

= Forrest Gump =

Forrest Gump is a 1994 American epic romantic @-@ comedy @-@ drama film based on the 1986 novel of the same name by Winston Groom . The film was directed by Robert Zemeckis and stars Tom Hanks , Robin Wright , Gary Sinise , Mykelti Williamson , and Sally Field . The story depicts several decades in the life of Forrest Gump , a slow @-@ witted but kind @-@ hearted , good @-@ natured and athletically prodigious man from Alabama who witnesses , and in some cases influences , some of the defining events of the latter half of the 20th century in the United States ; more specifically , the period between Forrest 's birth in 1944 and 1982 . The film differs substantially from Winston Groom 's novel , including Gump 's personality and several events that were depicted .

Principal photography took place in late 1993 , mainly in Georgia , North Carolina , and South Carolina . Extensive visual effects were used to incorporate the protagonist into archived footage and to develop other scenes . A comprehensive soundtrack was featured in the film , using music intended to pinpoint specific time periods portrayed on screen . Its commercial release made it a top @-@ selling soundtrack , selling over twelve million copies worldwide .

Released in the United States on July 6 , 1994 , Forrest Gump became a commercial success as the top grossing film in North America released in that year , being the first major success for Paramount Pictures since the studio 's sale to Viacom , earning over US \$ 677 million worldwide during its theatrical run . In 1995 it won the Academy Awards for Best Picture , Best Director for Robert Zemeckis , Best Actor for Tom Hanks , Best Adapted Screenplay for Eric Roth , Best Visual Effects , and Best Film Editing . It also garnered multiple other awards and nominations , including Golden Globes , People 's Choice Awards , and Young Artist Awards , among others . Since the film 's release varying interpretations have been made of the film 's protagonist and its political symbolism . In 1996 , a themed restaurant , Bubba Gump Shrimp Company , opened based on the film and has since expanded to multiple locations worldwide . The scene of Gump running across the country is often referred to when real @-@ life people attempt the feat . In 2011 , the Library of Congress selected Forrest Gump for preservation in the United States National Film Registry as being " culturally , historically , or aesthetically significant " .

= = Plot = =

In 1981 , Forrest Gump ( Tom Hanks ) sits at a bus stop in Savannah , Georgia as a feather floats down toward him , which he then picks up and begins telling his life story to strangers who sit next to him , beginning with his childhood in the town of Greenbow , Alabama during the 1950s . As a child , Forrest had to wear leg braces for which he was often ridiculed . He was raised by a single mother ( Sally Field ) who ran a boarding house for travelers . Despite being intellectually challenged , Forrest is admitted to public school , but only after Mrs. Gump agrees to a one night stand with the school principal .

On his first day of school , Forrest meets Jenny Curran , who becomes his best friend . He learns that Jenny 's mother had died when she was very young and her father is an alcoholic . Forrest 's recounting implies that Jenny 's father had been sexually abusive towards her . Jenny encourages Forrest to run away when he gets bullied by a group of older boys , and he struggles to outrun them until his leg braces fall off and he is able to run at very high speed . Years later , while fleeing from the same group of bullies , he runs onto the football field during a game and catches the attention of University of Alabama Coach Bear Bryant , which gets him into college on a football scholarship .

After his college graduation , he enlists in the army , where he manages to excel at drill exercises and befriends fellow recruit Benjamin Buford Blue , nicknamed Bubba ( Mykelti Williamson ) , who convinces Gump to go into the shrimping business with him when the war is over . They are sent to Vietnam where they report to Lieutenant Dan Taylor ( Gary Sinise ) . Their platoon is ambushed , leaving many of their fellow soldiers wounded . Bubba is killed and Lieutenant Dan loses both his legs as a result his of injuries . Forrest saves many members of his platoon including Lieutenant Dan , who is resentful of being crippled , while he himself is wounded in the buttocks . Gump is awarded

the Congressional Medal of Honour for his actions which is presented to him by President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House . At an anti @-@ war rally in Washington , Forrest reunites with Jenny , who has joined the Hippie movement after being expelled from college over topless photos of herself and has experimented with drugs .

