

= James Dean (film) =

James Dean is a 2001 biographical television film based on the life of the American actor James Dean . James Franco plays the title role under the direction of Mark Rydell , who chronicles Dean 's rise from a struggling actor to an A @-@ list movie star in 1950s Hollywood . The film 's supporting roles included director Rydell , Michael Moriarty , Valentina Cervi , Enrico Colantoni , and Amy Rydell .

The James Dean biopic began development at Warner Bros. in the early 1990s . At one point , Michael Mann was contracted to direct with Leonardo DiCaprio starring in the lead role . After Mann 's departure , Des McAnuff , Dennis Hopper and Mil?o Man?evski were considered as directors . Rydell was hired as director in 1996 , but the film continued to languish in development hell .

Warner Bros. then decided to produce James Dean as a TV movie for Turner Network Television (TNT) ; both Warners and TNT are owned by Time Warner . Franco was cast as Dean in May 2000 after a search that resulted in 500 auditions . Franco researched his role to more closely portray Dean . James Dean was shown on TNT in the United States on August 5 , 2001 , receiving generally positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

At eight years old , James Dean lives with his estranged father Winton and mother Mildred in 1939 Santa Monica , California . When Mildred dies of cancer in 1940 , Winton sends James on a train to Fairmount , Indiana , along with the coffin containing her body . Winton does not show up at the funeral , leaving James to be raised by his aunt and uncle on a farm in Fairmount . Over the years , he becomes more curious about his father 's decision to abandon him . He tries to impress him by sending him a package displaying his various athletic trophies in high school sports .

James moves back to Santa Monica in June 1949 , shortly after high school graduation , and finds that Winton has remarried . He decides to become an actor and takes classes under James Whitmore . Whitmore is impressed by his acting ability , which encourages him to move to New York City in September 1951 to pursue an acting career . Despite being a struggling actor , he enjoys the new lifestyle . He befriends fellow actor Martin Landau and has a romantic relationship with Christine White . Both are accepted into the prestigious Actors Studio . He receives critical acclaim in Broadway theatre productions and for a role in a television movie drama that is broadcast nationwide . He tries to tell Winton about his successful rise in acting , but his father still reacts with indifference , causing more emotional turmoil for him .

Film producer @-@ director Elia Kazan hires James for the leading role in East of Eden (1955) , marking his Hollywood debut . He moves to Hollywood in April 1954 to begin filming for Eden and is introduced to Jack L. Warner , the stern president of Warner Bros. Studios who is determined to transform him into a movie star . Warner becomes suspicious of his personal life (such as his possible bisexuality and passions for auto racing and motorcycling) . On the Warner Bros. backlot , he falls in love with actress Pier Angeli , who is working on the neighboring production of The Silver Chalice (1954) .

Despite concerns from Pier 's domineering mother , James and his girlfriend buy a beach house in which they live together . Meanwhile , eccentric director Nicholas Ray casts him in the lead role for Rebel Without a Cause (1955) . He once again hopes to impress his father with his rising movie star career in Hollywood , but Winton persists with his indifference . When East of Eden debuts , Warner is furious that he does not show up at the premiere . He considers shutting down production of Rebel Without a Cause , but he drops the idea due to James 's praised performance in Eden . Later , he finds out that Warner sided with Pier 's mother over his break up with her . She ends up marrying Vic Damone , while James then signs a one million dollar contract with Warner Bros. and is cast in Giant (1956) . His mental breakdowns become more apparent when he starts conflicting with director George Stevens .

Angered with his life , James decides to learn the truth about his father 's disinterest toward him since he was eight years old . Winton tells him that his real father was a man with whom his mother

had an affair during the marriage and that he did not have the courage to raise him , not being his real father . With his inner demons resolved , he begins to enjoy life once more and adopts a friendly relationship with director Stevens . Shortly afterward , he dies in a car crash that shocks the film industry and the general public . En route on a train to Indiana , Winton sits next to his coffin in the storage room .

