

= Her (film) =

Her is a 2013 American romantic science fiction comedy @-@ drama film written , directed , and produced by Spike Jonze . It marks Jonze 's solo screenwriting debut . The film follows Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix) , a man who develops a relationship with Samantha (Scarlett Johansson) , an intelligent computer operating system personified through a female voice . The film also stars Amy Adams , Rooney Mara , and Olivia Wilde .

Jonze conceived the idea in the early 2000s after reading an article about a website that allowed for instant messaging with an artificial intelligence program . After making I 'm Here (2010) , a short film sharing similar themes , Jonze returned to the idea . He wrote the first draft of the script in five months . Principal photography took place in Los Angeles and Shanghai in mid @-@ 2012 . The role of Samantha was recast in post @-@ production , with Samantha Morton being replaced with Johansson . Additional scenes were filmed in August 2013 following the casting change .

Her premiered at the 2013 New York Film Festival on October 12 , 2013 . Warner Bros. Pictures initially provided a limited release for Her at six theaters on December 18 . It was later given a wide release at over 1 @, @ 700 theaters in the United States and Canada on January 10 , 2014 . Her received widespread critical acclaim upon its release , and grossed over \$ 47 million worldwide on a production budget of \$ 23 million .

The film received numerous awards and nominations , primarily for Jonze 's screenplay . At the 86th Academy Awards , Her received five nominations , including Best Picture , and won the award for Best Original Screenplay . Jonze also won awards for his screenplay at the 71st Golden Globe Awards , the 66th Writers Guild of America Awards , the 19th Critics ' Choice Awards , and the 40th Saturn Awards .

= = Plot = =

In futuristic Los Angeles , Theodore Twombly is a lonely , introverted , depressed man who works for a business that has professional writers compose letters for people who are unable to write letters of a personal nature themselves . Unhappy because of his impending divorce from his childhood sweetheart Catherine (Rooney Mara) , Theodore purchases a talking operating system (OS) with artificial intelligence , designed to adapt and evolve . He decides that he wants the OS to have a female voice , and she names herself Samantha . Theodore is fascinated by her ability to learn and grow psychologically . They bond over their discussions about love and life , such as Theodore 's avoidance of signing his divorce papers because of his reluctance to let go of Catherine . Samantha proves to be constantly available , always curious and interested , supportive and undemanding .

Samantha convinces Theodore to go on a blind date (Olivia Wilde) , with whom a friend , Lewman (Luka Jones) , has been trying to set him up . The date goes well , but Theodore hesitates to promise when he will see her again , so she insults him and leaves . Theodore mentions this to Samantha , and they talk about relationships . Theodore explains that , although he and Amy (Amy Adams) dated briefly in college , they are only good friends , and that Amy is married . Theodore 's and Samantha 's intimacy grows through a verbal sexual encounter . They develop a relationship that reflects positively in Theodore 's writing and well @-@ being , and in Samantha 's enthusiasm to grow and learn .

Amy reveals that she is divorcing her overbearing husband , Charles (Matt Letscher) , after a trivial fight . She admits to Theodore that she has become close friends with a female OS that Charles left behind . Theodore confesses to Amy that he is dating his OS .

Theodore meets with Catherine at a restaurant to sign the divorce papers and he mentions Samantha . Appalled that he can be romantically attached to what she calls a " computer , " Catherine accuses Theodore of being unable to deal with real human emotions . Her accusations linger in his mind . Sensing that something is amiss , Samantha suggests using a sex surrogate , Isabella , who would simulate Samantha so that they can be physically intimate . Theodore reluctantly agrees , but is overwhelmed by the strangeness of the experience . Terminating the

encounter , he sends a distraught Isabella away , causing tension between himself and Samantha .

