

# Babylon (2022 film)

Babylon is a 2022 American epic historical black comedy drama film written and directed by Damien Chazelle. It features an ensemble cast that includes Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Diego Calva, Jean Smart, Jovan Adepo, Li Jun Li, P. J. Byrne, Lukas Haas, Olivia Hamilton, Max Minghella, Rory Scovel, Katherine Waterston, and Tobey Maguire. It chronicles the rise and fall of multiple characters during Hollywood's transition from silent to sound films in the late 1920s.

Chazelle began developing *Babylon* in July 2019, with <u>Lionsgate Films</u> as the frontrunner to acquire the project. It was announced that <u>Paramount Pictures</u> had acquired worldwide rights in November 2019. Much of the main cast joined the project between January 2020 and August 2021, and filming took place in Los Angeles from July to October 2021.

Babylon premiered at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Los Angeles on November 14, 2022, and was released in the United States on December 23, 2022. It was met with a polarized response from critics and was considered a boxoffice bomb, grossing \$63 million against a production budget of \$78–80 million. [6] It received five nominations at the 80th Golden Globe Awards (including Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy, winning Best Original Score), three nominations at the 76th British Academy Film Awards, and three nominations at the 95th Academy Awards.

#### **Plot**

In 1926 Bel Air, Los Angeles, Mexican immigrant Manuel "Manny" Torres helps transport an elephant to a debauched bacchanal, rife with sex, jazz and cocaine, at Kinoscope Studios executive Don Wallach's mansion. He quickly becomes smitten with Nellie LaRoy, a brash, ambitious self-declared "star" from New Jersey. Manny shares his dream with her—to be part of something "bigger". While the elephant walks through, distracting partygoers, Manny helps carry away young actress Jane Thornton, who overdosed on drugs with urolagniac actor Orville Pickwick.

#### **Babylon**



Theatrical release poster

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Directed by	Damien Chazelle			
Written by	Damien Chazelle			
Produced by	Marc Platt			
	Matthew Plouffe			
	Olivia Hamilton			
Starring	Brad Pitt			
	Margot Robbie			
	Diego Calva			
	Jean Smart			
	Jovan Adepo			
	<u>Li Jun Li</u>			
	P. J. Byrne			
	Lukas Haas			
	Olivia Hamilton			
	Max Minghella			
	Rory Scovel			
	Katherine Waterston			
	Tobey Maguire			

Also attending are <u>Chinese-American</u> <u>lesbian</u> cabaret-singer Lady Fay Zhu and <u>African-American</u> jazz trumpeter Sidney Palmer. The flamboyantly-dancing Nellie is spotted and swiftly recruited to replace Jane in a Kinoscope film. During filming, she crudely upstages Constance Moore. Manny meets and befriends Jack Conrad, a benevolent but troubled, oft-married film star, and drives the drunken Jack home. Jack helps Manny secure assistant jobs at Kinoscope. When a director needs a new camera to film Jack in an outdoors love scene before nightfall, Manny saves the day by finding one and getting it to the set at the last moment. Manny climbs the <u>studio system</u>'s ranks.

Nellie quickly becomes an "it girl" covered by gossip columnist Elinor St. John, who also follows Jack's career. As sound film displaces silents in the late-1920s, Manny skillfully adapts to technical changes. At Sidney's suggestion, he successfully pitches a series of films starring Sidney and a brand new orchestra to Irving Thalberg. As a result, Manny gains more even greater power and influence in the industry, eventually becoming a producer and studio executive. Nellie struggles to navigate sound film's demands (one cameraman dies filming her), and increases her drug use and reckless gambling, tarnishing her reputation despite Manny's assistance.

Nellie, shown to have an <u>institutionalized</u> mother, eggs on her drunken father (and inept business-manager) Robert to publicly

Cinematography	Linus Sandgren
Edited by	Tom Cross
Music by	Justin Hurwitz
Production	Paramount Pictures
companies	C2 Motion Picture
	Group
	Marc Platt
	Productions
	Wild Chickens
	Productions
	Organism Pictures
Distributed by	Paramount Pictures
Release dates	November 14, 2022
	(Los Angeles)
	December 23, 2022
	(United States)
Running time	189 minutes $^{[1]}$
Country	United States
Languages	English
	Spanish
Budget	\$78–80 million <sup>[2][3]</sup>
Box office	\$63.4 million <sup>[4][5]</sup>

fight a rattlesnake during a party; he passes out. Nellie fights the snake, which bites her neck; Fay kills it and sucks out the venom. Nellie passionately kisses her.

