

= Nick & Norah 's Infinite Playlist =

Nick & Norah 's Infinite Playlist is a 2008 romantic comedy @-@ drama film directed by Peter Sollett and starring Michael Cera and Kat Dennings . Written by Lorene Scafaria and based on the novel of the same name by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan , the story tells of teenagers Nick (Cera) and Norah (Dennings) , who meet when Norah asks Nick to pretend to be her boyfriend for five minutes . Over the course of the night , they try to find their favorite band 's secret show and search for Norah 's drunken best friend .

The film came into development in 2003 when producer Kerry Kohansky Roberts found Cohn and Levithan 's novel and decided to adapt it for film . Scafaria was hired to write the script in 2005 , and Sollett signed on to direct the film in 2006 . Principal photography took place over 29 days from October to December 2007 , primarily in Manhattan and Brooklyn , New York City .

The film premiered on September 6 , 2008 at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival and was released theatrically on October 3 , 2008 . It tripled its US \$ 10 million budget with a total gross of US \$ 33 @. @ 5 million . An accompanying soundtrack was released on September 23 , 2008 , and the film was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray on February 3 , 2009 . It attracted generally positive reviews from critics and received nominations for three Satellite Awards , one GLAAD Media Award , one MTV Movie Award and one Golden Reel Award .

= = Plot = =

A straight bass player in an " all gay band " called The Jerk @-@ Offs , Nick O 'Leary (Michael Cera) is a teenager from Hoboken , New Jersey . Nick is still heartbroken after his girlfriend , Tris (Alexis Dziena) , broke up with him three weeks , two days , and 23 hours ago , and continues to make " breakup " mix CDs for her . Thom (Aaron Yoo) and Dev (Rafi Gavron) , his gay bandmates who both hate Tris , convince Nick to perform at a club because his favorite band ? the legendary , publicity @-@ shy indie band Where 's Fluffy ? ? is performing somewhere in New York City that night . Norah Silverberg (Kat Dennings) attends the same high school as Tris , Convent of the Sacred Heart , and though Norah and Tris dislike each other , they have a mutual friend named Caroline (Ari Graynor) . Norah has not met Nick , but shares his taste in music based on recovering his mix CDs after Tris discards them in the trash . That night , the three girls end up at Arlene 's Grocery on Manhattan 's Lower East Side , where The Jerk @-@ Offs are playing . Norah asks Nick to pretend to be her boyfriend to show up Tris . Norah kisses him , unaware that he is the ex @-@ boyfriend of Tris . Caroline gets drunk and Norah wants to take her home , but Nick 's bandmates (who see Norah as a potential new girlfriend for him) offer to take Caroline home so Norah and Nick can spend time together trying to find the show .

When Thom and Dev stop at Gray 's Papaya for hot dogs , a confused Caroline escapes from Thom 's van . Nick and Norah meet up with Thom and Dev to try to find her . A confusing phone call leads them to look for her at a club that " Where 's Fluffy ? " is rumored to be playing , but with no success . Tris , eager to win back Nick , catches up with them when she gets a phone call from Caroline , who is now able to tell Norah that she has " found Jesus " and " an altar boy without pants . " They find a drunk Caroline on stage at a gay cabaret dressed as a Christmas tree . When they arrive at Nick 's car , Tris is sitting on the hood waiting for him . Norah tells him how nice it was to meet him , but he leaves to talk with Tris without giving Norah a response . An upset Norah meets up at a club with her friend with benefits , Tal (Jay Baruchel) , but soon realizes that he has an ulterior motive and hopes to get a deal for his band with Norah 's father , a record producer (Richard Waddingham) . She agrees to pay for Tal and his friends ' drinks , but she tells the waitress to increase the tab because there was a miscalculation , and she leaves him to pay . Nick , meanwhile , decides to confront Tris , but she tells him she wants to be together again and asks for a ride home . Tris asks Nick to stop by the river , where she tries to seduce him . Whilst she seductively dances in front of the car , Nick reminisces fondly about Norah and the night 's events and drives away , leaving Tris behind .