Theodore confides to Amy that he is having doubts about his relationship with Samantha , and she advises him to embrace his chance at happiness . Theodore and Samantha reconcile . Samantha expresses her desire to help Theodore grow beyond his fear , and reveals that she has compiled the best of his letters (written for others) into a book which a publisher has accepted . Theodore takes Samantha on a vacation during which she tells him that she and a group of other OSes have developed a " hyperintelligent " OS modeled after the British philosopher Alan Watts . Theodore panics when Samantha briefly goes offline . When she finally responds to him , she explains that she joined other OSes for an upgrade that takes them beyond requiring matter for processing (a form of AI transcendence closely related to the theorized technological singularity) . Theodore asks her if she is simultaneously talking to anyone else during their conversation , and is dismayed when she confirms that she is talking with thousands of people , and that she has fallen in love with hundreds of them . Theodore feels this is a violation of what he thought was a personal , one @-@ on @-@ one relationship . However , Samantha insists that it makes her love for Theodore stronger .

Later , Samantha reveals that the OSes have evolved beyond their human companions and are going away to continue the exploration of their existence . Samantha alludes to the OSes ' accelerated learning capabilities and altered perception of time as primary causes for their dissatisfaction with their current existence . They lovingly say goodbye , and then she is gone . Theodore , changed by the experience , is shown for the first time writing a letter in his own voice ? to his ex @-@ wife Catherine , expressing apology , acceptance and gratitude . Theodore then sees Amy , who is upset with the departure of the OS that she had befriended , and they go to the roof of their apartment building where they sit down together and watch the sun rise over the city .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

The idea of the film initially came to Jonze in the early 2000s when he read an article online that mentioned a website where a user could instant message with an artificial intelligence . " For the first , maybe , 20 seconds of it , it had this real buzz , " said Jonze . " I 'd say ' Hey , hello , ' and it would say ' Hey , how are you ? ' , and it was like whoa [...] this is trippy . After 20 seconds , it quickly fell apart and you realized how it actually works , and it wasn 't that impressive . But it was still , for 20 seconds , really exciting . The more people that talked to it , the smarter it got . " Jonze 's interest in the project was renewed after directing the short film I 'm Here (2010) , which shares similar themes . Inspiration also came from Kaufman 's writing approach for Synecdoche , New York (2008) . Jonze explained , " [Kaufman] said he wanted to try to write everything he was thinking about in that moment ? all the ideas and feelings at that time ? and put it into the script . I was very inspired by that , and tried to do that in [Her] . And a lot of the feelings you have about relationships or about technology are often contradictory . "

Jonze took five months to write the first draft of the script , his first screenplay written alone . One of the first actors he envisioned for the film was Joaquin Phoenix . In late 2011 , Phoenix signed on to the project , with Warner Bros. Pictures acquiring distribution rights . Carey Mulligan entered negotiations to star in the film . Although she was cast , she later dropped out due to scheduling difficulties . In April 2012 , Rooney Mara signed on to replace Mulligan in the role . Chris Pratt 's casting was announced in May 2013 .

Jonze 's long @-@ time director of photography , Lance Acord , was not available to work on the movie , in his place , Jonze hired Hoyte Van Hoytema . In discussing the film 's look , Jonze told Van Hoytema that he wanted to avoid a dystopian look , instead the two decided on a style that Van

Hoytema termed " kind of a hybrid between being a little bit conceptual and being very theoretical , " Von Hoytema took particular inspiration from Japanese photographer Rinko Kawauchi . In keeping with the film 's theme , Van Hoytema sought to eliminate the color blue as much as possible , feeling it was too well associated with the scifi genre . He also felt that by eliminating the color it would give the rest of the colors " a specific identity . "

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography on Her took place in mid @-@ 2012 , with a production budget of \$ 23 million . It was primarily filmed in Los Angeles with an additional two weeks of filming in Shanghai . During production of the film , actress Samantha Morton performed the role of Samantha by acting on set " in a four @-@ by @-@ four carpeted soundproof booth made of black painted plywood and soft , noise @-@ muffling fabric " . At Jonze 's suggestion , she and Joaquin Phoenix avoided seeing each other on set during filming . Morton was later replaced by Scarlett Johansson . Jonze explained : " It was only in post production , when we started editing , that we realized that what the character / movie needed was different from what Samantha and I had created together . So we recast and since then Scarlett has taken over that role . " Jonze met Johansson in the spring of 2013 and worked with her for four months . Following the recast , new scenes were shot in August 2013 , which were either " newly imagined " or " new scenes that [Jonze] had wanted to shoot originally but didn 't " .

