

Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga

Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga is a 2020 American musical romantic comedy film directed by David Dobkin, written by Will Ferrell and Harper Steele,^[a] and starring Will Ferrell, Rachel McAdams, Dan Stevens, Melissanthi Mahut, Mikael Persbrandt, Ólafur Darri Ólafsson, Graham Norton, Demi Lovato, and Pierce Brosnan. The film follows the personally close Icelandic singers Lars Erickssong and Sigrit Ericksdóttir as they are given the chance to represent their country at the Eurovision Song Contest.

The Story of Fire Saga was originally scheduled for a May 2020 release on Netflix to coincide with the Eurovision Song Contest 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 contest was cancelled, and the film was subsequently released a month later, on June 26.^{[3][4]} It received mixed reviews from critics, who praised the original music but criticised the screenplay and runtime, but was favourably received by many Eurovision fans.^{[5][6][7]} The film received a nomination for Best Original Song at the 93rd Academy Awards (for "Húsavík").^[8]

Plot

In the small town of Húsavík, Iceland, Lars Erickssong and Sigrit Ericksdóttir, best friends since childhood, make music together as the band Fire Saga, much to the dismay of Lars' widowed father, Erick ("Volcano Man"). Lars has one dream: to win the Eurovision Song Contest. But at the local bar where they perform, the only song the audience wants to hear is the suggestive nonsense song "Ja Ja Ding Dong". Sigrit's mother Helga also disapproves of their partnership, saying that Lars is holding Sigrit back, and that she will never hit the "Speorg note"—a note that can only be sung when being your truest self—when singing with him. The pair apply and are selected to take part in Söngvakeppnin, the Icelandic pre-selection for Eurovision. Lars is so ecstatic about their participation that he rings the church belltower, resulting in him being arrested by a policeman for falsely signalling an emergency. Lars, to his defense, says that the town is near death and that Fire Saga's participation in the contest is the only chance their town has to be alive. Sigrit convinces the police officers to free him. Sigrit, who believes in the old Icelandic tradition of elves, asks the elves for help to get them into the contest in the hope that if Fire Saga wins, Lars will return Sigrit's romantic feelings for him.

Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga



Promotional film poster

Directed by	<u>David Dobkin</u>
Written by	<u>Will Ferrell</u> <u>Harper Steele</u> ^[a]
Produced by	<u>Will Ferrell</u> <u>Jessica Elbaum</u> <u>Chris Henchy</u>
Starring	<u>Will Ferrell</u> <u>Rachel McAdams</u> <u>Dan Stevens</u> <u>Melissanthi Mahut</u> <u>Mikael Persbrandt</u> <u>Ólafur Darri Ólafsson</u> <u>Graham Norton</u> <u>Demi Lovato</u> <u>Pierce Brosnan</u>

Fire Saga's performance at Söngvakeppnin goes wrong due to technical problems ("Double Trouble"). A dejected Lars declines to attend the boat party thrown for all the finalists and sits on the dock as Sigrit tries to console him. Suddenly, the boat explodes, killing everyone on board and leaving Fire Saga as the only surviving contestants and thus final winners by default, much to the disappointment of the participation committee. Lars and Sigrit arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland, where Eurovision is being held ("Amar pelos dois"). Once there, Lars rebuffs Sigrit's attempts to kiss him, reiterating that they need to focus on the competition, not their relationship. They struggle with a new remix of their song and Lars' elaborate staging plans, and meet Alexander Lemtov, the Russian representative who is a favourite to win the contest ("Lion of Love").

Alexander invites Lars and Sigrit to a party at his house, attended by numerous real-life former Eurovision contestants, where he introduces them both to multiple other contestants, including the Greek contestant Mita Xenakis. They join the other contestants in a "Song-a-Long" (a mashup of "Believe", "Ray of Light", "Ne partez pas sans moi", "Waterloo" and "I Gotta Feeling"). Alexander and Sigrit spend the night together, as do Lars and Mita, although neither pair becomes intimate. At their rehearsal, Sigrit expresses her hate for the new clothing and remix and asks Lars to go back to the way things originally were, which Lars does. Later, back at the hotel, Lars overhears Sigrit working on a new song and presumes that it is a love song made for Alexander and that they are pursuing a romantic relationship.

Their semi-final performance of "Double Trouble" initially runs well, but is botched by an accident involving Sigrit's scarf getting caught in a hamster wheel prop, which rolls off the stage and into the audience. The two recover and finish the song, but are met with deafening silence and scattered laughter. Believing Fire Saga has become a laughing stock, they exit the stage, unaware that an initially shocked crowd has erupted with applause for their persistence in finishing the performance. An angry Lars prepares to return to Iceland. Sigrit pleads with Lars to stay, but Lars angrily refuses. Sigrit then declares their relationship over. Lars tells Sigrit to go sing her love song for Alexander, upon which she reveals that she wrote it for Lars. Lars returns to Iceland to become a fisherman with his father, unaware that Fire Saga has qualified for the final.