= = Cast = =

James Franco as James Dean : A movie star who has emotional struggles with his father , Hollywood policies , acting , and romantic relationships .

Kyle Chambers portrays young James Dean

Michael Moriarty as Winton " Winnie " Dean : James ' father who abandons him at a young age .

Valentina Cervi as Pier Angeli : Italian actress who James first meets on the Warner Bros. backlot . Under pressure from her domineering mother , Pier breaks off her relationship with James and marries Vic Damone .

Enrico Colantoni as Elia Kazan : Acclaimed Hollywood film director . Kazan casts James in East of Eden , using unconventional directing techniques that land James critical praise .

Amy Rydell as Christine White : James ' girlfriend in New York . The two successfully audition their way into the Actors Studio .

Director Mark Rydell as Jack L. Warner : President of Warner Bros. Pictures. who signs James under contract . Mr. Warner acts as a strict father figure to James ' Hollywood lifestyle .

Samuel Gould as Martin Landau : Actor who befriends James in New York .

Wendy Benson as Julie Harris : East of Eden actress who expresses sympathy for James ' break @-@ up with Pier .

David Parker as James Whitmore : James ' acting teacher in Los Angeles .

Lisa Robins as Mildred Dean : James ' mother . Mildred dies of cancer when her son is just a child .

Karen Kondazian as Mrs. Pierangeli : Pier 's strict religious mother who convinces her daughter to marry Vic Damone .

Barry Primus as Nicholas Ray : Eccentric director of Rebel Without a Cause who avoids pressure to cast Marlon Brando in the lead role .

Peggy McCay as Emma Dean : James Dean 's grandma .

Edward Herrmann as Raymond Massey : Distinguished actor who portrays Dean 's screen father on East of Eden . Massey is dubious over James ' method acting .

Craig Barnett as George Stevens : Director of Giant who , at first , has trouble accommodating James ' emotional and movie star status .

Joanne Linville as Hedda Hopper : Hollywood gossip columnist who praises James ' acting abilities in East of Eden .

Andrew Prine as Rogers Brackett : Homosexual New York theater director who meets James and Martin Landau (then struggling actors) in a diner .

Lisa Blake Richards as Ethel Dean : Winton 's wife after the death of Mildred . She is not satisfied over her husband 's fathering of James .

Holly Beavon as Marilyn Monroe (uncredited)

Elizabeth Karsell as Judy Garland (uncredited)

= = Production = =

In the early 1990s , Warner Bros. planned to produce a feature biographical film about actor James Dean , and the studio hired Israel Horovitz to write the script . One of the working titles was James Dean : An Invented Life before it was finalized as James Dean . When Horovitz wrote the script , he explored the " psychological insight " of Dean by showcasing the abandonment of his father , which became the fulcrum of the storyline . Horovitz recalled , " Why would a father ship his wife 's body back on a train with an 8 @-@ year @-@ old son , never go to the funeral and never pick the son

up again , never bring the son back out to him ? " The screenwriter felt it was best to portray Dean 's purported homosexuality by innuendo rather than explicitly . He wanted to focus on the romance between Dean and Pier Angeli and Dean 's growth as an actor , and believed that a homosexuality subplot would distract from the storyline . Producer Marvin Worth explained in July 1995 , " We 'll try to make a good movie ... not one of rumor and innuendo . "

Michael Mann was contracted to direct James Dean in September 1993 , and filming was scheduled to start in May 1994 . Johnny Depp and Brad Pitt were under serious consideration for the lead role , while both actors were also attached to the part . Mann approached Leonardo DiCaprio for the role of James Dean , feeling that DiCaprio was the best candidate . Gary Oldman was also discussed for a supporting role . In March 1994 , Mann decided not to direct James Dean due to scheduling conflicts with Heat (1995) . Mann also thought that DiCaprio was too young and wanted to wait another year .