By 1932, Jack begins to sense that his popularity has waned, but still works in low-budget Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer films. As Hollywood becomes less libertine, executives tell Manny to fire Fay, a Kinoscope title writer, because of her perceived lesbianism. While practicing lines with new wife Estelle, Jack is devastated to learn his longtime friend/producer, George Munn, has committed suicide.

Elinor and Manny attempt to revamp Nellie's image and ingratiate her into Hollywood's high society, but at a party with William Randolph Hearst and Marion Davies, Nellie lashes out against upper-class snobbery, vomiting on Hearst. Jack finds Elinor's cover story about his declining popularity and confronts her; she explains that although his star has faded, he will be immortalized on film. Sidney is offended when studio executives convince Manny to request he don <u>blackface</u> for <u>Southern</u> audiences; he leaves Kinoscope to perform live in black establishments. Jack encounters Fay at a hotel party; she reveals her departure for Europe and <u>Pathé</u>. Afterwards, in his hotel room, a despondent Jack fatally shoots himself.

Eccentric gangster James McKay threatens Nellie's life over her massive gambling debts. Manny initially rejects her distraught pleas for help, but later secures funds from the movie-set drug-pusher/aspiring actor "The Count", and visits James with him to pay off Nellie's debt. Manny panics upon learning the money is

<u>counterfeit</u>, made by his own prop-maker. James invites the men to a subterranean gathering-space for depraved <u>zoosadist</u> parties, raving about potential film ideas. When James realizes the cash is counterfeit, he attempts to kill them, but they narrowly escape, killing James's henchman Wilson.

Manny asks Nellie to flee with him to Mexico, marry, and start a new life. She initially resists, but eventually agrees. James's associate tracks Manny down, killing The Count and his roommate. Upon seeing Manny urinate himself, the henchmen take pity and agree to spare Manny's life if he leaves Los Angeles. While Manny gathers their belongings, Nellie reneges on her decision and dances away into the night. A montage of newspaper clippings reveals Elinor's death at age 76, and Nellie's death from a drug overdose at 34.

In 1952, Manny returns to California with his wife Silvia and young daughter, having fled to New York City and established a radio shop. He shows them the Kinoscope Studios entrance, then visits a nearby cinema alone to see *Singin' in the Rain*, whose depiction of the industry's transition from silents to talkies, albeit sanitized, moves him to tears. A century-spanning series of vignettes from various films follows. As the focus returns to *Singin'*, Manny tearfully smiles.

#### Cast

- Brad Pitt as Jack Conrad
- Margot Robbie as Nellie LaRoy
- Diego Calva as Manny Torres
- Jean Smart as Elinor St. John
- Jovan Adepo as Sidney Palmer
- Li Jun Li as Lady Fay Zhu
- P. J. Byrne as Max
- Lukas Haas as George Munn
- Olivia Hamilton as Ruth Adler
- Max Minghella as Irving Thalberg
- Rory Scovel as The Count
- Katherine Waterston as Estelle
- Tobey Maguire as James McKay
- Flea as Bob Levine
- Jeff Garlin as Don Wallach
- Eric Roberts as Robert Roy
- Ethan Suplee as Wilson
- Samara Weaving as Constance Moore
- Olivia Wilde as Ina Conrad
- Spike Jonze as Otto Von Strassberger
- Telvin Griffin as Reggie
- Chloe Fineman as Marion Davies
- Phoebe Tonkin as Jane Thornton
- Troy Metcalf as Orville Pickwick
- Jennifer Grant as Mildred Yates
- Patrick Fugit as Officer Elwood
- Pat Skipper as William Randolph Hearst

- Kaia Gerber as Starlet
- Cyrus Hobbi as Footballer
- Karen Bethzabe as Silvia Torres
- Sarah Ramos as Harriet Rothschild
- Alexandre Chen as James Wong Howe
- Taylor Hill as Rebecca
- John Mariano as Master of ceremonies
- Mather Zickel as Distribution executive
- Albert Hammond Jr. as Guest in chicken line
- Joe Dallesandro as Charlie the photographer
- Marc Platt as Producer

# **Production**

#### **Development**



Writer and director <u>Damien Chazelle</u> (left), lead actor <u>Brad Pitt</u>, lead actress <u>Margot Robbie</u>, lead actor <u>Diego</u> Calva, and actor/executive producer Tobey Maguire.

