

= Somewhere ( film ) =

Somewhere is a 2010 American drama film written and directed by Sofia Coppola . The film follows Johnny Marco ( played by Stephen Dorff ) , a newly famous actor , as he recuperates from a minor injury at the Chateau Marmont , a well @-@ known Hollywood retreat . Despite money , fame and professional success , Marco is trapped in an existential crisis and feels little emotion during his daily life . When his ex @-@ wife suffers an unexplained breakdown and goes away , she leaves Cleo ( Elle Fanning ) , their 11 @-@ year @-@ old daughter , in his care . They spend time together and her presence helps Marco mature and accept adult responsibility . The film explores ennui among Hollywood stars , the father ? daughter relationship and offers an oblique comedy of show business , particularly Hollywood film @-@ making and the life of a " star " .

Somewhere premiered at the 67th Venice International Film Festival where it received the Golden Lion award for best picture . Critical opinion was mildly positive . Reviewers praised the patience of the film 's visual style and its empathy for a handful of characters , but some found Somewhere to be too repetitive of themes in Coppola 's previous work , or did not sympathize with the protagonist because of his relative success . It was released to theaters in the United Kingdom and Ireland on December 10 , 2010 , and in the United States on December 22 , 2010 .

= = Synopsis = =

As the film opens a black Ferrari circles on a race track in the desert , its engine roaring in and out of the shot . When it eventually stops , Johnny Marco ( Stephen Dorff ) steps out . Marco is a Hollywood actor who , despite his recent rise to fame , does not feel much meaning in his daily life . He resides at the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles from where he completes various publicity obligations for his new film : he is photographed with his co @-@ star ( Michelle Monaghan ) , gives interviews to the press , and attends an award ceremony in Italy . Despite drinking and socializing occasionally with Sammy ( Chris Pontius ) , a fellow actor and childhood friend , Marco spends much time alone , driving his Ferrari motorcar , drinking beer , taking pills , and having casual sex with various women . Twice he has pole @-@ dancing twins ( Kristina and Karissa Shannon ) set up their equipment and perform in his room , the first time he falls asleep and the second routine is more calisthenic than erotic .

He receives an unexpected visit from his 11 @-@ year @-@ old daughter , Cleo ( Elle Fanning ) . Her stay changes his lifestyle little at first , including his indulging an overnight visitor , a blonde woman . Johnny and his daughter spend time together in his hotel suite and he brings her with him on his daily routine and on a publicity trip to Milan ( where he is awarded with a " Telegatto " , in a show with local celebrities playing themselves ) , and through preparations for her departure to summer camp . As their time together grows , Johnny 's fatherly emotions emerge and force him to re @-@ assess his otherwise " successful " life . After Cleo leaves for camp Johnny calls his ex @-@ wife and tearfully breaks down admitting his unhappiness at his empty life . His ex @-@ wife is indifferent to his pain and declines his request to come see him . At the end , Johnny checks out of the hotel promising not to return , and drives his Ferrari into the countryside . He randomly stops and gets out , leaving the keys in the ignition , and walks down the highway smiling .

= = Themes = =

= = = Celebrity ennui = = =

Coppola 's first three films examine feminine self @-@ definition and maturation , usually in privileged circumstance . Lost in Translation ( 2003 ) depicts an encounter and brief friendship between two lonely Americans in a luxurious Tokyo hotel ; Marie Antoinette ( 2006 ) , a stylized biopic of the eponymous queen , examined her loneliness . Somewhere examines similar themes of success and isolation , but from a male perspective . The film explores Marco 's seclusion and

depression despite his outward professional success and the resulting wealth and fame . He appears to suffer from anhedonia , the inability to feel pleasure , but the film itself is reticent in suggesting its causes . " He believes he 's nothing " , summarized film critic Roger Ebert , " and it appears he 's correct " . The film 's opening shot , a Ferrari circling a race @-@ track in and out of a stationary camera position , its whine and roar rising and falling , establishes the theme of ennui . The sequence 's length also offers a visual cue from Coppola to relax , observe and withhold expectations . Coppola said she wanted to hint at this with a simple camera set @-@ up , " so you 're alone with this guy and not aware that it 's a movie . But I hope it 's a welcome contrast to the style of most movies out there . Something that gives you a chance to take a breath " .

The Chateau Marmont , a well @-@ known retreat for Hollywood celebrities , is the film 's setting and can be " either a paradise of easy wish @-@ fulfillment or a purgatory of celebrity anomie " ( A.O. Scott ) , but Coppola subtly conveys the emptiness of Marco 's situation without denying its appeal . Coppola has stayed at the hotel , and said " I 've seen a few Johnny Marcos " ; in contrast , writing the part of the daughter , she drew on childhood experiences with her director father , Francis Ford Coppola , such as attending film festivals , though she denied the film was autobiographical . Coppola said that cultural depictions of fame are unbalanced , and at a time when so many strive for it she is trying to show a different side of it .