Out at sea, Lars confesses his love for Sigrit to his father Erick, who convinces him to go back and fight for his love, expressing admiration for finishing his semi-final performance despite the mishap. Upon learning that Iceland is in the final, Lars dives off the boat and leaves for Edinburgh. Meanwhile, Alexander sees an opportunity to establish a partnership with Sigrit, but she declines. Sigrit realises that Alexander is gay but can't come out because of homophobia in Russia. Lars hitches a ride with Victor Karlosson (governor of the Central Bank of Iceland, and one of the Icelandic organisational team members), who attempts to murder Lars and reveals that he blew up the boat at Söngvakeppnin, for fear that Iceland (as the winning country) hosting Eurovision the following year would lead to the county's bankruptcy. Unseen elves save Lars by killing Victor with a thrown knife in the back, allowing Lars to make it back to the final in time. Interrupting their performance, he encourages Sigrit to ditch their official entry and perform the song she has written for him ("Húsavík"). Lars starts playing the song on the piano, and Sigrit sings her song, culminating with a

	<u>Elín Petersdottir</u>
Cinematography	<u>Danny Cohen</u>
Edited by	Greg Hayden
Music by	<u>Atli Örvarsson</u>
Production companies	<u>Gary Sanchez Productions</u> <u>Gloria Sanchez Productions</u> <u>EBU</u>
Distributed by	<u>Netflix</u>
Release date	June 26, 2020
Running time	123 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$35 million ^[2]

Speorg note, touching the audience and the people of Húsavík. Realising that they are in love with each other, Lars and Sigrit kiss on stage to a standing ovation in the audience. Backstage, Alexander is happy for them and accepts Mita's invitation to come to Greece with her to find his own happiness.

Fire Saga is disqualified for changing their song during the contest, but both Lars and Sigrit realise that their relationship is more important than winning the contest. Back in Húsavík, Lars and Sigrit awake on the bus to a huge cheering crowd of locals. Sometime later, Fire Saga is back to performing in the local bar, this time at the wedding reception of Lars' father and Sigrit's mother. Bringing their newborn baby along, they ask if anyone wants to hear their Eurovision song, but the crowd once again demands "Ja Ja Ding Dong".

Cast

- Will Ferrell as Lars Ericksson, a middle-aged man with aspirations of winning the Eurovision Song Contest
 - Alfie Melia as young Lars^[9]
- Rachel McAdams as Sigrit Ericksdóttir, Lars' bandmate and long-time best friend, who wishes for a romantic relationship with him
 - Sophia-Grace Donnelly as young Sigrit
 - Molly Sandén sings parts of Sigrit's songs (she and McAdams worked together to produce Sigrit's singing voice).^[10]
- Dan Stevens as Alexander Lemtov, a flamboyant singer representing Russia
 - Erik Mjönes sings all Lemtov's songs
- Melissanthi Mahut as Mita Xenakis, another contestant, representing Greece
 - Petra Nielsen sings Xenakis' song.^[11]
- Mikael Persbrandt as Victor Karlosson, governor of the Central Bank of Iceland, who doesn't want Iceland to win the contest
- Ólafur Darri Ólafsson as Neils Brongus, president of RÚV, Iceland's national public service broadcaster
- Graham Norton as himself, a Eurovision commentator, credited as playing Graham Norton
- Demi Lovato as Katiana Lindsdóttir, winner of Söngvakeppnin
- Pierce Brosnan as Erick Ericksson, Lars' disapproving widowed father
- Joi Johannsson as Jorn, a member of the Icelandic Eurovision committee
- Alfrun Rose as Anna, a member of the Icelandic Eurovision committee
- Björn Hlynur Haraldsson as Arnar, a policeman who has a crush on Sigrit
- Jamie Demetriou as Kevin Swain, head of Iceland's creative team
- Jon Kortajarena as Corin Vladvitch, the Eurovision host
- Elina Alminas as Sasha More, the Eurovision host
- Elín Petersdóttir as Helka, Sigrit's mother
- Christopher Jeffers as Johnny John John, a rapper representing Sweden
- Rebecca Harrod as Brittny, one of the American tourists
- Josh Zaré as Bill, one of the American tourists
- Bobby Lockwood as Jeff, one of the American tourists
- Eleanor Williams as Jenn, one of the American tourists
- Jóhannes Haukur Jóhannesson as Johans, male host of Söngvakeppnin
- Natasia Demetriou as Nina, a crew member at the contest
- Hannes Óli Ágústsson as Olaf Yohansson, a resident of Húsavík, who is obsessed with "Ja Ja Ding Dong".




- William Lee Adams as himself, a Eurovision commentator.^[12]
- Zack Probert as Stephan, Fire Saga's drummer

Appearances of Eurovision artists

Several former contestants of the Eurovision Song Contest made cameos in the film:

-  John Lundvik – Swedish representative in 2019
-  Anna Odobescu – Moldovan representative in 2019
-  Bilal Hassani – French representative in 2019
-  Loreen – Swedish winner in 2012^[b] and 2023^[b]
-  Jessy Matador – French representative in 2010
-  Alexander Rybak – Norwegian winner in 2009 and representative in 2018
-  Jamala – Ukrainian winner in 2016
-  Elina Nechayeva – Estonian representative in 2018
-  Conchita Wurst – Austrian winner in 2014
-  Netta – Israeli winner in 2018

Other appearances include:

-  Salvador Sobral (2017 winner) as a busker playing piano in Scotland^[13]
-  Molly Sandén (2006 Junior contestant) who dubs Rachel McAdams in all of Sigrit's songs.
-  Petra Nielsen (Melodifestivalen 2004 contestant) who dubs Melissanthi Mahut in Mita Xenakis' song.