It was announced in July 2019 that <u>Damien Chazelle</u> had set his next project following <u>First Man</u> (2018) as a period drama set in the <u>Golden Age of Hollywood</u>. <u>Lionsgate Films</u> was the frontrunner to acquire the project after distributing Chazelle's <u>La La Land</u> (2016), with <u>Emma Stone</u> (also having worked on <u>La La Land</u>) and <u>Brad Pitt</u> in the mix to star. <u>[7]</u> In November, <u>Paramount Pictures</u> acquired worldwide rights to the project, with Stone and Pitt still circling roles. <u>[8]</u> Pitt confirmed his involvement in January 2020, describing the film as being set when the <u>silent film</u> era transitioned into <u>sound</u>. <u>[9]</u> He was set to play a character modeled on actor-director John Gilbert. <u>[10]</u>

By December 2020, <u>Margot Robbie</u> was in early negotiations to replace Stone, who exited the film due to scheduling conflicts, and <u>Li Jun Li</u> was also cast. Robbie was confirmed in March 2021, with <u>Jovan Adepo</u> and Diego Calva also joining. 10][13]

In June, <u>Katherine Waterston</u>, <u>Max Minghella</u>, <u>Flea</u>, <u>Samara Weaving</u>, <u>Rory Scovel</u>, <u>Lukas Haas</u>, <u>Eric Roberts</u>, <u>P.J. Byrne</u>, <u>Damon Gupton</u>, <u>Olivia Wilde</u>, <u>Spike Jonze</u>, <u>Phoebe Tonkin</u>, and <u>Tobey Maguire</u> (who is also an executive producer on the film) joined the cast. [14][15][16] In July, <u>Jean Smart</u> joined the cast, with <u>Chloe Fineman</u>, <u>Jeff Garlin</u>, Telvin Griffin, and Troy Metcalf joining the cast the following month. [18][19]

# **Filming**

Filming was originally set to take place in California in mid-2020 but was postponed due to the <u>COVID-19</u> pandemic. It began on July 1, 2021 and <u>wrapped</u> on October 21, 2021. [16][20][21][22][23] Shea's Castle was used for the exterior shots of the mansion in the opening party scene, and interiors were shot inside the <u>Ace</u> Hotel Los Angeles. The movie ranch, Blue Sky Ranch, served as Kinescope Studios. [24]

#### Music

<u>Justin Hurwitz</u>, a frequent collaborator of Chazelle, composed the film's score. Two tracks from the score, "Call Me Manny" and "Voodoo Mama," were released digitally on November 10, 2022, the latter track being used to underscore the film's first trailer. The soundtrack album was released by <u>Interscope Records</u> on December 9, 2022. [25]



"Voodoo Mama," which plays during the film's opening sequence and finale montage.

# **Themes**

In an essay for /Film, Robert Daniels asserts that *Babylon* is essentially a story of identity and assimilation in early Hollywood. While noting the similarities it shares with films such as *The Last Black Man in San* Francisco (2019), Bamboozled (2000), and Medicine for Melancholy (2008), Daniels focuses on character Manuel "Manny" Torres and his rise into the Hollywood studio system: "In the process, Manuel cuts off ties with his Mexican roots—though they live in Los Angeles, he never visits his family—he Americanizes his name to Manny, and at a party thrown by William Randolph Hearst, he presents himself as a Spaniard. Manuel becomes intoxicated by his proximity to the white capitalistic greed that governs Hollywood (and partly the American dream of upward mobility), causing him to traverse a tenuous betweenness of identity." Daniels writes that Manny's erasure of his identity is sparked by his fantasy romance with Nellie LaRoy who represents what he loves about Hollywood: "An indefinable magical quality, upward mobility, picturesque happiness, and the ability to permanently define yourself." Daniels also adds that, while climbing the social ladder, Manny contributed to the mythology of Hollywood, recalling one scene where he expeditiously retrieved a camera for a large, destructive set and a picturesque scene is shot without future film audiences' knowledge of its production, and another scene where Manny pressures Black trumpeter Sidney Palmer to don blackface during the filming of a jazz short, so that the lighting on the set doesn't lighten his complexion in the final product. [26]

