

= Like Crazy =

Like Crazy is a 2011 American romantic drama film directed by Drake Doremus and starring Anton Yelchin , Felicity Jones and Jennifer Lawrence . Written by Doremus and Ben York Jones , the film tells the story of Anna (Felicity Jones) , a British exchange student who falls in love with an American student , Jacob (Yelchin) , only to be separated from him when she is denied re @-@ entry into the United States after staying in the country longer than her student visa allows .

Doremus based the storyline of the film partly on his own long @-@ distance relationship with a woman living in London while he lived in Los Angeles . Rather than writing a traditional screenplay , he and Ben York Jones compiled a 50 @-@ page outline of the film from which the actors improvised almost all of the dialogue . Filming took place over four weeks in Los Angeles and London with a budget of \$ 250 @,@ 000 .

Like Crazy premiered on January 22 , 2011 at the Sundance Film Festival , where it won the festival 's Grand Jury Prize . It was released in theaters on October 28 , 2011 and grossed over \$ 3 @.@ 7 million at the box office . Most reviews of the film were positive , with reviewers giving particular praise to the performances of Yelchin and Jones , although some found the plot unrealistic and contrived .

= = Plot = =

Anna Gardner (Felicity Jones) , a British exchange student attending college in Los Angeles , meets and falls in love with Jacob Helm (Anton Yelchin) , an American student who returns her affections . After graduation , Anna decides to spend the summer with Jacob rather than return to the United Kingdom , unaware of the consequences of staying longer than her student visa , which expired upon her graduation , allows . After returning to London for a family engagement , Anna flies back to Los Angeles , where she is detained , denied entry , and sent back to the United Kingdom by immigration officials .

The couple 's love for each other grows strained by their separation and long @-@ distance relationship . Despite her efforts at appealing the immigration decision , Anna is told she is banned from entering the United States . Meanwhile , Jacob leaves behind his successful design business and visits Anna in London for a few weeks . There , he learns that Anna 's parents , Bernard (Oliver Muirhead) and Jackie (Alex Kingston) , have hired an immigration lawyer to try to get the ban lifted . Bernard suggests that marrying may help their efforts . Jacob is uncomfortable with the suggestion , and the couple struggle with their feelings .

After Jacob returns to the United States , he and Anna grow apart , and Jacob begins a relationship with his colleague , Samantha (Jennifer Lawrence) . Anna also tries to find a new life for herself , beginning work as a secretary for a magazine , but she is unable to abandon her feelings for Jacob . She eventually phones him from London and says that they will never find in others what they found in each other , and that they should marry . Soon after , Jacob breaks up with Samantha , returns to London and marries Anna in a small registry office ceremony with her parents as witnesses ? both affirming that they will " never allow anything to destroy the feelings we share for each other " . With a tearful parting , Jacob returns to his business in Los Angeles while the couple wait six months before they appeal the ban on Anna 's visa .

Six months later , Jacob flies back to the United Kingdom for the appeal , but it is rejected . With their relationship compromised and no hope of resolving the visa issue , Anna and Jacob begin to fight with each other out of jealousy and frustration . Jacob leaves the UK , and soon both are seeing other people . Anna eventually gets promoted at work to the position of editor ? something she wanted very much . Her love life , however , is not as positive or fulfilling ? her new boyfriend Simon (Charlie Bewley) does not evoke the same feelings in her as Jacob , whom she still misses .

Sometime later , Anna is finally offered a new visa . She gives up her job , her current boyfriend and her apartment , and flies to Los Angeles to Jacob , who greets her with flowers at the airport where they have an awkward reunion . Jacob brings Anna to his house where he joins her in the shower ,

and as the water falls over them , they remember happier memories they had together at the beginning of their relationship , which has now become strained due to their indiscretions during the time spent apart .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Drake Doremus was inspired to make *Like Crazy* by the end of his eight @-@ year long @-@ distance relationship with Desiree Pappenscheller , who lived in London while Doremus lived in Los Angeles . Many elements of the film resemble their real @-@ life relationship , such as frequent travelling between Los Angeles and London , trouble with American immigration laws , a brief marriage , a trip to Santa Catalina Island (where Jacob takes Anna in the early stages of their relationship) , and the gift of a bracelet (in the film , a bracelet is given to Anna by Jacob) . The story was co @-@ written by Ben York Jones , who had also been involved in long @-@ distance relationships . Together , they assembled a 50 @-@ page outline of the film which read more like a short story than a traditional screenplay . The outline included backstory , plot points , specific scene objectives , themes and emotional moments , but had minimal dialogue .

Anton Yelchin was Doremus 's first choice to play Jacob , based on Yelchin 's previous work , and was cast almost immediately after meeting Doremus to discuss the role . After auditioning a number of actresses from Los Angeles and London to play Anna , Doremus talked to English actress Felicity Jones over the phone and asked her to tape rough versions of two scenes from the film . He was so impressed with her rendition of the film 's final scene ? in which Anna and Jacob stand silently in a shower ? that he decided to cast her . After Jones arrived in Los Angeles , she and Yelchin began an intensive week @-@ long rehearsal before filming began . Yelchin and Jones met in a Mexican restaurant to get to know one another and , during the week prior to shooting , spent " all day and often all night " discussing Anna and Jacob 's relationship with each other and Doremus .