Production

Ferrell was introduced to the Eurovision Song Contest in 1999 by his Swedish wife, actress Viveca Paulin. This year Sweden also celebrated the 25th anniversary of ABBA's victory in the 1974 competition and it was also the year of their 4th victory with Charlotte Perrelli with the song "Take Me to Your Heaven", which Ferrell mentions as a reason he became invested in the competition.^[14]

In May 2018, in preparation for the film, Ferrell attended the final of the Eurovision Song Contest 2018 with the Icelandic delegation at the Altice Arena in Lisbon, Portugal, to research possible characters and scenarios for the film.^{[15][16]} He also spoke backstage with Eurovision contestants.^[15] On June 18, 2018, it was announced that Ferrell would star, co-write and produce a film inspired by the Eurovision Song Contest. The film would be distributed by Netflix.^[4]

In March 2019, David Dobkin signed on to direct the film.^[17] In May 2019, Rachel McAdams joined the cast. McAdams and Ferrell were spotted by another delegation during the dress rehearsals for the Eurovision Song Contest 2019 held in Tel Aviv, Israel, the stage of which was later rebuilt on a soundstage in London for the in-contest scenes, while plate shots were done with the real-life live audience back in Tel Aviv.^{[18][19][20]} In August 2019, Pierce Brosnan, Dan Stevens, and Demi Lovato joined the cast, with filming commencing in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and in Iceland. Ferrell was pictured filming scenes at both the OVO Hydro, in Glasgow itself, and Glasgow Airport, in Abbotsinch, Paisley, in October

2019.^{[21][22][23]} Filming also took place at Warner Bros. Studios, Leavesden in England, making it the second Netflix feature to be filmed there, the first having been Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle. Knebworth House was used for the exterior shots of Alexander Lemtov's British house in the film.^{[24][25]}

The actors studied Icelandic and did specific work with a speech therapist to be able to speak English with the country's accent without any kind of cliché.^[26] They also trained with icelandic coaches and McAdams studied Björk mannerisms and physical behaviors.^{[26][27]} Tabitha and Napoleon D'umo (known for So You Think You Can Dance) oversaw the choreography.^[14]

Production costs in Iceland were stipulated as a value of US\$3.6 million. The Icelandic government contributed around US\$1 million to that sum as part of an incentive package for the local film industry and as a way to attract tourists. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) also invested a financial amount in the project.^[28]

Soundtrack

The soundtrack album for the film was released digitally on June 26, 2020, and the CD release followed on August 21, 2020.^[29] "Volcano Man" was the first song released from the album and features vocals from Will Ferrell and Swedish singer Molly Sandén (credited as My Marianne).^[30] According to Netflix, Sandén's vocals were mixed with McAdams' own voice for the tracks.^[14] In a separate phone call with Vanity Fair, the soundtrack's producer, Savan Kotecha, said that Sandén and McAdams' "tones worked so well together" that, in playing back certain tracks, he had a hard time differentiating between the vocals.^[31] The soundtrack was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media at the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards.^[32]

Track listing

Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga (Music from the Netflix Film) track listing^[33]

No.	Title	Writer(s)	Producer(s)	Length
1.	"Double Trouble (Tiësto's Euro 90s Tribute Remix)" (performed by Will Ferrell, My Marianne, and Tiësto)	<u>Arnthor Birgisson</u> · <u>Rami Yacoub</u> · <u>Savan Kotecha</u>	<u>Birgisson</u> · <u>Rami</u>	2:28
2.	"Lion of Love" (performed by Erik Mjönes)	<u>Yacoub</u> · <u>Kotecha</u> · <u>Johan Carlsson</u>	<u>Kotecha</u>	2:47
3.	"Coolin' with Da Homies" (performed by <u>Savan Kotecha</u>)	<u>Kotecha</u> · <u>Yacoub</u>	<u>Rami</u>	1:26

<i>Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga (Music from the Netflix Film)</i>	
<u>Soundtrack album</u> by various artists	
Released	June 26, 2020
Length	42:28
Label	<u>Arista</u> · <u>Sony Music Entertainment</u>
Producer	<u>Savan Kotecha</u>
<u>Singles from Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga (Music from the Netflix Film)</u>	
1. "Volcano Man" Released: May 15, 2020	

4.	"Volcano Man" (performed by Ferrell and Marianne)	Gustaf Holter • Christian Persson	Holter • Persson	1:21
5.	"Jaja Ding Dong" (performed by Ferrell and Marianne)	Holter • Persson	Holter • Persson	1:37
6.	"In the Mirror" (performed by Demi Lovato)	<u>Jörgen Elofsson</u>	Elofsson • Anton "Hybrid" Mårtensson	2:48 ^[34]
7.	"Happy" (performed by Ferrell and Marianne)	<u>Pharrell Williams</u>	Kotecha • Nevin Sastry	1:26
8.	"Song-a-Long: " <u>Believe</u> ", " <u>Ray of Light</u> ", " <u>Waterloo</u> ", " <u>Ne partez pas sans moi</u> ", and " <u>I Gotta Feeling</u> " " (performed by cast)	<u>Brian Higgins</u> • <u>Stuart McLennen</u> • <u>Paul Barry</u> • <u>Steven Torch</u> • <u>Matthew Gray</u> • <u>Timothy Powell</u> • <u>Madonna</u> • <u>William Orbit</u> • <u>Clive Maldoon</u> • <u>Dave Curtiss</u> • <u>Christine Leach</u> • <u>Benny Andersson</u> • <u>Björn Ulvaeus</u> • <u>Stig Anderson</u> • <u>Nella Martinetti</u> • <u>Atilla Şereftuğ</u> • <u>William Adams</u> • <u>Stacy Ferguson</u> • <u>Jaime Gomez</u> • <u>David Guetta</u> • <u>Allan Pineda</u> • <u>Frédéric Riesterer</u>	Alana da Fonseca	3:18