Nick calls Norah , apologizing for leaving , and she agrees to meet him again . Deciding to go

somewhere where no one they know will find them , they arrive at Electric Lady Studios , a music studio owned by Norah 's father . Once there , Norah gets Nick to play something he wrote in the studio , but then joins him in the recording room . Norah gets a text message from Caroline telling her where she found Where 's Fluffy ? playing . When they arrive at the show , they meet Tris , who cannot understand why Nick will not take her back , and Tal , who wants the same answer from Norah . Tal starts a fight with Nick , but Thom and Dev 's friend , Lethario (Jonathan B. Wright) , steps in and headbutts Tal . Nick and Norah share a smile and leave together . At Pennsylvania Station , Nick admits that he does not care about missing the concert , and they kiss on the escalator as the sun rises over New York City .

= = Cast = =

Michael Cera plays Nick O 'Leary , the " straight bass player in a gay band " teenager who is heartbroken after his girlfriend breaks up with him . Cera was the first actor to be cast after being recommended to Sollett by producer Kerry Kohansky Roberts based on his performance in Arrested Development . Sollett called him a " genius " and a " terrific actor " , as well as a " brilliant improvisational comedian " . Cera , who had previously taken improvisation classes , said that " It 's fun [to improvise] , just having a conversation . It always feels real because it is real . " He lived in an apartment in New York 's East Village for the duration of filming . Cera had never driven a stick shift vehicle before filming , and was taught so that he could be shot driving Nick 's Yugo .

Kat Dennings plays Norah Silverberg , the teenage daughter of a wealthy record producer who shares Nick 's passion for music . Dennings was the second actor to be cast (Cera having been first) , Sollett saying that " her being liberated from [people 's expectations] liberated the film in many ways , and certainly her character from cliché . " Dennings felt that she related to Norah more than any other she had played before and " wanted to make sure she was really fleshed out " . Her favorite day of shooting was with a group of drag queens at a gay cabaret , but she said that filming Norah 's first orgasm was " really uncomfortable ... Really , really . "

Ari Graynor plays Caroline , Norah 's best friend . Graynor auditioned for the roles of both Norah and Caroline , and was chosen to play Caroline , which she says rescued her from " one of those horrible actor black holes of really thinking that I 'd probably never work again " . Graynor related to both characters , saying that " I 've had many nights as Caroline . And I 've had many nights as Norah , taking care of Caroline . " Sollett claimed that " everything she did in the movie was her own invention " , calling her improvisation " brilliant " . She improvised an entire scene taking place at the Port Authority Bus Station in which Caroline talks to a stranger and which was not part of the script . When Caroline vomits , Graynor held a mixture of ginger ale and ginger cookie in her mouth which she spat into a toilet and a bag .

Alexis Dziena plays Tris , Nick 's unfaithful ex @-@ girlfriend who attends school with Norah and Caroline . Dziena was one of the first actors cast , having done her final read @-@ through audition with Cera , Dennings , and Graynor . She said that the filming period was " a really fantastic time " , but complained about the night shoots and having to sleep through the day : " Oh , it 's terrible I 'm okay as long as the sun 's not up when I 'm going to sleep but sleeping during the day is rough . "

Aaron Yoo plays Thom , Nick 's friend and the guitarist for The Jerk @-@ Offs . Yoo was supposed to mime playing the guitar when filming The Jerk @-@ Offs ' concert , but requested that he be taught the chords to play when he had spare time . He found it very difficult to drive the van featured in the film and jokingly referred to it as a " tank " and a " World War II veteran " .

Rafi Gavron plays Dev , Nick 's friend and the lead singer of The Jerk @-@ Offs . Gavron recorded a song performed by The Jerk @-@ Offs in the film at Electric Lady Studios , where part of the story takes place . Filming The Jerk @-@ Offs ' concert at Don Hill 's in New York , the owner of the bar , Don Hill , mistook Gavron for a professional musician in spite of Gavron 's calling himself a " useless singer " .

Jay Baruchel plays Tal , Norah 's " friend with benefits " and an amateur musician . Baruchel said that the film was " by far the hippest movie I 've ever been in ? that 's for damn sure " .

Jonathan B. Wright as Lethario , a friend of Thom and Dev .

Rachel Cohn and David Levithan , authors of the same @-@ titled novel on which the film is based , cameo as a couple sitting behind Nick and Norah at a diner .

Eddie Kaye Thomas , Graynor 's then boyfriend , cameos as Jesus in a gay cabaret

Devendra Banhart , John Cho , Seth Meyers , and Andy Samberg are also featured .

