>). *New York Post*.
139. Gilchrist, Todd (November 10, 2022). "In *The Fabelmans*, Spielberg chronicles his family's story and captures universal truths with his camera" (<https://www.avclub.com/fabelmans-movie-review-steven-spielberg-michelle-williams-1849754099>). *The A.V. Club*. Retrieved November 10, 2022.
140. "Joyce Carol Oates: 'The Fabelmans' is 'Remarkably Mediocre' and 'Discouraging' to Young Filmmakers" (<https://www.indiewire.com/2023/01/joyce-carol-oates-slams-the-fabelmans-remarkably-mediocre-1234799878/>). January 13, 2023. Retrieved December 2, 2023.
141. "The 10 Best Movies of 2022" (<https://time.com/6238019/best-movies-2022/>). *Time*. Retrieved December 11, 2022.
142. "The 10 Best Movie Performances of 2022" (<https://time.com/6239161/best-movie-performances-2022/>). *Time*. Retrieved December 11, 2022.
143. de Semlyen, Phil (November 20, 2023). "The best movies of 2023 (so far)" (<https://www.timeout.com/film/the-best-movies-of-2023-so-far>). *Time Out*. Retrieved December 7, 2023.
144. "The Best Films Of 2023" (<https://www.empireonline.com/movies/features/best-movies-2023/>). *Empire*. December 7, 2023. Retrieved December 15, 2023.
145. "The 50 Best Films Of 2022" (<https://www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/polls/50-best-films-2022>). *Sight and Sound*. December 19, 2022. Retrieved December 23, 2023.
146. "The 50 Best Films Of 2023" (<https://www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/polls/50-best-films-2023>). *Sight and Sound*. December 19, 2022. Retrieved December 8, 2023.

147. Nayman, Adam (December 19, 2022). "The Best Shots of 2022" (<https://www.theringer.com/movies/2022/12/19/23515556/best-shots-in-movies-2022-nope-fabelmans-tar>). *The Ringer*. Retrieved December 19, 2022.
148. Zilko, Christian (March 4, 2023). "20 Dazzling Shots from This Year's Oscar Contenders" (<https://www.indiewire.com/gallery/oscar-nominees-best-shots-2023>). *IndieWire*. Retrieved January 9, 2024.
149. Volk, Pete (December 27, 2022). "The best movie scenes of 2022" (<https://www.polygon.com/23516876/best-movie-scenes-moments-2022>). *Polygon*. Retrieved March 6, 2023.
150. "The Best Film Scenes of 2022" (<https://www.slantmagazine.com/film/the-best-film-scenes-of-2022>). *Slant*. December 12, 2022. Retrieved April 6, 2023.
151. Dietz, Jason (December 6, 2022). "Best of 2022: Film Critic Top Ten Lists" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20230102111332/https://www.metacritic.com/feature/film-critics-pick-10-best-movies-of-2022>). Metacritic. Archived from the original (<https://www.metacritic.com/feature/film-critics-pick-10-best-movies-of-2022>) on January 2, 2023. Retrieved January 22, 2023.
152. "The Fabelmans" (<https://www.yearendlists.com/visuals/the-fabelmans-f4978e6a-3e36-4b5a-8b3c-0e6e44b7b872>). Year-End Lists. Retrieved November 20, 2023.
153. "The Individual Top Tens of 2022" (<https://www.rogerebert.com/features/the-individual-top-tens-of-2022>). *RogerEbert.com*. December 16, 2022. Retrieved November 20, 2023.
154. "Best Movies of 2022: First Viewings & Discoveries and Individual Ballots" (<https://www.screenslate.com/articles/best-movies-2022-first-viewings-discoveries-and-individual-ballots>). Screen Slate. Retrieved January 30, 2023.
155. "Best Movies of 2022" (<https://criticstop10.com/best-movies-of-2022/>). CriticsTop10. Retrieved November 20, 2023.
156. "The Fabelmans" (<http://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm-255726/critiques/presse/>). *AlloCiné*.
157. Willsher, Kim (February 24, 2023). "'What a film!' Spielberg's The Fabelmans stuns French critics and audiences" (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/24/film-spielberg-the-fabelmans-reviews-french-critics-audiences>). *The Guardian*.
158. Raup, Jordan (December 1, 2023). "Cahiers du cinéma's Top 10 Films of 2023 Includes *Trenque Lauquen*, *Fallen Leaves*, and *Anatomy of a Fall*" (<https://thefilmstage.com/cahiers-du-cinemas-top-10-films-of-2023-includes-trenque-lauque-fallen-leaves-and-anatomy-of-a-fall/>). *The Film Stage*.
159. Zilko, Christian (December 1, 2023). "Cahiers du Cinema Names Best Films of 2023, Including 'Anatomy of a Fall' and 'Close Your Eyes'" (<https://www.indiewire.com/news/general-news/cahiers-du-cinema-best-films-of-2023-list-1234931416/>). *IndieWire*. Retrieved December 1, 2023.
160. "Denis Villeneuve lauds Steven Spielberg's The Fabelmans" (<https://www.cinemaexpress.com/english/news/2023/feb/20/denis-villeneuve-lauds-steven-spielbergs-the-fabelmans-40181.html>). *Cinema Express*.
161. Ramachandran, Naman (February 10, 2023). "Steven Spielberg, S.S. Rajamouli Talk 'RRR,' 'The Fabelmans': Watch Video (EXCLUSIVE)" (<https://variety.com/2023/film/news/steven-spielberg-ss-rajamouli-rrr-the-fabelmans-video-1235519008>). *Variety*. Retrieved March 6, 2023.
162. del Toro, Guillermo [@RealGDT] (November 8, 2022). "Beautiful, moving, healing- The Fabelmans is a superb work about three 'f's: Family, Forgiveness and Film" (<https://x.com/RealGDT/status/1589791182158450689>) (Tweet). Retrieved November 25, 2023 – via Twitter.
163. "20 Directors Praise 2022's Best Films: Guillermo del Toro on 'Elvis,' Wes Anderson on 'White Noise' and More" (<https://variety.com/lists/directors-best-films-2022-wes-anderson-guillermo-del-toro-white-noise-elvis/steven-spielbergs-the-fabelmans-by-judd-apatow/>). *Variety*. December 19, 2022. Retrieved November 25, 2023.