9.	"Running with the Wolves" (performed by <u>Courtney Jenaé</u> and <u>Adam Grahn</u>)	<u>Andreas Carlsson</u> • <u>Andreas Öberg</u> • <u>Christoffer Lauridsen</u>	A. Carlsson • Öberg • Lauridsen	1:10
10.	"Fool Moon" (performed by <u>Anteros</u>)	<u>Jake Gosling</u> • <u>Laura Hayden</u> • <u>Sam Monaghan</u>	<u>Charlie Andrew</u>	3:26
11.	"Hit My Itch" (performed by Antonio Sol, David Loucks, Taylor Lindersmith, and Nicole Leontih)	Chris Wagner • Danny Pinnella • Ric Markmann	Gosling • Hayden • Monaghan • Rumble	2:04
12.	"Come and Play (Masquerade)" (performed by <u>Petra Nielsen</u>)	<u>Thomas G:son</u>	G:son	3:08
13.	"Amar pelos dois" (performed by <u>Salvador Sobral</u>)	<u>Luísa Sobral</u>	L. Sobral	3:05
14.	"Husavik (My Hometown)" (performed by Ferrell and Marianne)	Fat Max Gsus • <u>Rickard Göransson</u> • Kotecha	Fat Max Gsus	3:22
15.	"Double Trouble (Film Version)" (performed by Ferrell and Marianne)	Birgisson • Yacoub • Kotecha	Birgisson • Rami	2:54
16.	"Eurovision Suite" (performed by <u>Atli Örvarsson</u>)	Örvarsson	Örvarsson	6:19

Charts

Chart (2020)	Peak position
Australian Albums (<u>ARIA</u>) ^[35]	44
Belgian Albums (<u>Ultratop Flanders</u>) ^[36]	64
Icelandic Albums (<u>Tónlist</u>) ^[37]	2

Norwegian Albums (<u>VG-lista</u>) ^[38]	13
Swedish Albums (<u>Sverigetopplistan</u>) ^[39]	8
UK Soundtrack Albums (<u>OCC</u>) ^[40]	1
US <i>Billboard</i> 200 ^[41]	170
US Soundtrack Albums (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[42]	5

Release

The Story of Fire Saga was digitally released by Netflix on June 26, 2020.^[43] In its first weekend, the film was the top-streamed item on Netflix in the United States and reached the No. 1 ranking position in multiple other regions as well.^{[44][45]} In its second weekend it fell to number eight on the site.^[46]

After the cancellation of the Eurovision Song Contest 2020, as part of broadcasting plans for the following year's contest, the movie was aired by a number of broadcasters competing that year, typically on public channels affiliated with the European Broadcasting Union, the producers of both the contest and the film.

Country	Network(s)	Date(s)	Ref.
 <u>Australia</u>	<u>SBS</u>	14 May 2021	[47]
	<u>SBS World Movies</u>	29 May 2021	
 <u>Belgium</u>	<u>Eén</u>	15 May 2021	
 <u>Croatia</u>	<u>HRT 2</u>	19 May 2021	
 <u>Denmark</u>	<u>DR1</u>	21 May 2021	
		23 May 2021	
 <u>Greece</u>	<u>Open TV</u> (undubbed)	15 July 2022	
 <u>Estonia</u>	<u>ETV+</u>	21 May 2021	
 <u>Ireland</u>	<u>RTÉ One</u>	19 May 2021	
 <u>Latvia</u>	<u>LTV1</u>	14 May 2021	
 <u>Lithuania</u>	<u>LRT televizija</u>	22 May 2021	
 <u>Malta</u>	<u>TVM</u>	15 May 2021	
 <u>Norway</u>	<u>NRK1</u>	17 May 2021	[48]
	<u>NRK3</u>	21 May 2021	
 <u>Portugal</u>	<u>RTP1</u>	22 May 2021	[49]
 <u>San Marino</u>	<u>San Marino RTV</u> (undubbed)	16 May 2021	
 <u>Spain</u>	<u>La 1</u>	22 May 2021	
 <u>Sweden</u>	<u>SVT2</u>	15 May 2021	[50]
 <u>Switzerland</u>	<u>SRF zwei</u>	19 May 2021	[51]

Reception

On Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 63% based on 183 reviews, with an average rating of 5.8/10. The site's critics consensus reads: "*Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga* contains inspired ingredients and laugh-out-loud moments but they're outnumbered by the flat stretches in this overlong comedy."^[52] On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 50 out of 100, based on 39 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews".^[5]

David Rooney of The Hollywood Reporter wrote: "If ever a comedy cried out for tight 85-minute treatment that keeps the gags pinging fast enough to disguise the thin sketch material at its core, it's this hit-or-miss two-hour feature."^[6] Owen Gleiberman of Variety called it "a badly shot one-joke movie that sits there and goes thud."^[53] Chris Hewitt of Empire magazine wrote: "The votes are in and it's official: this largely unfunny paean to Eurovision is a waste of some serious talent. At least some of the songs are decent." Hewitt also complained about the length of the film: "It's all rather airless and lifeless and is at least half an hour too long."^[54] Robbie Collin of The Daily Telegraph wrote: "Sending up the Eurovision Song Contest is like flattening Salisbury Plain: one quick look at the thing should be enough to reassure you that the job took care of itself long ago. Nevertheless, Will Ferrell has decided to give it a shot and the result is this pulverisingly unfunny and vacuous two-hour gauntlet run of non-entertainment."^[55] Peter Bradshaw of The Guardian wrote: "The movie is not a disaster, just weirdly pointless". Bradshaw also criticizes the script saying it "pulls its punches" and the plot is borrowed from The Producers.^[56] Other writers noted plot similarities with the 1996 Father Ted episode "A Song for Europe".^{[57][58]}