While recovering from his wounds , Forrest discovers an uncanny ability for ping @-@ pong , eventually gaining popularity and rising to celebrity status , later playing ping @-@ pong competitively against Chinese teams in ping @-@ pong diplomacy . He runs into Lieutenant Dan , now in a wheelchair , who has become an embittered drunk and receives Disability pension . Forrest moves in with Dan and they spend the holidays together , with Forrest explaining his and Bubba 's plan to go into the shrimping business and his own intentions to fulfill Bubba 's dream .

After being discharged from the Army , Gump returns to Alabama and endorses a company that makes ping @-@ pong paddles , earning himself US \$ 25 @,@ 000 , which he uses to buy a shrimping boat , fulfilling his promise to Bubba . Lieutenant Dan joins Gump , and although they initially have little success , after Hurricane Carmen they are the only boat in the area left standing and they begin to pull in huge amounts of shrimp . They use their income to buy an entire fleet of shrimp boats . Lieutenant Dan invests the money in Apple and they are financially secure for the rest of their lives . Forrest returns home when his mother falls terminally ill and stays with her until her death .

Forrest donates much of his money to various causes and continues to live in the house where he grew up , taking a job as a grounds keeper . However he is lonely and often thinks of Jenny , who has been living a life of promiscuity and substance abuse . One day , she returns to Alabama and stays with Forrest . He asks her to marry him , but she declines due to her troubled past . However , they end up making love that night . She leaves early the next morning . On a whim , Forrest decides to go for a run , which turns into a coast @-@ to @-@ coast three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half year journey , bringing him national attention .

In present @-@ day , Gump reveals that he is waiting at the bus stop because he received a letter from Jenny , who is now living in Savannah and had seen him on TV during his running and invited him to visit her . Once reunited with Jenny , he discovers she has a young son named Forrest , and that Gump himself is the father . Jenny reveals she is suffering from an unknown virus ( possibly HIV , though this is never specified ) . She asks to marry him and he accepts . Forrest and Jenny return to Greenbow with Forrest Jr and are married . Forrest cares for Jenny during her illness . Jenny eventually dies and Forrest becomes a devoted father to Forrest Jr .

In the film 's final scene , Gump is waiting with his son for the School Bus to pick him up for his first day of school . As the bus departs , the feather from the beginning of the film floats off into the air .

= = Cast = =

Tom Hanks as Forrest Gump : Though at an early age he is deemed to have a below average IQ of 75 , he has an endearing character and shows devotion to his loved ones and duties , character traits which bring him into many life @-@ changing situations . Along the way , he encounters many historical figures and events throughout his life . Tom 's younger brother Jim Hanks is his acting double in the movie for the scenes when Forrest runs across America . Tom 's daughter Elizabeth Hanks appears in the movie as the girl on the school bus who refuses to let young Forrest ( Michael Conner Humphreys ) sit next to her . John Travolta was the original choice to play the title role , and admits passing on the role was a mistake . Bill Murray and Chevy Chase were also considered for the role . Hanks revealed that he signed onto the film after an hour and a half of reading the script . He initially wanted to ease Forrest 's pronounced Southern accent , but was eventually persuaded by director Robert Zemeckis to portray the heavy accent stressed in the novel . Hanks agreed to take the role only on the condition that the film was historically accurate . Michael Conner Humphreys portrayed the young Forrest Gump . Hanks revealed in interviews that after hearing Michael 's unique accented drawl , he incorporated it into the older character 's accent . Winston Groom , who wrote the original novel , describes the film as having taken the " rough edges " off of the character , and envisioned him being played by John Goodman .

Robin Wright as Jenny Curran : Forrest 's childhood friend whom he immediately falls in love with and never stops loving throughout his life . A victim of child sexual abuse at the hands of her bitterly widowed father , Jenny embarks on a different path from Forrest , leading a self @-@ destructive life and becoming part of the hippie movement in the 1960s and the 1970s / 1980s drug culture . She re @-@ enters Forrest 's life at various times in adulthood . Jenny eventually becomes a waitress in Savannah , Georgia , where she lives in an apartment with her ( and Forrest 's ) son , Forrest Jr . They eventually get married , but soon afterwards she dies of an unspecified illness caused by a kind of virus . Her illness is implied to be HIV / AIDS ; however , Hepatitis C is also a strong possibility as Forrest Sr. was never portrayed as contracting any illness ( and although either would 've had a chance to have been passed to Forrest Jr. through childbirth , he too does not fall ill ) and the Hepatitis C virus was not discovered until 1989 ? long after Jenny 's death . Hanna R. Hall portrayed the young Jenny .