164. "The 10 Best Drama Movies of the 2020s So Far, Ranked" (<https://collider.com/best-drama-movies-2020s/>). *Collider*. August 24, 2023.
165. "10 Great Coming-of-Age Movies of the Last 5 Years" (<https://collider.com/great-coming-of-age-movies-since-2018/>). *Collider*. March 10, 2023.
166. "The 25 Best Coming-of-Age Movies of All Time, Ranked" (<https://collider.com/best-coming-of-age-movies-all-time-ranked/#39-the-fabelmans-39-2022>). *Collider*. July 7, 2023.
167. Gama, Daniella (May 17, 2023). "The 10 Best Period Coming-of-Age Movies & TV Shows" (<https://collider.com/best-period-coming-of-age-movies-tv-shows/#39-the-fabelmans-39-2022>). *Collider*. Retrieved December 15, 2023.
168. Urquhart, Jeremy (December 31, 2023). "25 Best Movies of the 2020s So Far, Ranked" (<https://collider.com/best-movies-2020s-ranked/#39-the-fabelmans-39-2022>). *Collider*. Retrieved January 17, 2024.
169. Sledge, Phillip (May 8, 2023). "10 Great Movies And Documentaries Highlighting Jewish-American History To Watch" (<https://www.cinemablend.com/movies/great-movies-and-documentaries-highlighting-jewish-american-history-to-watch>). *CinemaBlend*. Retrieved November 25, 2023.
170. McGrotty, Andrew; Raul, Danilo (September 7, 2023). "Best Modern Movies Shot on Film" (<https://movieweb.com/modern-movies-shot-on-film/#the-fabelmans-2022>). *MovieWeb*. Retrieved November 25, 2023.
171. White, Cindy (May 12, 2023). "The 15 best, and 5 worst, movie moms" (<https://www.avclub.com/15-best-movie-moms-and-the-5-worst-1850429914/slides/16>). *The A.V. Club*. Retrieved December 10, 2023.
172. "4 anonymous Oscars voters reveal brutally honest secret ballot picks for the Academy Awards" (<https://ew.com/awards/oscars/2023-oscars-secret-ballot-academy-awards-voters-share-juicy-picks/>). *Entertainment Weekly*.
173. "The Banshees of Inisherin, TÁR, Elvis, and the Fabelmans shut out of this year's Oscars" (<https://www.avclub.com/banshees-of-inisherin-tar-the-fabelmans-shut-out-oscars-1850218763>). *The A.V. Club*. March 13, 2023.
174. "Winners & Nominees 2023" (<https://www.goldenglobes.com/winners-nominees>). Golden Globe Awards. Retrieved January 11, 2023.
175. "National Board Of Review Announces 2022 Award Winners" (<https://nationalboardofreview.org/2022/12/national-board-of-review-announces-2022-award-winners/>). *Nationalboardofreview.org*. December 8, 2022. Retrieved December 8, 2022.
176. "Composer John Williams Breaks Own Record as Most Oscar-Nominated Person Alive" (<https://people.com/movies/john-williams-breaks-record-most-oscar-nominated-person-alive/>). *People*.
177. Pedersen, Erik (November 10, 2023). "'Barbie' Scores 11 Grammy Noms, Including Record Of Year & Two For Song Of Year" (<https://deadline.com/2023/11/barbie-grammy-nominations-oppenheimer-john-williams-1235599529>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved November 25, 2023.
178. "Steven Spielberg Reunites Michelle Williams and Paul Dano in 'The Fabelmans Redux' " (<https://www.wmagazine.com/culture/michelle-williams-paul-dano-steven-spielberg-directors-issue-cover>). *W Magazine*. February 23, 2023. Retrieved March 1, 2023.

## External links

---

- Official website (<https://www.thefabelmans.movie/>) 
- *The Fabelmans* at Universal Pictures (<https://www.universalpictures.com/movies/the-fabelmans/>)

- *The Fabelmans* at Amblin website (<https://amblin.com/movie/the-fabelmans/>)
  - *The Fabelmans* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14208870/>) at IMDb
  - *The Fabelmans* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v732888>) at AllMovie
- 

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The\\_Fabelmans&oldid=1224041692](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Fabelmans&oldid=1224041692)"

■