Charlotte O'Sullivan of the Evening Standard gave the film a more positive review, praising the performances of McAdams and Stevens and writing that "Ferrell, who co-wrote the script, wisely realises that this institution is beyond parody and is simply content to pay homage. The result is extremely silly and ridiculously rousing."^[59] David Sims of The Atlantic praised the film's "chipper spirit" and wrote "this is a comedy that knows how to make fun *and* have fun."^[60] Kevin Maher of The Times concluded that "This might just be the most idiotic movie of the year so far. But joyously so."^[61]

Icelandic tour company Reykjavik Excursions stated on its blog that two days after the film's release, "everyone had seen the film. And for the most part, they loved it". The company praised the film's accuracy, such as the concerns that the country could not afford to host Eurovision in the event of a victory, Ferrell and McAdams's "Euro-hippie appearance with the woollen sweaters and raggedy hair", and the depiction of Húsavík and the elves.^[62]

Accolades

Award	Date	Category	Recipient	Result
<u>Academy Awards</u>	<u>April 25, 2021</u>	<u>Best Original Song</u>	Savan Kotecha, Fat Max Gsus and Rickard Göransson for "Husavik"	Nominated
<u>Critics' Choice Movie Awards</u>	<u>March 7, 2021</u>	<u>Best Song</u>	Savan Kotecha, Rickard Göransson & Fat Max Gsus for "Husavik"	Nominated
<u>Grammy Awards</u>	<u>March 14, 2021</u>	<u>Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media</u>	<i>Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga</i>	Nominated
<u>Hollywood Music in Media Awards</u>	<u>January 27, 2021</u>	<u>Best Original Song in a Feature Film</u>	Savan Kotecha, Rickard Göransson, Fat Max Gsus, Will Ferrell, Rachel McAdams, Molly Sandén for "Husavik"	Nominated
<u>Hugo Award</u>	<u>April 13, 2021</u>	<u>Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form</u>	Will Ferrell, Harper Steele, David Dobkin	Nominated
<u>Motion Picture Sound Editors Awards</u>	<u>April 16, 2021</u>	<u>Outstanding Achievement in Sound Editing – Musical for Feature Film</u>	Allegra De Souza, Peter Oso Snell, Jon Mooney	Won
<u>Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards</u>	<u>March 13, 2021</u>	<u>Favorite Movie Actor</u>	Will Ferrell	Nominated
<u>Set Decorators Society of America Awards</u>	<u>March 31, 2021</u>	<u>Best Achievement in Décor/Design of a Comedy or Musical Feature Film</u>	Naomi Moore and Paul Inglis	Nominated ^[63]
<u>Society of Composers and Lyricists Awards</u>	<u>March 2, 2021</u>	<u>Outstanding Original Song for Visual Media</u>	Savan Kotecha, Fat Max Gsus, Rickard Göransson for "Husavik"	Won ^[64]

In popular culture

For the Eurovision Song Contest 2021, Hannes Óli Ágústsson reprised his role as Olaf Yohansson for the voting segment of the final, in which he presented the points on behalf of the Icelandic jury.^[65] In announcing Iceland's jury points, he first asks the host to play "Ja Ja Ding Dong" but she refuses, then he attempted to give 12 points to "Ja Ja Ding Dong"; upon being told that it's impossible to do so, he reluctantly granted the points to Switzerland instead.^[66] The Finnish representatives Blind Channel also held up signs saying "Play Ja Ja Ding Dong" in the green room during the televoting window.^[67]

In the same year, the Norwegian representative Tix gained publicity over showing affection for the Azerbaijani representative, Samira Efendi, throughout their time at the contest. Tix was seen singing "Ja Ja Ding Dong" as a love serenade for Efendi.^[68]

See also

- Iceland in the Eurovision Song Contest

Notes

- Credited as Andrew Steele; Steele came out as transgender and changed her name in 2022.^[69]
- Subsequent to the release of the film, she also won the 2023 contest

References

- "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga" (<https://www.netflix.com/title/80244088>). *Netflix*. Retrieved June 24, 2020.
- "FILM REVIEW: Eurovision Song Contest The Story Of Fire Saga" (<https://www.thegayuk.com/film-review-eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga/>). *www.thegayuk.com*. July 7, 2020. Retrieved September 6, 2022.
- Mahjouri, Shakiel (April 17, 2020). "Rachel McAdams Donates \$10,000 To London Health Sciences Centre Stream-A-Thon" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20200420140401/https://etcanada.com/news/628714/rachel-mcadams-donates-10000-to-london-health-sciences-centre-stream-a-thon/>). Entertainment Tonight Canada. Archived from the original (<https://etcanada.com/news/628714/rachel-mcadams-donates-10000-to-london-health-sciences-centre-stream-a-thon/>) on April 20, 2020. Retrieved April 27, 2020.
- Fleming, Mike Jr. (June 18, 2018). "Will Ferrell To Star In Netflix Music Pic 'Eurovision' As Another A-List Comedy Star Tries A Streaming Vehicle" (<https://deadline.com/2018/06/will-ferrell-netflix-eurovision-screen-comedies-in-trouble-adam-sandler-chris-rock-1202412396/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved June 18, 2018.
- "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga Reviews" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga>). *Metacritic*. Retrieved November 30, 2020.
- Rooney, David (June 24, 2020). "'Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga': Film Review" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/eurovision-song-contest-story-fire-saga-film-review-1299975>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved July 20, 2020.
- Adams, William Lee (June 30, 2020). "Eurovision movie: Are people in Iceland offended by the Will Ferrell Netflix film?" (<https://wiwibloggs.com/2020/06/30/eurovision-movie-are-people-in-iceland-offended-by-the-will-ferrell-netflix-film/255660/>). *Wiwibloggs*. Retrieved July 3, 2020.
- "The full list of 2021 Oscars nominations" (<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2021/mar/15/the-full-list-of-2021-oscar-nominations>). *The Guardian*. March 15, 2021. Retrieved March 16, 2021.
- "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga (2020) - IMDb" (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8580274/fullcredits>) – via www.imdb.com.
- "Rachel McAdams sings in the Netflix 'Eurovision Song Contest' movie, but her performance was blended with vocals from a Swedish singer" (<https://www.insider.com/does-rachel-mcadams-sing-in-eurovision-movie>). *Insider.com*.