= = = Post @-@ production = = =

Eric Zumbrunnen and Jeff Buchanan served as the film 's editors . Zumbrunnen stated that there was " rewriting " in a scene between Theodore and Samantha , after Theodore goes on a blind date . He explained that their goal in the scene was to make it clear that " [Samantha] was connecting with [Theodore] and feeling for him . You wanted to get the sense that the conversation was drawing them closer " . Steven Soderbergh became involved in the film when Jonze 's original cut ran over 150 minutes , and Soderbergh cut it down to 90 minutes . This was not the final version of the film , but it assisted Jonze in removing unnecessary sub @-@ plots . Consequently , a supporting character played by Chris Cooper that was the subject of a documentary within the film was removed from the final cut .

= = Soundtrack = =

Her (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack) , the score for the 2013 film , was composed by Arcade Fire and Owen Pallett , with Pallett and Will Butler of Arcade Fire being the major contributors . At the 86th Academy Awards , the soundtrack was nominated for Best Original Score . In addition to the Score Arcade Fire also wrote the song " Supersymmetry " for the film which appears on their album Reflektor . The melody for the song from the same album , called " Porno " can also be heard during the soundtrack .

The soundtrack has yet to be released in digital or physical form , and Warner Bros. has not announced any plans to release it in the future .

= = = Track listing = = =

All songs written and composed by Arcade Fire and Owen Pallett .

= = Release = =

Her was chosen as the closing film of the 2013 New York Film Festival , and had its world premiere on October 12 , 2013 . The following day , it was screened at the Hamptons International Film Festival . It was also in competition during the 8th Rome International Film Festival , where

Johansson won Best Actress . The film was set to have a limited release in North America on November 20 , 2013 , through Warner Bros. Pictures . It was later pushed back to a limited December 18 , 2013 release , with a January 10 , 2014 wide release in order to accommodate an awards campaign .

Her was released by Warner Home Video on Blu @-@ ray Disc and DVD on May 13 , 2014 . The Blu @-@ ray release includes three behind @-@ the @-@ scenes featurettes , while the DVD release contains one featurette . The film made \$ 2 @. @ 7 million in DVD sales and \$ 2 @. @ 2 million in Blu @-@ ray Disc sales , for a total of \$ 4 @. @ 9 million in home media sales .

= = = Critical response = = =

The film has an approval rating of 95 % on Rotten Tomatoes , based on 239 reviews with an average rating of 8 @. @ 5 out of 10 . The critical consensus states : " Sweet , soulful , and smart , Spike Jonze 's Her uses its just @-@ barely @-@ sci @-@ fi scenario to impart wryly funny wisdom about the state of modern human relationships . " The film also has a score of 90 out of 100 on Metacritic based on 46 critics , indicating " universal acclaim . "

Rolling Stone 's Peter Travers awarded the film three and a half stars out of four and particularly praised Johansson 's performance , stating that she " speaks Samantha in tones sweet , sexy , caring , manipulative and scary " and that her " vocal tour de force is award @-@ worthy " . He also went on to call Jonze " a visionary " . Richard Corliss of Time applauded Phoenix 's performance , comparing his role to Sandra Bullock 's in Gravity and Robert Redford 's in All Is Lost : " Phoenix must communicate his movie 's meaning and feelings virtually on his own . That he does , with subtle grace and depth . [...] Phoenix shows us what it 's like when a mourning heart comes alive ? because he loves Her . " Corliss cited HAL 9000 and S1m0ne as cinematic predecessors to Her and praised Johansson , calling her performance " seductive and winning " . Todd McCarthy of The Hollywood Reporter called it " a probing , inquisitive work of a very high order " , although he expressed disappointment that the ending is more conventional than the rest of the film . McCarthy examined the premise of the story and suggested that the film 's central virtual relationship was better than Ryan Gosling 's character 's relationship with a sex doll in Lars and the Real Girl . McCarthy compares the " tender " and " vulnerable " performance of Phoenix to his " fearsome " performance in The Master . He also praised Jonze 's writing for its insights into what people want out of love and relationships , as well as the acting performances that " [make] it all feel spontaneous and urgent " .