Lisa Laman of <u>Collider</u> observed that <u>Babylon</u> functions as a rumination on how human beings try to outrun and ignore their innate mortality, pointing to the various nonchalant depictions of death (such as a newscaster's casual account of the suicide of a female Jack Conrad fan) as an especially discernible example of this thematic element. Laman also pointed to a key scene in the middle of <u>Babylon</u> concerning Conrad briefly being overwhelmed by the death of his friend George Munn before returning to his default unflappable persona to be another key instance of the feature functioning as a tragic meditation on people trying to evade the inevitable presence of death. [27]

# Release

#### **Theatrical**

Babylon was first screened for critics and industry people on November 14, 2022, at the <u>Samuel Goldwyn Theater</u> in Los Angeles and in New York City the following day. It was released on December 23, 2022. The film was initially scheduled for a December 25, 2021, limited release and a January 7, 2022, wide release, but was later delayed by an entire year, with a December 25, 2022, limited release, and a January 6, 2023, wide release, due to the <u>COVID-19 pandemic</u>. In October, the film was moved two days earlier to the current date and set for a solely wide release instead. [31]

#### Home media

The film was released on <u>VOD</u> platforms on January 31, 2023, and on <u>Paramount+</u> on February 21, 2023. It was released on Blu-ray, DVD and 4K UHD a month later on March 21, 2023. [32][33]

## Marketing

The first red-banded trailer for *Babylon* premiered on September 12, 2022, at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival during a Q&A event with Chazelle and TIFF CEO Cameron Bailey. It was released to the public the following day, alongside character posters of the main cast. Noting its uncensored nudity, profanity and drug use, several publications compared the trailer's atmosphere to that of films such as *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013)[36][37] and *The Great Gatsby* (2013), which star Robbie and Maguire, respectively. A featurette about the making of the film was released on November 21, 2022. The second and final trailer for the film and its theatrical release poster were released on November 28, 2022.

As Maggie Dela Paz notes at ComingSoon.net, "a brand new behind-the scenes featurette ...highlight[ing] Chazelle's ensemble cast of A-list stars and familiar supporting actors[, and] also featur[ing] commentary from the Oscar-nominated director as he talks about the challenge of handling this massive cast" was released on December 29, 2022. [42]

# Reception

#### **Box office**

*Babylon* grossed \$15.4 million in the United States and Canada, and \$48 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$63.4 million. Deadline Hollywood noted that with a combined production and promotion budget of around \$160 million, Babylon would need to gross \$250 million worldwide in order to break-even. The site ultimately calculated the film lost the studio \$87.4 million, when factoring together all expenses and revenues. [44]

In the United States and Canada, *Babylon* was released alongside *Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody*, and was initially projected to gross \$12–15 million from 3,342 theaters over its four-day opening weekend. The film made \$1.5 million on its first day (including Thursday-night previews) and went on to debut to just \$3.5 million in its opening weekend (and a total of \$5.3 million over the four days), finishing fourth at the box office. *Deadline* cited the general public's declining interest in prestige films, the threat of a tripledemic surge in COVID-19 and flu cases, and the nationwide impact of Winter Storm Elliott as reasons for lower-than-expected theater attendance. In its sophomore weekend the film made \$2.6 million (a drop of 27.5%), finishing in fifth.

