

= 12 Monkeys =

12 Monkeys , also known as Twelve Monkeys , is a 1995 American neo @-@ noir science fiction film directed by Terry Gilliam , inspired by Chris Marker 's 1962 short film La Jetée , and starring Bruce Willis , Madeleine Stowe , and Brad Pitt , with Christopher Plummer and David Morse in supporting roles . After Universal Studios acquired the rights to remake La Jetée as a full @-@ length film , David and Janet Peoples were hired to write the script .

Under Gilliam 's direction , Universal granted the filmmakers a \$ 29 @.@ 5 million budget , and filming lasted from February to May 1995 . The film was shot mostly in Philadelphia and Baltimore , where the story was set .

The film was released to critical praise and grossed \$ 168 million worldwide . Pitt was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor , and won a Golden Globe for his performance . The film also won and was nominated for various categories at the Saturn Awards .

= = Plot = =

A deadly virus wipes out almost all of humanity in 1996 , forcing remaining survivors to live underground . A mysterious group known as the Army of the Twelve Monkeys is believed to be behind the virus . In 2035 , James Cole (Willis) is a prisoner living in a subterranean shelter beneath the ruins of Philadelphia . Cole is selected for a mission , where he is trained and sent back in time to collect information on the virus in order to help scientists develop a cure . Meanwhile , Cole is troubled by recurring dreams involving a foot chase and an airport shooting .

Cole arrives in Baltimore in 1990 , not 1996 as planned . He is arrested , then hospitalized in a mental institution on the diagnosis of Dr. Kathryn Raily (Stowe) . There he encounters Jeffrey Goines (Pitt) , a fellow mental patient with fanatical views . After an escape attempt , Cole is locked in a cell , but soon disappears , returning to the future . Back in his own time , Cole is interviewed by the scientists , who play a distorted voicemail message which discloses the location of the Army of the Twelve Monkeys and asserts their association with the virus . He is also shown photos of numerous people suspected of being involved , including Goines . He is given a second chance to go back in time , but another error results in him arriving at a battlefield of World War I. He is wounded in the leg and then suddenly sent to 1996 .

In 1996 , Raily gives a lecture about the Cassandra complex to a group of scientists . At the post @-@ lecture book signing , Dr. Peters (Morse) questions her about mankind 's sustainability on earth and points out that humanity 's gradual destruction of the environment may be the real lunacy . Cole arrives at the venue after seeing flyers publicizing it , and when Raily departs , he kidnaps her and forces her to take him to Philadelphia . They learn that Goines is the founder of the Army of the Twelve Monkeys , and set out in search of him . When they confront him , however , Goines denies any involvement with the virus and says that wiping out humanity was Cole 's idea at the asylum in 1990 .

Cole convinces himself that he is insane , but Raily confronts him with evidence of his time travel . They decide to spend their remaining time together in the Florida Keys before the onset of the plague . On their way to the airport , they learn that the Army of the Twelve Monkeys was not the source of the epidemic ; the group 's major act of protest is releasing animals from a zoo and placing Goines ' Nobel Prize winning virologist father (Plummer) in an animal cage .

At the airport , Cole leaves a last message telling the scientists that in following the Army of the Twelve Monkeys they are on the wrong track , and that he will not return . He is soon confronted by Jose (Seda) , an acquaintance from his own time , who gives Cole a handgun and ambiguously instructs him to follow orders . At the same time , Raily spots Dr. Peters , and recognizes him from a newspaper photograph as an assistant at Goines ' father 's virology lab . Peters is about to embark on a tour of several cities that match the locations and sequence of the viral outbreaks .

Cole forces his way through a security checkpoint in pursuit of Peters . After drawing the gun he was given , Cole is fatally shot by police . As Cole lies dying in Raily 's arms , she makes eye contact with a small boy ? the young James Cole witnessing the scene of his own death , which will

replay in his dreams for years to come . Peters , aboard the plane with the virus , sits down next to Jones (Florence) , one of the scientists from the future .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