Gary Sinise as Lieutenant Dan Taylor : Forrest and Bubba Blue 's platoon leader during the Vietnam War , whose ancestors have died in every American war and regards it as his destiny to do the same . After losing his legs in an ambush and being rescued against his will by Forrest , he is initially bitter and antagonistic towards Forrest for leaving him a " cripple " and denying him his family 's destiny , falling into a deep depression . He later serves as Forrest 's first mate at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company , gives most of the orders , and regains his will to live . He ultimately forgives and thanks Forrest for saving his life . By the end of the film , he is engaged to be married and is sporting " magic legs " ? titanium alloy prosthetics which allow him to walk again .

Mykelti Williamson as Benjamin Buford " Bubba " Blue : Bubba is Forrest 's friend whom he meets upon joining the Army . Bubba was originally supposed to be the senior partner in the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company , but due to his death in Vietnam , their platoon leader , Dan Taylor , took his place . The company posthumously carried his name . Forrest and Dan later gave Bubba 's mother Bubba 's share of the business . Throughout filming , Williamson wore a lip attachment to create Bubba 's protruding lip . David Alan Grier , Ice Cube and Dave Chappelle were all offered the role but turned it down . Chappelle said he believed the film would be unsuccessful , and also acknowledged that he regrets not taking the role .

Sally Field as Mrs. Gump : Forrest 's devoted mother , who raises him after his father abandons them . Field reflected on the character , " She 's a woman who loves her son unconditionally . ? A lot of her dialogue sounds like slogans , and that 's just what she intends . "

Haley Joel Osment as Forrest Gump , Jr . : Forrest and Jenny 's son . Osment was cast in the film after the casting director had noticed him in a Pizza Hut commercial .

Peter Dobson as Elvis : A house guest Forrest encounters . Although Kurt Russell was uncredited , he provided the voice over for Elvis in the scene where Elvis meets Forrest .

Dick Cavett as himself : Cavett played the 1970s version of himself , with makeup applied to make him appear younger . Consequently , Cavett is the only well @-@ known figure in the film to play a cameo role rather than be represented through the use of archival footage like John Lennon or President John F. Kennedy

Sam Anderson as Principal Hancock : Forrest 's elementary school principal .

Geoffrey Blake as Wesley : A member of the SDS group and Jenny 's abusive boyfriend .

Siobhan Fallon Hogan as Dorothy Harris : The school bus driver who drives both Forrest , and later his son , to school .

Sonny Shroyer as Coach Paul " Bear " Bryant : Forrest 's football coach at the University of Alabama .

Grand L. Bush , Michael Jace , Conor Kennelly , and Teddy Lane Jr. as the Black Panthers : Members of an organization that protests the Vietnam War , President Lyndon B. Johnson , and anti @-@ black racism .

Jed Gillin as the voice of President Kennedy , who Forrest meets in the White House Oval Office .

Michael Conner Humphreys - Young Forrest

= = Production = =

### == Script ==

The film is based on the 1986 novel by Winston Groom . Both center on the character of Forrest Gump . However , the film primarily focuses on the first eleven chapters of the novel , before skipping ahead to the end of the novel with the founding of Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. and the meeting with Forrest , Jr . In addition to skipping some parts of the novel , the film adds several aspects to Gump 's life that do not occur in the novel , such as his needing leg braces as a child and his run across the United States .

Gump 's core character and personality are also changed from the novel ; among other things his film character is less of an autistic savant ? in the novel , while playing football at the university , he fails craft and gym , but receives a perfect score in an advanced physics class he is enrolled in by his coach to satisfy his college requirements . The novel also features Gump as an astronaut , a professional wrestler , and a chess player .

Two directors were offered the opportunity to direct the film before Robert Zemeckis was selected . Terry Gilliam turned down the offer . Barry Sonnenfeld was attached to the film , but left to direct Addams Family Values .