In Europe, the film took \$3.3 million on its opening weekend in France and \$1.6 million (£1.3 million) in the United Kingdom, coming second and third respectively at the box office.  $\frac{[48]}{}$ 

#### Critical response

According to IndieWire and The Hollywood Reporter, as well as the opinion of Chazelle himself, reception to the film was "polarized". [49][50] On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, Babylon holds an approval rating of 57% based on 361 reviews, with an average rating of 6.4/10. The site's critics consensus reads: "Babylon's overwhelming muchness is exhausting, but much like the industry it honors, its well-acted, well-crafted glitz and glamour can often be an effective distraction." [51] On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 61 out of 100, based on 63 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews". [52] Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "C+" on an A+ to F scale, while PostTrak reported 74% of audience members gave the film a positive score, with 47% saying they would definitely recommend it. [3]

In his review for the <u>San Francisco Chronicle</u>, <u>Mick LaSalle</u> praised Chazelle's ambition and direction, writing that "*Babylon* is what movie love really looks like." *THR*'s David Rooney described it as a "syncopated concentration of hedonistic revelry", praising the cast performances, score, cinematography, costume and production design, but criticizing the screenplay and direction—ultimately concluding "it's hard to imagine the overstuffed yet insubstantial *Babylon* finding its way into many screen-classic montages". Conversely, Pete Hammond of <u>Deadline Hollywood</u> wrote that "it is guaranteed to be a movie that will stay in your head", commending the direction, production design, and performances.

In his review for <u>The Guardian</u>, <u>Peter Bradshaw</u> assigned the film three stars out of five, applauding the performances of Robbie and Pitt for elevating "a story in no hurry to engage with the true-life nastiness of its era". [56] Writing for <u>Vanity Fair</u>, <u>Richard Lawson</u> concurred with Bradshaw's sentiment, stating: "These are little islands in a sea of mannered chaos, but it begins to feel, as *Babylon* stretches out across three hours and eight minutes, that Chazelle has no clear idea where all of this is going." [57] In a scathing review for <u>Time</u>, <u>Stephanie Zacharek</u> highlighted Jun Li's performance, but criticized Chazelle's screenplay and direction, summarizing: "*Babylon* is a manic sprawl that only pretends to celebrate cinema. It's really about prurience, dumb sensation, self-congratulation and willful ignorance of history." [58]

In his review for *The Ringer*, Adam Nayman described *Babylon* as "a nauseous, high-calorie sugar rush of a movie that not only wants to have its cake and eat it too, but also to puke it up, smear it around, and cram it in the viewer's face". While praising Chazelle's direction and ambition, Nayman wrote that the film was a "deliberately designed career-killer" for the director. Writing less enthusiastically about the film in *Variety*, Peter Debruge stated that "*Babylon* presents itself as the apotheosis of all that has come before, the *ne plus ultra* of the medium's own potential, and indeed, it's an experience that won't be easily topped, in this or any year. But that doesn't make it great or even particularly coherent".

<u>Richard Brody</u> of <u>The New Yorker</u> praised Chazelle's storytelling and characters, but criticized other aspects of his screenplay, ultimately concluding: "Artistically, what *Babylon* adds to the classic Hollywood that it celebrates is sex and nudity, drugs and violence, a more diverse cast, and a batch of kitchen-sink chaos that replaces the whys and wherefores of coherent thought with the exhortation to buy a ticket, cast one's eyes up to the screen, and worship in the dark."[61] John Mulderig of <u>The Catholic Review</u> says, "Along the way, Robbie effervesces, Pitt charms and Calva smolders and endures. Yet Chazelle's depiction of Tinseltown's behind-the-scenes decadence takes needless explicitness to the point of obscenity. [He]

repeatedly references ...Singin' in the Rain, which unfolds in the same place and time. But comparisons with that beloved classic only highlight the ugliness of his own portrayal of human debasement." [62] Author Stephen King praised the film, calling it "utterly brilliant—extravagant, over the top, hilarious, thought-provoking" and "one of those movies that reviews badly and is acclaimed as a classic in 20 years." [63] In August 2023, *IndieWire* ranked the film's score at number 15 on its list of "The 40 Best Movie Scores of the 21st Century," writing "Filled with booming trumpets and epic saxophone solos, it's a truly epic score, perfectly fitting the changing world of '20s and '30s Los Angeles perfectly. But it's the way the score builds upon its motifs and elements from song to song, that makes its special." [64]