11. Nicolaou, Elena (June 29, 2020). "The Songs on Netflix's "Eurovision" Soundtrack Are Beyond Catchy" (<https://www.oprahdaily.com/entertainment/a33000216/eurovision-movie-soundtrack/>). *Oprah Daily*.
12. Clark, Meredith (June 26, 2020). "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga: A Guide to All Its Cameos and Homages" (<https://www.vulture.com/2020/06/every-real-reference-in-eurovision-the-story-of-fire-saga.html>). *Vulture*. Vox Media Network. Retrieved July 2, 2020.
13. Kelly, Emma (June 26, 2020). "All the cameos to watch out for in Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga" (<https://metro.co.uk/2020/06/26/cameos-watch-eurovision-song-contest-story-fire-saga-12905657/>). *Metro*. Retrieved June 27, 2020.
14. Ebiri, Bilge (June 26, 2020). "The (Fake) Songs of Summer" (<https://www.vulture.com/2020/06/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga.html>). *Vulture*. New York City: Vox Media. Retrieved June 27, 2020.
15. "Will Ferrell to star in Eurovision film" (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-44530613>). *BBC News Online*. June 19, 2018. Retrieved June 22, 2018.
16. Stephens, Heidi (June 21, 2018). "Eurovision has come too far to be made a mockery of by Will Ferrell" (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/21/eurovision-will-ferrell-film-song-contest>). *The Guardian*. London, England. Retrieved June 22, 2018.
17. Welk, Brian (March 7, 2019). "'Wedding Crashers' Director to Helm Will Ferrell Comedy 'Eurovision' at Netflix" (<https://www.thewrap.com/wedding-crashers-director-to-helm-will-ferrell-comedy-eurovision-at-netflix>). *TheWrap*. Los Angeles, California: TheWrap, Inc. Retrieved August 14, 2019.
18. Spiro, Amy (May 17, 2019). "Will Ferrell, Rachel McAdams filming Eurovision movie in Tel Aviv" (<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/will-ferrell-rachel-mcadams-filming-eurovision-movie-in-tel-aviv-589901>). *The Jerusalem Post*. Retrieved May 17, 2019.
19. Fleming, Mike Jr. (May 7, 2019). "Rachel McAdams Reuniting With 'Wedding Crashers' Will Ferrell, David Dobkin In Netflix 'Eurovision' " (<https://deadline.com/2019/05/rachel-mcadams-eurovision-netflix-will-ferrell-david-dobkin-wedding-crashers-1202608838>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Los Angeles, California: Penske Media Corporation. Retrieved August 14, 2019.
20. "How 'Eurovision Song Contest' director recreated the annual extravaganza for the Netflix movie" (<https://ew.com/movies/eurovision-movie-netflix/>). *EW.com*. Retrieved December 13, 2020.
21. D'Alessandro, Anthony (August 7, 2019). "Pierce Brosnan Joining Will Ferrell & Rachel McAdams In Netflix Pic 'Eurovision' " (<https://deadline.com/2019/08/pierce-brosnan-joining-will-ferrell-rachel-mcadams-in-netflix-pic-eurovision-1202663846>). *Deadline Hollywood*. -Los Angeles, California: Penske Media Corporation. Retrieved August 14, 2019.
22. "Pierce Brosnan to star in Eurovision film" (<https://www.rte.ie/entertainment/2019/0805/1067083-pierce-brosnan>). *RTÉ.ie*. August 5, 2019. Retrieved August 14, 2019.
23. Bennett, Anita (August 21, 2019). "Demi Lovato Joins Cast of Will Ferrell's Netflix Comedy 'Eurovision' " (<https://deadline.com/2019/08/demi-lovato-joins-cast-of-will-ferrell-comedy-eurovision-1202696686>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Los Angeles, California: Penske Media Corporation. Retrieved August 23, 2019.
24. Finnis, Alex (June 29, 2020). "All the filming locations for Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga on Netflix" (<https://inews.co.uk/culture/film/eurovision-song-contest-movie-where-filmed-filming-locations-the-story-of-fire-saga-netflix-458732>). *inews.co.uk*. Retrieved July 20, 2020.
25. "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga Filming Locations" (<https://findthatlocation.com/blog/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga-filming-locations>). *findthatlocation.com*. Retrieved June 30, 2020.