### == Filming ==

Filming began in August 1993 and ended in December of that year . Although most of the film is set in Alabama , filming took place mainly in and around Beaufort , South Carolina , as well as parts of coastal Virginia and North Carolina , including a running shot on the Blue Ridge Parkway . Downtown portions of the fictional town of Greenbow were filmed in Varnville , South Carolina . The scene of Forrest running through Vietnam while under fire was filmed on Fripp Island , South Carolina . Additional filming took place on the Biltmore Estate in Asheville , North Carolina , and along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Boone , North Carolina . The most notable place was Grandfather Mountain where a part of the road is named " Forrest Gump Curve " . The Gump family home set was built along the Combahee River near Yemassee , South Carolina , and the nearby land was used to film Curran 's home as well as some of the Vietnam scenes . Over 20 palmetto trees were planted to improve the Vietnam scenes . Forrest Gump narrated his life 's story in Chippewa Square in Savannah , Georgia as he sat at a bus stop bench . There were other scenes filmed in and around the Savannah area as well , including a running shot on the Richard V. Woods Memorial Bridge in Beaufort while he was being interviewed by the press , and on West Bay Street in Savannah . Most of the college campus scenes were filmed in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California . The lighthouse that Forrest runs across to reach the Atlantic Ocean the first time is the Marshall Point Lighthouse in Port Clyde , Maine . Additional scenes were filmed in Arizona , Utah 's Monument Valley , and Montana 's Glacier National Park .

### == Visual effects ==

Ken Ralston and his team at Industrial Light & Magic were responsible for the film 's visual effects . Using CGI techniques , it was possible to depict Gump meeting deceased personages and shaking their hands . Hanks was first shot against a blue screen along with reference markers so that he could line up with the archive footage . To record the voices of the historical figures , voice actors were filmed and special effects were used to alter lip @-@ syncing for the new dialogue . Archival footage was used and with the help of such techniques as chroma key , image warping , morphing , and rotoscoping , Hanks was integrated into it .

In one Vietnam War scene , Gump carries Bubba away from an incoming napalm attack . To create the effect , stunt actors were initially used for compositing purposes . Then , Hanks and Williamson were filmed , with Williamson supported by a cable wire as Hanks ran with him . The explosion was then filmed , and the actors were digitally added to appear just in front of the explosions . The jet fighters and napalm canisters were also added by CGI .

The CGI removal of actor Gary Sinise 's legs , after his character had them amputated , was achieved by wrapping his legs with a blue fabric , which later facilitated the work of the " roto @-@ paint " team to paint out his legs from every single frame . At one point , while hoisting himself into his wheelchair , his legs are used for support .

The scene where Forrest spots Jenny at a peace rally at the Lincoln Memorial and Reflecting Pool in Washington , D.C. , required visual effects to create the large crowd of people . Over two days of filming , approximately 1 @, @ 500 extras were used . At each successive take , the extras were rearranged and moved into a different quadrant away from the camera . With the help of computers , the extras were multiplied to create a crowd of several hundred thousand people .

= = Release = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

The film received generally positive reviews . The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported that 72 % of critics gave the film a positive review based on a sample of 83 reviews . At the website Metacritic , the film earned a rating of 82 / 100 based on 19 reviews by mainstream critics . CinemaScore reported that audiences gave the film a rare " A + " grade .

The story was commended by several critics . Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times wrote , " I 've never met anyone like Forrest Gump in a movie before , and for that matter I 've never seen a movie quite like ' Forrest Gump . ' Any attempt to describe him will risk making the movie seem more conventional than it is , but let me try . It 's a comedy , I guess . Or maybe a drama . Or a dream . The screenplay by Eric Roth has the complexity of modern fiction ... The performance is a breathtaking balancing act between comedy and sadness , in a story rich in big laughs and quiet truths ... What a magical movie . " Todd McCarthy of Variety wrote that the film " has been very well worked out on all levels , and manages the difficult feat of being an intimate , even delicate tale played with an appealingly light touch against an epic backdrop . " The film did receive notable pans from several major reviewers . Anthony Lane of The New Yorker called the film " Warm , wise , and wearisome as hell . " Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly said that the film " reduces the tumult of the last few decades to a virtual @-@ reality theme park : a baby @-@ boomer version of Disney 's America . "