= = = Parenthood = = =

Coppola mentioned that the parental angle was inspired by the birth of her second child . As the film progresses the " tender and temporary " father ? daughter relationship comes to the fore . Marco has partial custody of his daughter from a failed marriage . Ebert speculates that she probably understands the reasons for the split better than he , and wonders why the child must suffer his hedonism and " detached attempts at fatherhood " . In some ways Cleo ? having grown up inside the Hollywood bubble ? mothers her father , cooking for him and being more worldly aware , but she also watches him with the wide @-@ eyed adoration of a child .

= = = Comedy of show @-@ business = = =

Coppola comes from a family of film @-@ makers and actors , and she has said how childhood memories of living in hotels partially inspired her choice of setting . Somewhere presents a detailed portrait of life in that industry and charts its existential and emotional boundaries . While celebrity gossip websites inform us of the shallowness of much of " star life " , Coppola 's feature differs in its emotional depth . She wanted to depict Marco working , but not on a film set . Instead he is shown giving interviews , being photographed , attending an awards ceremony in Italy , and having special effects make @-@ up applied . When Marco attends the special @-@ effects department his face is covered in latex , the camera then very slowly , hypnotically zooms in . Marco is obliged to use his " star " recognition to help promote his new film , when his publicist calls he becomes passive and mechanically takes the arranged chauffeured car and speaks to the press . In part , the humor derives from Marco 's subdued response to these attentions , and Coppola 's off @-@ beat observation of people around him . At the Venice film festival , critics highlighted the repetition of characters in a cloistered existence in Coppola 's films , to which she responded " I feel like everyone should tell what they know in the world that they know " .

= = = Production = = =

Scenes from the film are said to be inspired by the director 's childhood experiences as the daughter of Francis Ford Coppola . She recalls sampling all the gelato flavors on a Milanese hotel 's room service menu , a trip to Italy , a helicopter ride , and though she said there was a " personal connection " to the film , she denied it was an autobiography . Rather , she based the character of Cleo on a friend 's daughter whose parents work in Hollywood and used her own experiences to relate to the character and add a realistic touch . Federico Fellini 's Toby Dammit ( 1968 ) has also

been noted as an influence . Meanwhile , the parental focus of the film developed because Coppola had recently had her second child . Coppola said that she thought of Dorff to play Marco early while writing the film , because he had an aura of " the bad @-@ boy actor , " but also " this really sweet , sincere side . "

Coppola wanted a minimalist look for the film , especially after the mixed reactions to her richly costumed Marie Antoinette . The overall effect was to be " sweet and genuine but without being sappy . " For the visual style she discussed Bruce Weber 's Hollywood portraits and Helmut Newton 's photographs of models at the Chateau Marmont , and Jeanne Dielman , 23 quai du Commerce , 1080 Bruxelles ( 1975 ) , a film by Chantal Akerman about the routine of a Belgian housewife , with Harris Savides , the cinematographer . He said , " The main thing was to tell the story really simply and let it play out in long beats and have the audience discover the moment . " Coppola used the lenses that her father had used to film Rumble Fish ( 1983 ) in an effort to give the film a more period look , although it is set in the present .

Before filming began Dorff , Fanning , and Lala Sloatman ( who plays Marco 's ex @-@ wife ) improvised meals and fights to understand the family 's dynamic . Dorff also collected Fanning from school and they spent an afternoon together to bond . Dorff stayed in the Chateau Marmont during principal photography , making it easier to get to the set and understand the character . Coppola also showed Dorff Paper Moon ( 1973 ) during production .

Filming took place in Los Angeles and Italy in June and July 2009 . Benicio del Toro , Erin Wasson and members of the band Rooney have cameos in the film . In a feature for The New York Times website , Coppola discussed making the scene when Marco visits a special effects studio . She said she initially was unsure of how to approach it , but Savides did a long , slow zoom which captures his breathing and creates a sense of claustrophobia . Despite many takes , Dorff was a " good sport " , she said . The sound of the phone ringing was added by Sarah Flack , the editor , to indicate that Marco has been forgotten .

= = Release = =

Somewhere premiered at the 67th Venice International Film Festival on September 3 , 2010 , and it was released in Italy on the same day . At the festival 's close ( September 11 ) , the jury unanimously awarded Somewhere the Golden Lion , the festival 's prize for the best overall film . Quentin Tarantino , president of the jury , said the film " grew and grew in our hearts , in our minds , in our affections " after the first screening . Focus Features distributed Somewhere in North America and most other territories . Pathé released the film in France on January 5 , 2011 , while Tohokushinsha distributed it in Japan . Medusa Film has rights in Italy . Somewhere was released on December 10 , 2010 in both Ireland and the United Kingdom , and on December 22 in North America .