The genesis of 12 Monkeys came from executive producer Robert Kosberg , who had been a fan of the French short film *La Jetée* (1962) . Kosberg persuaded the film 's director , Chris Marker , to let him pitch the project to Universal Pictures , seeing it as a perfect basis for a full @-@ length science fiction film . Universal reluctantly agreed to purchase the remake rights and hired David and Janet Peoples to write the screenplay . Producer Charles Roven chose Terry Gilliam to direct , because he believed the filmmaker 's style was perfect for 12 Monkeys ' nonlinear storyline and time travel subplot . Gilliam had just abandoned a film adaptation of *A Tale of Two Cities* when he signed to direct 12 Monkeys . The film also represents the second film for which Gilliam did not write or co @-@ write the screenplay . Although he prefers to direct his own scripts , he was captivated by Peoples ' " intriguing and intelligent script . The story is disconcerting . It deals with time , madness and a perception of what the world is or isn 't . It is a study of madness and dreams , of death and re @-@ birth , set in a world coming apart . "

Universal took longer than expected to approve 12 Monkeys , although Gilliam had two stars (Willis and Pitt) and a firm budget of \$ 29 @.@ 5 million (low for a Hollywood science fiction film) . Universal 's production of *Waterworld* (1995) had resulted in various cost overruns . To get 12 Monkeys approved for production , Gilliam persuaded Willis to lower his normal asking price . Because of Universal 's strict production incentives and his history with the studio on *Brazil* , Gilliam received final cut privilege . The Writers Guild of America was skeptical of the " inspired by " credit for *La Jetée* and Chris Marker .

= = = Casting = = =

Gilliam 's initial casting choices were Nick Nolte as James Cole and Jeff Bridges as Jeffrey Goines , but Universal objected . Gilliam , who first met Bruce Willis while casting Jeff Bridges ' role in *The Fisher King* (1991) , believed Willis evoked Cole 's characterization as being " somebody who is strong and dangerous but also vulnerable . " The actor had a trio of tattoos drawn onto his scalp and neck each day when filming : one that indicated his prisoner number , and a pair of barcodes on each side of his neck .

Gilliam cast Madeleine Stowe as Dr. Kathryn Raily because he was impressed by her performance in *Blink* (1994) . The director first met Stowe when he was casting his abandoned film adaptation of *A Tale of Two Cities* . " She has this incredible ethereal beauty and she 's incredibly intelligent " , Gilliam said of Stowe . " Those two things rest very easily with her , and the film needed those elements because it has to be romantic . "

Gilliam originally believed that Pitt was not right for the role of Jeffrey Goines , but the casting director convinced him otherwise . Pitt was cast for a comparatively small salary , as he was still relatively unknown at the time . By the time of 12 Monkeys ' release , however , *Interview with the Vampire : The Vampire Chronicles* (1994) , *Legends of the Fall* (1994) , and *Se7en* (1995) had been released , making Pitt an A @-@ list actor , which drew greater attention to the film and boosted its box @-@ office standing . In Philadelphia , months before filming , Pitt spent weeks at Temple University 's hospital , visiting and studying the psychiatric ward to prepare for his role .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography lasted from February 8 to May 6 , 1995 . Shooting on location in Philadelphia and Baltimore (including the Senator Theatre) in winter was fraught with weather problems . There were also technical glitches with the futuristic mechanical props . Because the film has a nonlinear storyline , continuity errors occurred , and some scenes had to be reshot . Gilliam also injured himself when he went horseback riding . Despite setbacks , however , the director managed to stay within the budget and was only a week behind his shooting schedule . " It was a tough shoot " , acknowledged Jeffrey Beecroft (Mr. Brooks , Dances with Wolves) , the production designer . " There wasn 't a lot of money or enough time . Terry is a perfectionist , but he was really adamant about not going over budget . He got crucified for Munchausen , and that still haunts him . "

The filmmakers were not allowed the luxury of sound stages ; thus , they had to find abandoned buildings or landmarks to use . The exteriors of the climactic airport scene were shot at the Baltimore @-@ Washington International Airport , while the interior scenes were shot at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (formerly , Reading Terminal) . Filming at the psychiatric hospital was done at the Eastern State Penitentiary .

= = = Design = = =

Gilliam used the same filmmaking style as he had in Brazil (1985) , including the art direction and cinematography (specifically using fresnel lenses) . The appearance of the interrogation room where Cole is being interviewed by the scientists was based on the work of Lebbeus Woods ; these scenes were shot at three different power stations (two in Philadelphia and one in Baltimore) . Gilliam intended to show Cole being interviewed through a multi @-@ screen interrogation TV set because he felt the machinery evoked a " nightmarish intervention of technology . You try to see the faces on the screens in front of you , but the real faces and voices are down there and you have these tiny voices in your ear . To me that 's the world we live in , the way we communicate these days , through technical devices that pretend to be about communication but may not be . "

The art department made sure that the 2035 underground world would only use pre @-@ 1996 technology as a means to depict the bleakness of the future . Gilliam , Beecroft , and Crispian Sallis (set decorator) went to several flea markets and salvage warehouses looking for materials to decorate the sets . The majority of visual effects sequences were created by Peerless Camera , the London @-@ based effects studio that Gilliam founded in the late 1970s with visual effects supervisor Kent Houston (The Golden Compass , Casino Royale) . Additional digital compositing was done by The Mill , while Cinesite provided film scanning services .