Critics have compared Gump with various characters and people including Huckleberry Finn , Bill Clinton , and Ronald Reagan . Peter Chomo writes that Gump acts as a " social mediator and as an agent of redemption in divided times " . Peter Travers of Rolling Stone called Gump " everything we admire in the American character ? honest , brave , and loyal with a heart of gold . " The New York Times reviewer Janet Maslin called Gump a " hollow man " who is " self @-@ congratulatory in his blissful ignorance , warmly embraced as the embodiment of absolutely nothing . " Marc Vincenti of Palo Alto Weekly called the character " a pitiful stooge taking the pie of life in the face , thoughtfully licking his fingers . " Bruce Kawin and Gerald Mast 's textbook on film history notes that Forrest Gump 's dimness was a metaphor for glamorized nostalgia in that he represented a blank slate by which the Baby Boomer generation projected their memories of those events .

The film is commonly seen as a polarizing one for audiences , with Entertainment Weekly writing in 2004 , " Nearly a decade after it earned gazillions and swept the Oscars , Robert Zemeckis 's ode to 20th @-@ century America still represents one of cinema 's most clearly drawn lines in the sand . One half of folks see it as an artificial piece of pop melodrama , while everyone else raves that it 's sweet as a box of chocolates . "

= = = Box office performance = = =

Produced on a budget of \$ 55 million , Forrest Gump opened in 1 @, @ 595 theaters in its first weekend of domestic release , earning \$ 24 @, @ 450 @, @ 602 . Motion picture business consultant and screenwriter Jeffrey Hilton suggested to producer Wendy Finerman to double the P &

A ( film marketing budget ) based on his viewing of an early print of the film . The budget was immediately increased , per his advice . The film placed first in the weekend 's box office , narrowly beating The Lion King , which was in its fourth week of release . For the first ten weeks of its release , the film held the number one position at the box office . The film remained in theaters for 42 weeks , earning \$ 329 @. @ 7 million in the United States and Canada , making it the fourth @-@ highest grossing film at that time ( behind only E.T. the Extra @-@ Terrestrial , Star Wars IV : A New Hope , and Jurassic Park ) . Box Office Mojo estimates that the film sold over 78 @. @ 5 million tickets in the US in its initial theatrical run .

The film took 66 days to surpass \$ 250 million and was the fastest grossing Paramount film to pass \$ 100 million , \$ 200 million , and \$ 300 million in box office receipts ( at the time of its release ) . The film had gross receipts of \$ 329 @, @ 694 @, @ 499 in the U.S. and Canada and \$ 347 @, @ 693 @, @ 217 in international markets for a total of \$ 677 @, @ 387 @, @ 716 worldwide . Even with such revenue , the film was known as a " successful failure " ? due to distributors ' and exhibitors ' high fees , Paramount 's " losses " clocked in at \$ 62 million , leaving executives realizing the necessity of better deals . This has , however , also been associated with Hollywood accounting , where expenses are inflated in order to minimize profit sharing . It is Robert Zemeckis ' highest @-@ grossing film to date .

= = = Home media = = =

Forrest Gump was first released on VHS tape on April 27 , 1995 , as a two @-@ disc Laserdisc set on April 28 , 1995 , ( including the " Through the Eyes of Forrest " special feature ) , before being released in a two @-@ disc DVD set on August 28 , 2001 . Special features included director and producer commentaries , production featurettes , and screen tests . The film was released on Blu @-@ ray disc in November 2009 .

= = = Accolades = = =

Forrest Gump won Best Picture , Best Actor in a Leading Role , Best Director , Best Visual Effects , Best Adapted Screenplay , and Best Film Editing at the 67th Academy Awards . The film was nominated for seven Golden Globe Awards , winning three of them : Best Actor ? Motion Picture Drama , Best Director ? Motion Picture , and Best Motion Picture ? Drama . The film was also nominated for six Saturn Awards and won two for Best Fantasy Film and Best Supporting Actor ( Film ) .

In addition to the film 's multiple awards and nominations , it has also been recognized by the American Film Institute on several of its lists . The film ranks 37th on 100 Years ... 100 Cheers , 71st on 100 Years ... 100 Movies , and 76th on 100 Years ... 100 Movies ( 10th Anniversary Edition ) . In addition , the quote " Mama always said life was like a box of chocolates . You never know what you 're gonna get , " was ranked 40th on 100 Years ... 100 Movie Quotes . The film also ranked at number 240 on Empire 's list of the 500 Greatest Movies of All Time .