Kevin Corrigan agreed to cameo so long as he had no speaking lines ; his scene , which was not scripted , was entirely improvised by Graynor .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

Nick and Norah 's Infinite Playlist was originally the novel written by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan , which producer Kerry Kohansky Roberts brought into development as a film in 2003 . Lorene Scafaria was hired by Roberts in early 2005 to adapt the novel for Chris and Paul Weitz and Focus Features ; the script was her first film adaptation . Peter Sollett signed on to direct the film in 2006 , when the script was in its second draft , and collaborated with Scafaria . Scafaria said that Norah " was me on the page " , while Sollett felt that as a teenager he was " not dissimilar to Nick " . Both had similar experiences to Nick and Norah , commuting into Manhattan at night , Scafaria from New Jersey and Sollett from Staten Island .

Cohn and Levithan had written the novel in alternating chapters : Cohn writing from Norah 's perspective and Levithan writing from Nick 's perspective . Cera and Dennings recorded voice @-@ over narration to mimic the first @-@ person perspective from which the novel is written , but the voice @-@ overs were not included in the final cut of the film . Scafaria says that the differences between the novel and the film were " to make it a little more cinematic " . She said that Nick and Norah 's parents were written out of the script " to absorb what it 's like to be young , [because] you 're not thinking about your parents when you 're out all night " . In addition to searching for Where 's Fluffy ? , Sollett felt that the film needed a second MacGuffin to propel the story forwards , so Norah 's best friend Caroline got drunk and then lost , giving Nick and Norah an additional objective .

= = = Filming = = =

Shooting on a budget of US \$ 10 million , principal photography of Nick and Norah 's Infinite Playlist took place from late October to early December 2007 . The film was shot over 29 days in one @-@ week blocks , and was one of the first to receive a filming subsidy from the state of New York under the " Made in NY " incentive program . Filming took place mainly in Manhattan 's East Village and Lower East Side , as well as Williamsburg , Brooklyn . Filming locations included Katz 's Delicatessen , Mercury Lounge , Arlene 's Grocery , Pennsylvania Station , Port Authority Bus Terminal , the Veselka restaurant and Don Hill 's bar . Union Pool , a bar in Brooklyn , was also used for filming but requested to be called " Brooklyn Pool " in the film , and Norah 's father 's recording studio was filmed at Electric Lady Studios . Some scenes were shot on a sound stage in a studio in Brooklyn .

The cast did many rehearsals , including on @-@ location rehearsals , which Dennings described as " the most practical thing I 've ever heard of " . During the course of filming , the actors slept during the day , woke in the afternoon , had their make @-@ up applied on set , and filmed from dusk until dawn . The cast and crew members would often sit inside the The Jerk @-@ Offs ' van between takes to avoid the cold , and sometimes stayed inside , out of sight , while scenes were being filmed in the van . Reshoots of the film began in May 2008 ; the film had originally begun at The Jerk @-@ Offs ' show where Nick and Norah first meet , and all prior scenes were written in later . Editor Myron Kerstein cut some of the shots on set due to time and budgetary restraints .

= = Reception = =

== Critical response ==

Nick and Norah 's Infinite Playlist received generally positive reviews from critics . Rotten Tomatoes gives the film a score of 74 % based on 179 reviews , with an average score of 6 @. @ 5 / 10 . The site 's critical consensus reads , " Nick and Norah 's Infinite Playlist combines a pair of charming leads , the classic New York backdrop and a sweet soundtrack " . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the film received an average score of 64 out of 100 , based on 32 reviews , indicating " generally favorable reviews " .

Claudia Puig of USA Today gave the film 3 @. @ 5 out of 4 stars , praising Dennings ' on @- @ screen presence , the " considerable chemistry " between Cera and Dennings , and the " excellent " soundtrack . The New York Times critic A. O. Scott described Nick and Norah 's Infinite Playlist as a " shy , sweet romance " that " surveys the varieties of teenage experience with tolerant sympathy " . James Berardinelli of ReelViews reviewed the film warmly with 3 out of 4 stars , complimenting the soundtrack , the " witty " dialog and the appeal of the film to both adults and teenagers . Michael Orton wrote for the Los Angeles Times that the film is familiar , but is " fleshed out with atmosphere , a nice blend of broad goofiness and sophistication , and two appealing leads who bring it to life " . Entertainment Weekly 's Lisa Schwarzbaum graded the film as an A ? , giving particular commendation to its nonchalant portrayal of gay teenagers and Norah 's Jewish identity . Richard Corliss of Time magazine opined that the film was " smart , sweet , [and] bordering @- @ on @- @ adorable " while the title characters were " worth watching , admiring and cuddling up to " .

Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun @- @ Times wrote that Nick and Norah 's Infinite Playlist " doesn 't bring much to the party . [...] It 's not much of a film , but it sort of gets you halfway there , like a Yugo . " Rolling Stone 's Peter Travers gave the film 2 out of 4 stars , saying , " I 'm yawning just writing this . [...] Sollett , hoping for a Before Sunrise / Before Sunset vibe , sadly settles for a soggy aftertaste . " In a review for The Village Voice , Robert Wilonsky likened the film to " something crafted in a lab by 54 @- @ year @- @ old hucksters trying to sell shit to the kids under the cheerless guise of ' alternative . ' The only thing it 's an alternative to ? Good . " Variety magazine 's John Anderson described it as a " sparsely plotted comedy " that is " sweet , no doubt , but a bit too slick for its own good " .

== Box office ==

The world premiere of Nick and Norah 's Infinite Playlist was held on September 6 , 2008 at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival . It was released theatrically in the United States on October 3 , 2008 , grossing US \$ 11 @, @ 311 @, @ 751 from 2 @, @ 421 screens on its debut weekend , placing third in the box office rankings . The following weekend , it grossed \$ 6 @, @ 420 @, @ 474 with a per @- @ screen average of \$ 2 @, @ 652 and a cumulative gross of \$ 20 @, @ 730 @, @ 708 , ranking fifth . It earned another \$ 3 @, @ 693 @, @ 384 on its third weekend with a per @- @ screen average of \$ 1 @, @ 648 and a cumulative gross of \$ 26 @, @ 500 @, @ 875 , dropping to eighth place . The film ended its theatrical run with a total domestic gross of \$ 31 @, @ 487 @, @ 293 and a foreign gross of \$ 2 @, @ 018 @, @ 844 , giving a worldwide total of \$ 33 @, @ 506 @, @ 137 . It placed 92nd for the highest @- @ grossing films of 2008 and 85th for the year 's highest @- @ grossing opening weekends .

The film was screened at the London Film Festival in October 2008 and at the Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema in March 2009 .

== Award nominations ==

Nick and Norah 's Infinite Playlist was nominated for three Satellite Awards , in the categories of Best Film ? Musical or Comedy , Best Actor ? Motion Picture Musical or Comedy (Michael Cera) , Best Actress ? Motion Picture Musical or Comedy (Kat Dennings) , but failed to win any . The film

was also nominated at the GLAAD Media Awards in the category of Outstanding Film ? Wide Release , and Kat Dennings was nominated for an MTV Movie Award for Best Breakthrough Performance ? Female . The film 's supervising music editor Andrew Dorfman was nominated for a Golden Reel Award by the Motion Picture Sound Editors for Best Sound Editing ? Music in a Feature Film , but did not win .

= = Home media = =

Nick and Norah 's Infinite Playlist was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray in North America on February 3 , 2009 . The disc includes : one audio commentary with Peter Sollett , Michael Cera , Kat Dennings and Ari Graynor , and another with Sollett , Rachel Cohn , David Levithan , and Lorene Scafaria ; the featurettes " A Nick and Norah Puppet Show by Kat Dennings " and " Ari Graynor 's Video Diary : A Look Behind @-@ the @-@ Scenes " ; a music video for Bishop Allen 's song " Middle Management " ; storyboard animations with optional audio commentary ; a faux interview with Michael Cera , Kat Dennings and Eddie Kaye Thomas ; deleted scenes ; outtakes ; and a photo gallery .

= = Soundtrack = =

Cohn and Levithan 's novel contained many musical references , including songs by The Cure and Green Day , as did Scafaria 's screenplay , which she originally submitted with a mix CD featuring her ideas for the film 's soundtrack , including songs by The Black Keys , Bloc Party , and Frou Frou . In the final cut of the film , however , most of the music was chosen by Sollett , editor Myron Kerstein and music supervisor Linda Cohen . Sollett said that he " got lucky " with the songs that he was able to choose because , within the financiers and the studio , " there was nobody in that group who knew all that much about music or the music that we had in the film " . His objective when selecting the music was to find " the best music you haven 't heard yet " , primarily from bands based in New York City . While filming in New York , he emailed songs " right out of my iTunes [library] " which he thought would suit particular scenes to Kerstein , who was in Los Angeles assembling the film as it was shot .