= = = Critical response = = =

Somewhere received positive reviews and has a " certified fresh " score of 72 % on Rotten Tomatoes based on 179 reviews with an average score of 6 @.@ 6 out of 10 . The critical consensus states : " It covers familiar territory for Sofia Coppola , but Somewhere remains a hypnotic , seductively pensive meditation on the nature of celebrity , anchored by charming performances from Stephen Dorff and Elle Fanning " . The film also has a score of 67 out of 100 on Metacritic based on 40 reviews .

Sight and Sound magazine , published by the British Film Institute , described Somewhere as " going round in circles " and noted that many viewers would " write off Coppola 's film as the whining of the privileged " , but also acknowledged " a delicate portrait of a still @-@ maturing pre @-@ teen daughter " . During the 2010 National Board of Review Awards , Sofia Coppola was given the Special Filmmaking Achievement Award for writing , directing and producing Somewhere .

Roger Ebert , writing in the Chicago Sun @-@ Times , awarded the film four out of four stars and praised the detail in the portrait of Johnny Marco , saying " Coppola is a fascinating director . She

sees , and we see exactly what she sees . " A.O. Scott in The New York Times called the film " exquisite , melancholy and formally audacious " and said " This is not a matter of imitation , but rather of mastery , of finding ? by borrowing if necessary ? a visual vocabulary suited to the story and its environment . If you pay close attention , " Somewhere " will show you everything . " Peter Bradshaw disagreed in The Guardian , awarding the film two stars from five . He praised the cinematic technique but said that the film resembled Lost in Translation too closely , lacked emotional depth and that even on second viewing " the question of why we should really care or be interested remains tantalisingly unanswered " ; the final shot failed to solve any emotional problems and " really is one of the daftest things I have seen for a long time . "

Allociné , a French cinema website , calculated a score of 2 @. @ 9 stars out of 5 from twenty @-@ six press reviews . French newspaper Le Monde gave the film a positive review , saying Somewhere was Coppola 's most minimalist and daring film . Coppola 's films , it said , deal with " the delicate irony of the delinquency of a universe of the happy few " , which is both to her credit and a ghost which haunts her , a loyalty ensnaring her . France 24 said the " virtuosity of Coppola is also in her keeping empathy for the characters without pouring out mushy sentiment . " Richard Roeper said that Somewhere is one of the best films of 2010 , ranking it number 10 .

= = = Box office = = =

In its debut weekend in the United States , the film opened in seven theaters with \$ 119 @, @ 086 , averaging \$ 17 @, @ 012 per cinema . As of February 2011 , it has grossed \$ 1 @, @ 785 @, @ 645 in the United States and US \$ 13 @, @ 936 @, @ 909 worldwide . In the United Kingdom , Somewhere went on limited release to 62 cinemas . It earned £ 126 @, @ 000 in the first weekend , of December 10 , 2010 . Its average per screen , £ 2 @, @ 026 , was higher than Coppola 's earlier small film openings , Marie Antoinette ( 2006 ) and The Virgin Suicides ( 1999 ) . However , it was a lesser total taking . In France , Somewhere earned 401 511 EUR in the three weeks to January 25 , 2011 .

= = Soundtrack = =

Phoenix , a French rock band , contributed the film 's score . Coppola is married to Thomas Mars , the band 's singer ; she liked the songs " Love Like a Sunset Part I " and " Love Like a Sunset Part II " and requested the band do similar music for the film . In 2010 the film score for Somewhere was announced , but remains unreleased . Except for The Strokes song during the poolside scene , the score is diegetic . For example , Cleo ice @-@ skates to Gwen Stefani , and the twins pole @-@ dance to the Foo Fighters .

= = = Track listing = = =

" Love Like a Sunset Part I " ? Phoenix  
" Gandhi Fix " ? William Storkson  
" My Hero " ? Foo Fighters  
" So Lonely " ? The Police  
" 1 Thing " ? Amerie  
" 20th Century Boy " ? T. Rex  
" Cool " ? Gwen Stefani  
" Che si fa " ? Paolo Jannacci  
" Teddy Bear " ? Romulo  
" Love Theme From Kiss " ? Kiss  
" I 'll Try Anything Once " ? Julian Casablancas  
" Look " ? Sebastien Tellier  
" Smoke Gets In Your Eyes " ? Bryan Ferry  
" Massage Music " ? William Storkson

" Love Like a Sunset Part II " ? Phoenix