In December 2011 , Forrest Gump was selected for preservation in the Library of Congress ' National Film Registry . The Registry said that the film was " honored for its technological innovations ( the digital insertion of Gump seamlessly into vintage archival footage ) , its resonance within the culture that has elevated Gump ( and what he represents in terms of American innocence ) to the status of folk hero , and its attempt to engage both playfully and seriously with contentious aspects of the era 's traumatic history . "

American Film Institute Lists

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Movies ? # 71

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Laughs ? Nominated

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Passions ? Nominated

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Heroes and Villains :

Forrest Gump ? Nominated Hero

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Movie Quotes :

" Mama always said life was like a box of chocolates . You never know what you 're gonna get . " ?  
# 40

" Mama says , ' Stupid is as stupid does . ' " ? Nominated

AFI 's 100 Years of Film Scores ? Nominated

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Cheers ? # 37

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Movies ( 10th Anniversary Edition ) ? # 76

AFI 's 10 Top 10 ? Nominated Epic Film

= = Author controversy = =

Winston Groom was paid \$ 350 @, @ 000 for the screenplay rights to his novel Forrest Gump and was contracted for a 3 percent share of the film 's net profits . However , Paramount and the film 's producers did not pay him , using Hollywood accounting to posit that the blockbuster film lost money . Tom Hanks , by contrast , contracted for the film 's gross receipts instead of a salary , and he and director Zemeckis each received \$ 40 million . Additionally , Groom was not mentioned once in any of the film 's six Oscar @-@ winner speeches .

Groom 's dispute with Paramount was later effectively resolved after Groom declared he was satisfied with Paramount 's explanation of their accounting , this coinciding with Groom receiving a seven @-@ figure contract with Paramount for film rights to another of his books , Gump & Co .

= = Symbolism = =

= = = Feather = = =

Various interpretations have been suggested for the feather present at the opening and conclusion of the film . Sarah Lyall of The New York Times noted several suggestions made about the feather :  
" Does the white feather symbolize the unbearable lightness of being ? Forrest Gump 's impaired intellect ? The randomness of experience ? " Hanks interpreted the feather as : " Our destiny is only defined by how we deal with the chance elements to our life and that 's kind of the embodiment of the feather as it comes in . Here is this thing that can land anywhere and that it lands at your feet . It has theological implications that are really huge . " Sally Field compared the feather to fate , saying :  
" It blows in the wind and just touches down here or there . Was it planned or was it just perchance ? "  
" Visual effects supervisor Ken Ralston compared the feather to an abstract painting : " It can mean so many things to so many different people . "

= = = Political interpretations = = =

In Tom Hanks ' words , " The film is non @-@ political and thus non @-@ judgmental . " Nevertheless , in 1994 , CNN 's Crossfire debated whether the film promoted conservative values or was an indictment of the counterculture movement of the 1960s . Thomas Byers , in a Modern Fiction Studies article , called the film " an aggressively conservative film " .

It has been noted that while Gump follows a very conservative lifestyle , Jenny 's life is full of countercultural embrace , complete with drug usage , promiscuity , and antiwar rallies , and that their eventual marriage might be a kind of reconciliation . Jennifer Hyland Wang argued in a Cinema Journal article that Jenny 's death to an unnamed virus " ... symbolizes the death of liberal America and the death of the protests that defined a decade [ 1960s ] . " She also notes the film 's screenwriter , Eric Roth , when developing the screenplay from the novel , had " ... transferred all of Gump 's flaws and most of the excesses committed by Americans in the 1960s and 1970s to her [ Jenny ] . "