26. Del Rosario, Alexandra (June 25, 2020). "Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams Reveal Inspiration for 'Eurovision Song Contest' Accents" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/how-will-ferrell-rachel-mcadams-crafted-eurovision-song-contest-accents-1300381>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Los Angeles, California: Penske Media Corporation. Retrieved June 29, 2020.
27. Kenneally, Cerys (June 29, 2020). "Rachel McAdams watched loads of Björk videos to improve Icelandic accent for Eurovision film" (<https://www.thelineofbestfit.com/news/latest-news/rachel-mcadams-watched-bjork-videos-to-improve-icelandic-accent-eurovision>). *The Line of Best Fit*. Retrieved June 29, 2020.
28. Freyr Gígja Gunnarsson (March 31, 2020). "Eurovision-mynd Ferrell fékk 135 milljónir frá ríkinu" (<https://www.ruv.is/frett/2020/03/31/eurovision-mynd-ferrell-fekk-135-milljonir-fra-rikinu>). *RÚV* (in Icelandic). Retrieved June 27, 2020.
29. Kaufman, Gil (May 15, 2020). "Will Ferrell, Rachel McAdams, Demi Lovato & More Starring in Netflix's 'Eurovision Song Contest': Hear First Song" (<https://www.billboard.com/amp/articles/news/movies/9378627/will-ferrell-rachel-mcadams-demi-lovato-netflix-eurovision-movie>). *Billboard*. Los Angeles, California: Valence Media. Retrieved May 15, 2020.
30. "Husavik (My Home Town) | My Marianne - The Real Voice Behind the Song | Eurovision" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT9T0lrmYDs>) – via www.youtube.com.
31. Miller, Julie (June 26, 2020). "'Eurovision': Is Rachel McAdams Really Singing?" (<https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2020/06/eurovision-netflix-rachel-mcadams-singing>). *Vanity Fair*. New York City: Condé Nast.
32. "Winners & Nominees" (<https://www.grammy.com/grammys/awards/winners-nominees/246>). *GRAMMY.com*. Retrieved November 26, 2020.
33. *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga (Music from the Netflix Film)* (Liner notes). Gütersloh, Germany: Arista Records. 19439799602.
34. "News" (<http://www.jorgenelofsson.com/news/>). *www.jorgenelofsson.com*.
35. "ARIA Australian Top 50 Albums" (<http://www.ariacharts.com.au/charts/albums-chart>). Australian Recording Industry Association. July 13, 2020. Retrieved July 11, 2020.
36. "Ultratop.be – Soundtrack – Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga" (<https://www.ultratop.be/nl/showitem.asp?interpret=Soundtrack&titel=Eurovision+Song+Contest:+The+Story+of+Fire+Saga&cat=a>) (in Dutch). Hung Medien. Retrieved July 11, 2020.
37. "Tonlistinn Vika 27 – 2020" (<https://plotutidindi.is/tonlistinn/>) (in Icelandic). Tonlistinn. Archived (<https://archive.today/20200709084431/https://plotutidindi.is/tonlistinn/>) from the original on July 9, 2020. Retrieved August 24, 2020.
38. "VG-lista – Topp 40 Album uke 28, 2020" (<https://topplista.no/charts/albums/2020-w28/>). *VG-lista*. Retrieved July 10, 2020.
39. "Swedishcharts.com – Soundtrack – Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga" (<https://swedishcharts.com/showitem.asp?interpret=Soundtrack&titel=Eurovision+Song+Contest:+The+Story+of+Fire+Saga&cat=a>). Hung Medien. Retrieved July 11, 2020.
40. July 2020/140/ "Official Soundtrack Albums Chart Top 50" (<https://www.officialcharts.com/charts/soundtrack-albums-chart/8>). Official Charts Company. Retrieved 8 July 2020.
41. "Soundtrack Chart History (*Billboard* 200)" (<https://www.billboard.com/artist/Soundtrack/chart-history/TLP>). *Billboard*. Retrieved July 8, 2020.
42. "Soundtrack Chart History (Soundtrack Albums)" (<https://www.billboard.com/artist/Soundtrack/chart-history/STX>). *Billboard*. Retrieved July 8, 2020.
43. Kiefer, Halle (May 16, 2020). "Will Ferrell's Eurovision 'Volcano Man' Joins the Pantheon of Joke Pop Songs That Are Actually Great" (<https://www.vulture.com/2020/05/netflix-releases-will-ferrell-volcano-man-from-eurovision.html>). *Vulture*. Vox Media. Retrieved May 16, 2020.