# Accolades

#### Award nominations for Babylon

Award	Date of ceremony	Category	Recipient(s)	Result
Chicago Film Critics	December 14, 2022	Best Cinematography	Linus Sandgren	Nominated
		Best Best Editing	Tom Cross	Nominated
		Best Original Score	Justin Hurwitz	Won
Association <sup>[65]</sup>		Best Costume Design	Mary Zophres	Nominated
		Best Art Direction/Production Design	Babylon	Nominated
St. Louis Gateway Film Critics Association [66]	December 18, 2022	Best Score	Justin Hurwitz	Nominated
Dallas–Fort Worth Film Critics Association [67]	December 19, 2022	Best Picture	Babylon	9th place
Florida Film Critics Circle <sup>[68]</sup>	December 22, 2022	Best Score	Justin Hurwitz	Won
		Best Art Direction / Production Design	Babylon	Won
		Best Ensemble		Runner-up
	January 6, 2023	Best Cinematography	Linus Sandgren	Won
San Diego Film Critics Society <sup>[69]</sup>		Best Costumes	Mary Zophres	Nominated
		Best Production Design	Florencia Martin	Won
	January 9, 2023	Best Cinematography	Linus Landgren	Nominated
San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle <sup>[70]</sup>		Best Film Editing	Tom Cross	Nominated
		Best Original Score	Justin Hurwitz	Nominated
		Best Production Design	Florencia Martin and Anthony Carlino	Nominated
Austin Film Critics Association <sup>[71]</sup>	January 10, 2023	Best Cinematography	Linus Sandgren	Nominated
		Best Score	Justin Hurwitz	Won
Golden Globe Awards <sup>[72]</sup>	January 10, 2023	Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy	Babylon	Nominated
		Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Musical or	Diego Calva	Nominated

		Comedy		
		Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy	Margot Robbie	Nominated
		Best Supporting Actor – Motion Picture	Brad Pitt	Nominated
		Best Original Score	Justin Humaita	Won
Georgia Film	_	Best Original Score	- Justin Hurwitz	Runner-up
Critics Association <sup>[73]</sup>	January 13, 2023	Best Production Design	Florencia Martin, Anthony Carlino	Won
		Best Picture	Babylon	Nominated
		Best Director	Damien Chazelle	Nominated
		Best Actress	Margot Robbie	Nominated
		Best Cinematography	Linus Sandgren	Nominated
Critics' Choice	January	Best Editing	Tom Cross	Nominated
Movie Awards <sup>[74]</sup>	15, 2023	Best Costume Design	Mary Zophres	Nominated
		Best Production Design	Florencia Martin and Anthony Carlino	Won
		Best Score	Justin Hurwitz	Nominated
		Best Hair and Makeup	Babylon	Nominated
	January 17, 2023	Best Actress in a Leading Role	Margot Robbie	Nominated
Seattle Film Critics		Best Costume Design	Mary Zophres	Nominated
Society <sup>[75]</sup>		Best Original Score	Justin Hurwitz	Won
		Best Production Design	Florencia Martin, Anthony Carlino	Won
		Best Original Score	Justin Hurwitz	Nominated
Online Film Critics Society <sup>[76]</sup>	January 23, 2023	Best Costume Design	Babylon	Nominated
<u>Goodery</u>		Best Production Design		Nominated
Make-Up Artists and Hair Stylists Guild Awards <sup>[77]</sup>	February 11, 2023	Best Period and/or Character Make-Up in a Feature-Length Motion Picture	Heba Thorisdottir, Shaunna Bren Chavez, Jean Black, Mandy Artusato	Nominated
		Best Period Hair Styling and/or Character Hair Styling in a Feature-Length Motion Picture	Jaime Leigh McIntosh, Ahou Mofid, Aubrey Marie	Nominated
Satellite Awards <sup>[78]</sup>	March 3, 2023	Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Comedy or Musical	Diego Calva	Nominated
		Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Comedy or Musical	Margot Robbie	Nominated
		Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Jean Smart	Nominated