Des McAnuff replaced Mann as director , and filming was rescheduled to December 1994 . Screenwriter Horovitz was busy playwrighting in Europe , so McAnuff and producer Marvin Worth were constantly rewriting the script in July 1994 . The budget was estimated at \$ 20 million . McAnuff stepped down as director and was replaced by Dennis Hopper . Hopper was a close friend with Dean and co @-@ starred with the actor in both Rebel Without a Cause and Giant . Hopper met with DiCaprio for the lead role , but the director eventually dropped out of the film . By May 1995 , DiCaprio was still the top candidate to portray Dean with Mil?o Man?evski in discussions to direct the film .

After negotiations with Man?evski fell through , Mark Rydell was contracted to direct the biopic in February 1996 . Rydell was also close friends with Dean ; the two studied together at Actors Studio in Manhattan , New York during the early 1950s . DiCaprio dropped out of the lead role entirely when his asking price was determined to be too high after the actor 's success with Romeo + Juliet (1996) and Titanic (1997) . Meanwhile , Rydell worked with Horovitz on another rewrite , and Warner Bros. planned to fast track production . Don Was was hired to write and compose the film score , but he was later replaced by John Frizzell . Shortly after Rydell 's hiring , Stephen Dorff entered discussions to portray James Dean . Ethan Hawke would later turn down the role .

With the film languishing in development hell , producer Bill Gerber from Warner Bros. decided James Dean would work best as a television movie for Turner Network Television (TNT) ; both Warners and TNT are owned by Time Warner . Gerber explained the format choice , " It was just hard to find bankable names that the studio would finance a \$ 20 million movie with . And there were marketing problems . He died in a highway accident in 1955 so almost everyone would know the outcome of the movie . James Dean also isn 't that well known by the general movie @-@ going public these days . " Actor James Franco was cast into the lead role , and principal photography for James Dean started in June 2000 . Filming took place around the Los Angeles area and at the Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City .

= = = Casting = = =

Rydell and other filmmakers started a casting call in late March 2000 to find the most suitable actor for the lead role . The call encompassed New York , Los Angeles , Toronto , Vancouver , Atlanta , Chicago and the Midwestern United States . Casting director Nancy Foy commented that the search included " everyone from highly @-@ trained , experienced actors in their early and mid @-@ 20s , to people who had no training and had sent in self @-@ made tapes " . Five hundred actors auditioned , and James Franco was ultimately cast as James Dean in May 2000 . Franco acknowledged he was cautious of taking the role over fear of typecasting .

Franco did extensive research for his role . He went from being a non @-@ smoker to smoking two packs of cigarettes a day , but has since quit the habit . He learned how to ride a motorcycle , play guitar , as well as the conga and bongo drums . The actor also carefully studied Dean 's mannerisms by simultaneously watching his three films (East of Eden , Rebel Without a Cause and Giant) . Franco also read numerous biographies on Dean 's life . The actor also took advice from some of Dean 's closest friends , including Martin Landau , Dennis Hopper , Liz Sheridan (Dean 's

former girlfriend) and Leonard Rosenman . " Martin was the most informative person that I spoke to . He helped me tremendously with James 's physical mannerisms , " Franco reflected . " I isolated myself a lot during the filming . I did this because I think he had a pervasive loneliness throughout his life and I wanted to feel what that felt like . Not talking to my family or loved ones had quite an emotional effect on me . "

= = Release = =

James Dean premiered at the 27th Deauville American Film Festival in July 2001 . Press conferences were held with the screening , and James Dean 's three feature films , *East of Eden* , *Rebel Without a Cause* and *Giant* , were also screened at the festival . Turner Network Television (TNT) originally intended to premiere the film on United States national television in June 2001 , but the release date for James Dean was pushed to August 5 , 2001 . The film attracted 3 @. @ 18 million viewers and received generally favorable reviews from critics . James Dean was released on DVD in January 2002 by Warner Home Video . David Thomson , reviewing in *The New York Times* , felt Franco 's performance as Dean gave Baby Boomer audiences a positive sense of nostalgia of the 1950s . James Poniewozik of *Time* magazine also highly praised Franco 's performance , but felt the script was overtly cliché . Ken Tucker wrote in *Entertainment Weekly* that James Dean , alongside *Life with Judy Garland : Me and My Shadows* (2001) , was a revolutionary force in the television movie genre .