= = = Music = = =

The film 's score was composed , arranged , and conducted by English musician Paul Buckmaster . The main theme is based on Argentine tango musician / composer Ástor Piazzolla 's Suite Punta del Este .

= = Themes = =

= = = Memory , time , and technology = = =

12 Monkeys studies the subjective nature of memories and their effect upon perceptions of reality . Examples of false memories include Cole 's recollection of the airport shooting , altered each time he has the dream , and a " mentally divergent " man at the asylum who has false memories .

References to time , time travel , and monkeys are scattered throughout the film , including the Woody Woodpecker cartoon " Time Tunnel " playing on the TV in a hotel room , the Marx Brothers film Monkey Business (1931) on TV in the asylum and the subplots of monkeys (drug testing , news stories and animal rights) . The film is also a study of modern civilization 's declining efforts to

communicate with each other due to the interference of technology .

= = = Allusions to other films and media = = =

12 Monkeys is inspired by the French short film *La Jetée* (1962) ; as in *La Jetée* , characters are haunted by the image of their own death . Like *La Jetée* , 12 Monkeys contains references to Alfred Hitchcock 's *Vertigo* (1958) . Toward the end of the film , Cole and Raily hide in a theater showing a 24 @-@ hour Hitchcock marathon and watch a scene from *Vertigo* . Raily then transforms herself with a blonde wig , as Judy (Kim Novak) transformed herself into blonde Madeleine in *Vertigo* ; Cole sees her emerge within a red light , as Scottie (James Stewart) saw Judy emerge within a green light . Brief notes of Bernard Herrmann 's film score can also be heard . Raily also wears the same coat Novak wore in the first part of *Vertigo* . The scene at Muir Woods National Monument , where Judy (as Madeleine) looks at the growth rings of a felled redwood and traces back events in her past life , resonates with larger themes in 12 Monkeys . Cole and Raily later have a similar conversation while the same music from *Vertigo* is repeated . The Muir Woods scene in *Vertigo* is also re @-@ enacted in *La Jetée* . In a previous scene in the film , Cole wakes up in a hospital bed with scientists of the future talking to him in chorus . This is a direct homage to the " Dry Bones " scene in Dennis Potter 's *The Singing Detective* . Posters for the recently renamed English rock band Muse cover the buildings in 1996 Philadelphia with a modified version of their 1998 EP . The then @-@ obscure band would later win the Grammy Award for Best Rock Album in 2011 and 2016 . The character James Cole is a notable christ figure in film . The film is significant in the genre of science @-@ fiction film noir , and it alludes to various " canonical noir " films .

= = Release = =

= = = Box office = = =

12 Monkeys was given a limited release in the United States on December 29 , 1995 . When the 1 @,@ 629 theater wide release came on January 5 , 1996 , the film earned \$ 13 @.@ 84 million in its opening weekend . 12 Monkeys eventually grossed \$ 57 @,@ 141 @,@ 459 in US totals and \$ 111 @,@ 698 @,@ 000 in other countries , coming to a worldwide total of \$ 168 @,@ 839 @,@ 459 . The film was able to hold the # 1 spot on box office charts for two weeks in January , before dropping due to competition from *From Dusk till Dawn* , *Mr. Holland 's Opus* and *Black Sheep* .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Based on 59 reviews collected by Rotten Tomatoes , 88 % of the critics gave the film positive reviews , with an average rating of 7 @.@ 4 / 10 . The consensus reads : " The plot 's a bit of a jumble , but excellent performances and mind @-@ blowing plot twists make 12 Monkeys a kooky , effective experience . " By comparison , Metacritic calculated a 74 out of 100 rating , based on 20 reviews .