		Best Art Direction and Production Design	Florencia Martin & Anthony Carlino	Won
		Best Costume Design	Mary Zophres	Won
		Best Original Score	Justin Hurwitz	Won
		Best Sound (Editing and Mixing)	Steve Morrow, Ai-Ling Lee, Mildred latrou Morgan & Andy Nelson	Nominate
		Best Visual Effects	Jay Cooper, Elia Popov, Kevin Martel, Ebrahim Jahromi	Nominate
Set Decorators Society of America Awards <sup>[79]</sup>	February 14, 2023	Best Achievement in Decor/Design of a Period Feature Film	Anthony Carlino and Florencia Martin	Nominate
Hollywood Critics		Best Costume Design	Mary Zophres	Nominate
Association Creative Arts	February 17, 2023	Best Production Design	Florencia Martin and Anthony Carlino	Won
Awards <sup>[80]</sup>		Best Score	Turkin I kunsita	Won
Houston Film	February	Best Original Score	Justin Hurwitz	Nominate
Critics Society <sup>[81]</sup>	18, 2023	Best Cinematography	Linus Sandgren	Nominate
Art Directors Guild Awards <sup>[82]</sup>	February 18, 2023	Excellence in Production Design for a Period Film	Florencia Martin	Won
		Best Costume Design	Mary Zophres	Nominate
British Academy	February 19, 2023	Best Original Score	Justin Hurwitz	Nominate
Film Awards <sup>[83]</sup>		Best Production Design	Florencia Martin, Anthony Carlino	Won
Hollywood Critics Association Awards <sup>[84]</sup>	February 24, 2023	Best Cast Ensemble	Babylon	Nominate
A A CTA		Best Actress	Margot Robbie	Nominate
AACTA International	February 24, 2023	Best Supporting Actor	Brad Pitt	Nominate
Awards <sup>[85]</sup>		Best Supporting Actress	Jean Smart	Nominate
Screen Actors Guild Award <sup>[86]</sup>	February 26, 2023	Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture	Jovan Adepo, P.J. Byrne, Diego Calva, Lukas Haas, Olivia Hamilton, Li Jun Li, Tobey Maguire, Max Minghella, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Rory Scovel, Jean Smart, Katherine Waterston	Nominate
Costume Designers Guild Awards <sup>[87]</sup>	February 27, 2023	Excellence in Period Film	Mary Zophres	Nominate
	March 12, 2023	Best Costume Design		Nominate
Academy		Best Original Score	Justin Hurwitz	Nominate
Awards <sup>[88]</sup>		Best Production Design	Production Design: Florencia Martin; Set Decoration: Anthony Carlino	Nominate

Golden Trailer Awards <sup>[89]</sup>	June 29, 2023	Best Music	Babylon (Buddha Jones)	Won
Belgian Film Critics Association <sup>[90]</sup>	January 6, 2024	Grand Prix	Babylon	Nominated

### See also

- <u>The Birth of a Nation</u> (1915): American silent epic historical drama film, depicting the filming scenes of a horse racing in *Babylon*.
- <u>The Artist</u> (2011): French <u>black-and-white</u>, partially silent film by <u>Michel Hazanavicius</u>, also depicting the transition to "talkies", and featuring a "Kinograph" studio resembling the "Kinoscope" of *Babylon*.
- Hollywood Babylon: 1965 book by Kenneth Anger about the dark side of early Hollywood, including the false premise that Clara Bow bedded the entire University of Southern California football team, somewhat as Nellie LaRoy brings that team to a party, and the Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle-Virginia Rappe death scandal, resembling Babylon's Orville Pickwick-Jane Thornton storyline.
- <u>A Clockwork Orange</u> (1971): Film by <u>Stanley Kubrick</u> (with heavy doses of sex, violence and reflection on art, like <u>Babylon</u>) which extensively uses the music from <u>Singin' in the Rain</u> (1952), including in the end credits (compared to <u>Babylon</u>'s end scene showing <u>Singin' in the Rain</u>), albeit in a much more cynical and sarcastic way than in <u>Babylon</u>.
- Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (2019): Film by Quentin Tarantino which, like Babylon, features not only Pitt as an aging film-industry veteran (fictional stuntman Cliff Booth) facing difficulty with changes in the industry, but also Robbie as an upcoming, celebrated young actress (Sharon Tate) facing dangerous possibilities and people.
- <u>The Last Tycoon</u> (1976): Film by <u>Elia Kazan</u>, based on the 1941 unfinished <u>novel</u> by <u>F. Scott</u> <u>Fitzgerald</u>, about early Hollywood artifice, skullduggery, sex, betrayal, and desperation, ending with studio head Monroe Stahr (<u>Robert De Niro</u>) walking off into the darkness, as Nellie does in <u>Babylon</u>.

# References

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# **External links**

- Official website (https://www.babylonmovie.com/)
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