Other commentators believe the film forecast the 1994 Republican Revolution and used the image of Forrest Gump to promote movement leader Newt Gingrich 's traditional , conservative values . Jennifer Hyland Wang observes the film idealizes the 1950s , as made evident by the lack of "

whites only " signs in Gump 's southern childhood , and " revisions " the 1960s as a period of social conflict and confusion . She argues this sharp contrast between the decades criticizes the counterculture values and reaffirms conservatism . As viewed by political scientist Joe Paskett , this film is " one of the best films of all time " . Wang argued the film was used by Republican politicians to illustrate a " traditional version of recent history " to gear voters towards their ideology for the congressional elections . In addition , presidential candidate Bob Dole cited the film 's message in influencing his campaign due to its " ... message that has made [ the film ] one of Hollywood 's all @-@ time greatest box office hits : no matter how great the adversity , the American Dream is within everybody 's reach . "

In 1995 , National Review included Forrest Gump in its list of the " Best 100 Conservative Movies " of all time . Then , in 2009 , the magazine ranked the film number four on its 25 Best Conservative Movies of the Last 25 Years list . " Tom Hanks plays the title character , an amiable dunce who is far too smart to embrace the lethal values of the 1960s . The love of his life , wonderfully played by Robin Wright Penn , chooses a different path ; she becomes a drug @-@ addled hippie , with disastrous results . "

James Burton , a communication arts professor at Salisbury University , argued that conservatives claimed Forrest Gump as their own due less to the content of the film and more to the historical and cultural context of 1994 . Burton claimed the film 's content and advertising campaign were affected by the cultural climate of the 1990s , which emphasized family values and " American values " ? values epitomized in the successful book Hollywood vs. America . He claimed this climate influenced the apolitical nature of the film , which allowed for many different political interpretations .

Burton points out that many conservative critics and magazines ( John Simon , James Bowman , the World Report ) initially either criticized the film or praised it only for its non @-@ political elements . Only after the popularity of the film was well @-@ established did conservatives embrace the film as an affirmation of traditional values . Burton implies the liberal @-@ left could have prevented the conservatives from claiming rights to the film , had it chosen to vocalize elements of the film such as its criticism of military values . Instead , the liberal @-@ left focused on what the film omitted , such as the feminist and civil rights movements .

Some commentators see the conservative readings of Forrest Gump as indicants of the death of irony in American culture . Vivian Sobchack notes that the film 's humor and irony relies on the assumption of the audience 's historical ( self- ) consciousness .

= = Soundtrack = =

The 32 @-@ song soundtrack from the film was released on July 6 , 1994 . With the exception of a lengthy suite from Alan Silvestri 's score , all the songs are previously released ; the soundtrack includes songs from Elvis Presley , Fleetwood Mac , Creedence Clearwater Revival , Aretha Franklin , Lynyrd Skynyrd , Three Dog Night , The Byrds , The Doors , The Mamas & the Papas , The Doobie Brothers , Simon & Garfunkel , Bob Seger , and Buffalo Springfield among others . Music producer Joel Sill reflected on compiling the soundtrack : " We wanted to have very recognizable material that would pinpoint time periods , yet we didn 't want to interfere with what was happening cinematically . " The two @-@ disc album has a variety of music from the 1950s ? 1980s performed by American artists . According to Sills , this was due to Zemeckis ' request , " All the material in there is American . Bob ( Zemeckis ) felt strongly about it . He felt that Forrest wouldn 't buy anything but American . "

The soundtrack reached a peak of number 2 on the Billboard album chart . The soundtrack went on to sell twelve million copies , and is one of the top selling albums in the United States . The score for the film was composed and conducted by Alan Silvestri and released on August 2 , 1994 .

= = Proposed sequel = =

The screenplay for the sequel was written by Eric Roth in 2001 . It is based on the original novel 's sequel , Gump and Co. written by Winston Groom in 1995 . Roth 's script begins with Forrest sitting



on a bench waiting for his son to return from school . After the September 11 attacks , Roth , Zemeckis , and Hanks decided the story was no longer " relevant . " In March 2007 , however , it was reported Paramount producers took another look at the screenplay .

On the very first page of the sequel novel , Forrest Gump tells readers " Don 't never let nobody make a movie of your life 's story , " though " Whether they get it right or wrong , it doesn 't matter . " The first chapter of the book suggests the real @-@ life events surrounding the film have been incorporated into Forrest 's storyline , and that Forrest got a lot of media attention as a result of the film . During the course of the sequel novel , Gump runs into Tom Hanks and at the end of the novel in the film 's release , including Gump going on The David Letterman Show and attending the Academy Awards .