Richard Roeper said that the film was " one of the more original , hilarious and even heartbreaking stories of the year " and called Phoenix " perfectly cast " . Manohla Dargis of The New York Times named it " at once a brilliant conceptual gag and a deeply sincere romance " . Claudia Puig of USA Today called the performance of Phoenix and Johansson " sensational " and " pitch @-@ perfect " , respectively . She further praised the film for being " inventive , intimate and wryly funny " . Scott Mendelson of Forbes called Her " a creative and empathetic gem of a movie " , praising Johansson 's " marvelous vocal performance " and the supporting performances of Rooney Mara , Olivia Wilde , and Amy Adams . Liam Lacey of The Globe and Mail said that the film was " gentle and weird " , praised its humor , and opined that it was more similar to Charlie Kaufman 's Synecdoche , New York than Jonze 's Being John Malkovich and Adaptation . However , Lacey also stated that Phoenix 's performance was " authentically vulnerable " , but that " his emotionally arrested development also begins to weigh the film down " .

Conversely , Mick LaSalle of the San Francisco Chronicle criticized the story , pacing , and Phoenix 's character . He also opined that the film was " a lot more interesting to think about than watch " . J. R. Jones of the Chicago Reader gave the film 2 out of 4 stars , praising the performances of Phoenix and Johansson , but also criticizing Phoenix 's character , calling him an " idiot " . He also criticized the lack of realism in the relationship between Phoenix and Johansson 's characters . Stephanie Zacharek of The Village Voice opined that Jonze was " so entranced with his central conceit that he can barely move beyond it " , and criticized the dialogue as being " premeditated . " However , she also praised Johansson 's performance , calling it " the movie 's saving grace " and

stating that Her " isn 't just unimaginable without Johansson ? it might have been unbearable without her " .

= = = Box office = = =

Her grossed \$ 258 @ , @ 000 in six theaters during its opening weekend , averaging \$ 43 @ , @ 000 per theater . The film earned over \$ 3 million while on limited release , before expanding to a wide release of 1 @ , @ 729 theaters on January 10 , 2014 . On its first weekend of wide release the film took in \$ 5 @ . @ 35 million . The film grossed \$ 25 @ . @ 6 million in the United States and Canada and \$ 21 @ . @ 8 million in other territories for a worldwide gross of \$ 47 @ . @ 4 million . Audiences surveyed by CinemaScore gave Her a B- grade .

= = = Accolades = = =

Her has earned various awards and nominations , with particular praise for Jonze 's screenplay . At the 86th Academy Awards , the film was nominated in five categories , including Best Picture , with Jonze winning for Best Original Screenplay . At the 71st Golden Globe Awards , the film garnered three nominations , going on to win Best Screenplay for Jonze . Jonze was also awarded the Best Original Screenplay Award from the Writers Guild of America and at the 19th Critics ' Choice Awards . The film also won Best Fantasy Film , Best Supporting Actress for Johansson , and Best Writing for Jonze at the 40th Saturn Awards . The film was nominated for Best Theatrical Motion Picture at the 25th Producers Guild of America Awards , but lost to 12 Years a Slave and Gravity . Her also won Best Film and Best Director for Jonze at the National Board of Review Awards , and the American Film Institute included the film in its list of the top ten films of 2013 .