= = = Filming = = =

Like Crazy was filmed over four weeks ? the first three in Los Angeles and the last in London . The production budget was \$ 250 @,@ 000 , which included the cost of airfares for the cast and crew . The film was shot on a Canon EOS 7D still camera with cinema lenses , mounted on a rig constructed by cinematographer John Guleserian . He chose the 7D for its portability and the ease it provided for shooting improvised scenes , where he found other cameras too cumbersome . Guleserian said that many of the film 's scenes were shot " really far away from our characters [followed by] really tight close ups " due to the technological limitations of the camera , but he noted that this added to the tone of the film .

Only a small number of crew members were employed to maintain the sense of intimacy that Doremus wanted on set . At its largest , the crew consisted of around 20 people , while some scenes were shot with as few as three crew members , such as a scene on a Santa Monica beach where only Doremus , Guleserian and " a sound guy " were present in addition to the actors . Doremus would often ask members of the crew to leave when filming intimate scenes between Jones and Yelchin so that the two actors would feel more comfortable . These scenes would be shot in improvised takes of up to 30 minutes in length , with Doremus providing only occasional direction . The film 's dialogue was almost entirely improvised by the actors , whose lines Doremus believed would come about " by virtue of being fully involved in the character and the moment " .

= = = Music = = =

The film's original score was composed by pianist Dustin O'Halloran . Other music used in the film included songs by Paul Simon , M83 , Stars , The Mary Onettes and Figurine . Doremus listened to several of these artists as he developed the story ; he said that their songs " became the fabric of the film " . He assembled a similar set of songs on a CD which he gave to the cast and crew to listen to throughout production .

An official soundtrack , titled *Like Crazy : Music from the Motion Picture* , was released on CD and in digital format in conjunction with the film's release . The track listing is as follows :

= = Release = =

Like Crazy premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on January 22 , 2011 , where it won the Grand Jury Prize . During the festival , the film's distribution rights were acquired by Paramount Vantage for \$ 4 million .

The film was given a limited release in theaters on October 28 , 2011 . It earned \$ 123 @, @ 140 on its opening weekend with a per @-@ theater average of \$ 30 @, @ 785 from four theaters . Its widest release was 162 theaters , and it closed on January 12 , 2012 after playing for 11 weeks , earning \$ 3 @, @ 395 @, @ 391 in total at the domestic box office . Internationally , it grossed \$ 336 @, @ 098 , making a total box office gross of \$ 3 @, @ 731 @, @ 489 .

In the United States , *Like Crazy* was released by Paramount Home Media on DVD and Blu @-@ ray and made available for digital download on March 6 , 2012 . It was released on DVD in the United Kingdom on May 28 , 2012 . The DVD release included an audio commentary recorded by Doremus , Guleserian and editor Jonathan Alberts , while the Blu @-@ ray included deleted and alternate scenes in addition to the commentary .

= = Reception = =

Reviews for *Like Crazy* have been favorable . The film has a 73 % " certified fresh " rating on the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes , based on 146 reviews ; the consensus states " It has the schmaltzy trappings of many romantic films , but *Like Crazy* allows its characters to express themselves beyond dialogue , crafting a true , intimate study . " At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the film received an average score of 71 based on 37 reviews , indicating " generally favorable reviews " .

In a review for *The Wall Street Journal* , Joe Morgenstern described *Like Crazy* as a " wise and beautiful little film " , giving particular praise to Guleserian's cinematography and Yelchin and Jones's improvised performances . David Edelstein of *New York* magazine claimed that *Like Crazy* was " the most infectious love story in decades " , comparing its " wonderfully sane " perspective to other romance films and romantic comedies . *Entertainment Weekly*'s Lisa Schwarzbaum gave the film an A ? grade and praised Doremus , Yelchin and Felicity Jones's storytelling ability in creating " a palpably real , universally identifiable manifestation of young love in all its ecstasy and agony " . In a review for *Rolling Stone* , Peter Travers gave the film 3 @. @ 5 out of 4 stars , writing that " Drake Doremus has crafted a crazily inventive and totally irresistible tale of first love that makes the familiar seem bittersweet and heart @-@ stoppingly new " . He described Felicity Jones as " a marvel " and Yelchin as " outstanding " . *Time* magazine's Mary Pols commended the film's ambiguous ending and wrote , " *Like Crazy* is a cinematic love potion and you leave it feeling bewitched . " Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun @-@ Times* gave the film 3 out of 4 stars , praising Jones and Yelchin's performances and the " intelligent , graceful indie style " of the film , although he found the storyline somewhat unrealistic . *Indiewire*'s Eric Kohn gave the film a B + grade and felt that while the plot developed slowly , Yelchin and Jones shared " an indelible and entirely realistic chemistry " . *Variety* film critic Andrew Barker , who described the film as " an exquisite , beautifully acted gem " , gave particular praise to the film's " dexterous editing " , given that it " contains nary an extraneous detail , while still managing to luxuriate in the tender and awkward silences of young love " .

A more negative review of the film came from Manohla Dargis of *The New York Times* , who found

it " a conventional , wan affair , despite its art @-@ cinema flourishes " and thought that Anna 's inability to obtain a visa was a contrived plot point that conflicted with Doremus 's attempt at creating realism . The Globe and Mail 's Rick Groen also found Like Crazy unrealistic , giving the film 2 out of 4 stars and writing that " nothing feels more false than a failed attempt at getting real " . Writing for Salon , Andrew O 'Hehir opined that the film was uninteresting , unmemorable , and " sickly sweet " . Nick Pinkerton of The Village Voice found Jones and Yelchin 's performances " aggressively average " and described the film as " a rote story , arbitrarily scattered into abstraction " .

= = Accolades = =