Roger Ebert observed 12 Monkeys ' depiction of the future , finding similarities with *Blade Runner* (1982 ; also scripted by David Peoples) and *Brazil* (1985 ; also directed by Terry Gilliam) . " The film is a celebration of madness and doom , with a hero who tries to prevail against the chaos of his condition , and is inadequate " , Ebert wrote . " This vision is a cold , dark , damp one , and even the romance between Willis and Stowe feels desperate rather than joyous . All of this is done very well , and the more you know about movies (especially the technical side) , the more you 're likely to admire it . And as entertainment , it appeals more to the mind than to the senses . "

Desson Thomson of *The Washington Post* praised the art direction and set design . " Willis and Pitts 's performances , Gilliam 's atmospherics and an exhilarating momentum easily outweigh such trifling flaws in the script " , Thomson reasoned . Peter Travers from *Rolling Stone* magazine cited the film 's success on Gilliam 's direction and Willis ' performance . Internet reviewer James

Berardinelli believed the filmmakers took an intelligent and creative motive for the time travel subplot . Rather than being sent to change the past , James Cole is instead observing it to make a better future . Richard Corliss of Time magazine felt the film 's time travel aspect and apocalyptic depiction of a bleaker future were clichés . " In its frantic mix of chaos , carnage and zoo animals , 12 Monkeys is Jumanji for adults " , Corliss wrote .

== = Accolades == =

Pitt was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor , but lost to Kevin Spacey in The Usual Suspects . Costume designer Julie Weiss was also nominated for her work , but lost to James Acheson of Restoration . However , Pitt was able to win a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture .

Gilliam was honored for his directing duties at the 46th Berlin International Film Festival . 12 Monkeys received positive notices from the science fiction community . The film was nominated for the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation and the Academy of Science Fiction , Fantasy & Horror Films awarded 12 Monkeys the Saturn Award for Best Science Fiction Film . Pitt and Weiss also won awards at the 22nd Saturn Awards . Bruce Willis , Madeleine Stowe , Gilliam and writers David and Janet Peoples received nominations .

== = Home media == =

Universal Studios Home Entertainment 's special edition of 12 Monkeys , released on May 10 , 2005 , contains an audio commentary by director Terry Gilliam and producer Charles Roven , The Hamster Factor and Other Tales of Twelve Monkeys (a making @-@ of documentary) and production notes . An HD DVD of 12 Monkeys was released on March 4 , 2008 , and includes the same special features as the special edition DVD . A Blu @-@ ray Disc of 12 Monkeys was released on July 28 , 2009 , and includes the same special features as the previous special edition DVD and HD DVD .

== Post @-@ release ==

== = Lebbeus Woods lawsuit == =

In the beginning of the film , Cole is brought into the interrogation room and told to sit in a chair attached to a vertical rail on the wall . A sphere supported by a metal armature is suspended directly in front of him , probing for weaknesses as the inquisitors interrogate him . Architect Lebbeus Woods filed a lawsuit against Universal in February 1996 , claiming that his work " Neomechanical Tower (Upper) Chamber " was used without permission . Woods won his lawsuit , requiring Universal to remove the scenes , but he ultimately allowed their inclusion in exchange for a " high six @-@ figure cash settlement " from Universal .

== = Trilogy claims == =

After the release of The Zero Theorem in 2013 , claims were made that Gilliam had meant it as part of a trilogy . A 2013 review for The Guardian newspaper said ; " Calling it [The Zero Theorem] the third part of a trilogy formed by earlier dystopian satires Brazil and Twelve Monkeys [sic] [...] " ; however , Gilliam was interviewed by Alex Suskind for Indiewire in late 2014 , saying " Well , it ? s funny , this trilogy was never something I ever said , but it ? s been repeated so often it ? s clearly true [laughs] . I don ? t know who started it but once it started it never stopped " .

== = TV adaptation == =

On August 26 , 2013 , Entertainment Weekly announced that Syfy was developing a 12 Monkeys television series based on the film . Production began in November 2013 . The pilot was written by Terry Matalas and Travis Fickett , who had written for the series Terra Nova . Due to the series being labeled as " cast contingent " , the series did not move forward until the roles of Cole and Goines were cast . In April 2014 , Syfy green @-@ lighted the first season , which consisted of 13 episodes , including the pilot filmed in 2013 . The series premiered on January 16 , 2015 . On March 12 , 2015 , the series was renewed for a second season that began airing in April 2016 . On June 29 , 2016 , the series was renewed for a 10 @-@ episode third season , set to premiere in 2017 .