44. Roweles, Dustin (June 28, 2020). "Weekend Box Office: Jon Stewart, Will Ferrell, And The Most-Watched Movies At Home Over The Weekend" (<https://uproxx.com/movies/my-spy-box-office-irresistible-eurovision/>). *Uproxx*. Retrieved June 29, 2020.
45. "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga" (<https://flixpatrol.com/title/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga>). *FlixPatrol*. Retrieved June 30, 2020.
46. Brueggemann, Tom (July 6, 2020). "'Hamilton' Rules Disney+ Over July 4, but the VOD Success Story Is Rod Lurie's 'The Outpost'" (<https://www.indiewire.com/2020/07/hamilton-rules-disney-over-july-4-but-the-vod-success-story-is-rod-luries-the-outpost/>). *IndieWire*. Retrieved July 6, 2020.
47. "'Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga' is a must-watch for Eurovision die-hards" (<https://www.sbs.com.au/movies/article/2021/04/26/eurovision-song-contest-story-fire-saga-must-watch-eurovision-die-hards>). *SBS Movies*. April 26, 2021.
48. "Eurovision Song Contest : The Story of Fire Saga" (<https://tv.nrk.no/program/KOIF10000721>) – via tv.nrk.no.
49. Portugal, Rádio e Televisão de. "Festival Eurovisão da Canção: A História dos Fire Saga - Filmes - Musical - RTP" (<https://www.rtp.pt/programa/tv/p40706>). *www.rtp.pt*.
50. "SVT visar "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga" " (<https://www.moviezine.se/nyheter/svt-visar-eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga>). *MovieZine*.
51. "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga" (<https://www.fernsehserien.de/filme/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga>). *Fernsehserien.de*. May 20, 2021.
52. "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga (2020)" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/eurovision_song_contest_the_story_of_fire_saga). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango. Retrieved September 26, 2023.
53. Gleiberman, Owen (June 24, 2020). "Will Ferrell in 'Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga': Film Review" (<https://variety.com/2020/film/reviews/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga-review-will-ferrell-1234647378/>). *Variety*.
54. Hewitt, Chris (June 24, 2020). "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story Of Fire Saga" (<https://www.empireonline.com/movies/reviews/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga/>). *Empire*.
55. Collin, Robbie (June 24, 2020). "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga, review – Will Ferrell is painfully unfunny (again)" (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/films/0/eurovision-song-contest-legend-fire-saga-review-oh-good-another/>). *The Daily Telegraph*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20200625183422/https://www.telegraph.co.uk/films/0/eurovision-song-contest-legend-fire-saga-review-oh-good-another/>) from the original on June 25, 2020.
56. Bradshaw, Peter (June 24, 2020). "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga review – too timid for satire" (<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jun/24/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga-review-will-ferrell-rachel-mcadams-pierce-brosnan>). *The Guardian*.
57. Kelly, Emma (June 26, 2020). "Eurovision Song Contest review: A love letter to the show that needs more laughs" (<https://metro.co.uk/2020/06/26/will-ferrells-eurovision-film-love-letter-contest-needs-laughs-12905283/>).
58. "REVIEW: Will Ferrell is the worst part of Netflix's Eurovision movie" (<https://lovin.ie/entertainment/will-ferrell-netflix-eurovision-movie>). *Lovin.ie*. June 24, 2020.
59. O'Sullivan, Charlotte (June 26, 2020). "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga review – Forget parody, this is grand homage" (<https://www.standard.co.uk/go/london/film/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga-review-a4481326.html>). *Evening Standard*.
60. Sims, David (June 27, 2020). "Will Ferrell's Best Comedy in Years Is Here" (<https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2020/06/eurovision-song-contest-story-fire-saga-review/613567/>). *The Atlantic*.

61. Maher, Kevin (June 24, 2020). "*Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga* review — joyous comedy is even sillier than the real thing" (<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-06-26/times2/eurovision-song-contest-the-story-of-fire-saga-film-review-93mrhnrlq>). *The Times*.
62. "Will Ferrell's Eurovision version of Iceland: How do we feel about it?" (<https://www.re.is/blog/will-ferrells-eurovision-version-of-iceland/>). *Reykjavik Excursions Blog*. Reykjavik Excursions. July 7, 2020. Retrieved September 5, 2023.
63. Tangcay, Jazz (March 11, 2021). "'Promising Young Woman' and 'News of the World' Among Inaugural Set Decorators Awards Nominations" (<https://variety.com/2021/artisans/awards/set-decorators-awards-nominations-1234928602/>). *Variety*. Retrieved June 23, 2021.
64. Lewis, Hilary (March 2, 2021). "'Soul,' 'Eurovision Song Contest' Among Society of Composers and Lyricists Award Winners" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/soul-eurovision-song-contest-among-society-of-composers-and-lyricists-award-winners>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved March 30, 2021.
65. "Iceland: "Play Jaja Ding Dong" Guy Will Reveal The Icelandic Jury Points at Eurovision 2021" (<https://eurovoix.com/2021/05/08/jaja-ding-dong-guy-eurovision-2021/>). *Eurovoix*. May 8, 2021. Retrieved June 7, 2021.
66. "Iceland's jury vote is being read out by the Ja Ja Ding Dong guy from the Eurovision movie. Mostly he just shouts PLAY JA JA DING DONG..." (<https://eurovision.tv/live-blog-grand-final-2021/snippet/j776umeq>) *Eurovision.tv Live Blog*. May 22, 2021. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210607145857/https://eurovision.tv/live-blog-grand-final-2021/snippet/j776umeq>) from the original on June 7, 2021. Retrieved June 7, 2021.
67. "Blind Channel..." (<https://eurovision.tv/live-blog-second-semi-final-2021/snippet/blind-channel>) *Eurovision.tv Live Blog*. May 20, 2021. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210607150240/https://eurovision.tv/live-blog-second-semi-final-2021/snippet/blind-channel>) from the original on June 7, 2021. Retrieved June 7, 2021.
68. "Efendi & TIX - A Eurovision Saga - Eurovision 2021" (<https://eurovision.tv/video/efendi-tix-a-eurovision-saga-eurovision-2021>). *Eurovision.tv*. Retrieved June 6, 2021.
69. Sharf, Zack; Donnelly, Matt (January 21, 2024). "Will Ferrell Had 'Zero Knowledge' About the Trans Community. Then His Best Friend of 30 Years Came Out: 'This Was All New Territory for Me'" (<https://variety.com/2024/film/news/will-ferrell-transgender-community-sundance-documentary-1235881250/amp/>). *Variety*. Retrieved March 20, 2024.

External links

- *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/80244088>) on Netflix
 - *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8580274/>) at IMDb
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Eurovision_Song_Contest:_The_Story_of_Fire_Saga&oldid=1225235071"

■