Rydell received a Directors Guild of America Award nomination , while Franco was nominated for his performance at the 8th Screen Actors Guild Awards . In addition , Franco won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Miniseries or Television Film . The film also received multiple awards and nominations at the 54th Primetime Emmy Awards . Michael Moriarty won the Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or Movie for his portrayal of Winton Dean . The art department (led by Robert Pearson , Marc Dabe and Leslie McCarthy @-@ Frankenheimer) , also won an Emmy . Nominations included Outstanding Made for Television Movie , Lead actor (James Franco) , Direction (Mark Rydell) , Cinematography (Robbie Greenberg) , Casting (Nancy Foy) , Costume design (Yvonne Blake and Randy Gardell) , Film editing (Antony Gibbs) , Makeup (John M. Elliot , Jr .) and Hairstyling (Carol A. O 'Connell) .

= (What Is) Love ? =

" (What Is) Love ? " is a song recorded by American entertainer Jennifer Lopez . Originally entitled " What Is Love ? " , the song appeared on the soundtrack to *The Back @-@ up Plan* (2010) , a film in which Lopez stars . The song was later included on Lopez 's seventh studio album *Love ?* (2011) , as the album 's title track . " (What Is) Love ? " is a midtempo electropop song written by Diana " Wynter " Gordon , with the song 's producer Emile " D 'Mile " Dernst II . The song is about " not knowing what love is , " according to Gordon . A remix of " (What Is) Love ? " , entitled " What Is Love ? Part II " , was produced by Jean @-@ Baptiste . It was considered for inclusion on *Love ?* and was leaked onto the internet in April 2013 .

The song was due to be released as a promotional single from *Love ?* on April 26 , 2011 , but was " unlocked " and released on April 22 , 2011 by Island Records through a campaign on Lopez 's Facebook page . Upon its promotional release , the song debuted at number 97 on the South Korea Gaon International Chart and at 33 on the Productores de Música de España .

= = Writing and production = =

" (What Is) Love ? " written by Diana " Wynter " Gordon and Emile " D 'Mile " Dernst ; the latter who also produced the song . Lopez 's vocals for the song were recorded and produced by Kuk Harrell , with recording assistance from Jim Annunziato and Josh Gudwin at Conway Studios in Hollywood , California . Annunziato and Eric Eylands handled audio engineering of " (What Is)

Love ? " , while the song was later mixed by Mike " Handz " Donaldson at Chalice Recording Studios in Los Angeles , California .

" (What Is) Love ? " deals with the topic of " not knowing what love is " . The song 's co @-@ writer Gordon stated that : " I felt like so many woman have that same story . No fathers , families , abusive boyfriends and husbands .. no parental support , they feel alone .. I 've had my few relationships and have yet to feel love [sic] . "

= = Leak and release = =

" What Is Love ? " was leaked onto the internet in May 2009 . Wynter Gordon , the co @-@ writer of " What Is Love ? " , expressed her dismay at the " unfinished and unmastered " song 's leak in a post on her official MySpace blog . She stated : " I wrote this song from a deep place in my heart . If the world was gonna hear it , I wanted them to hear it right ... It 's as good as gone to me now ... The story was given a Lifetime TV special instead of a movie ... sad . " Gordon did note that she was dissatisfied with the circumstances , but was in " no way dissing Lopez . "

A mastered version of " What Is Love ? " was included on the soundtrack to The Back @-@ up Plan (2010) , a film in which Lopez stars . " What Is Love ? " was re @-@ titled as " (What Is) Love ? " and appeared on Love ? (2011) . " (What Is) Love ? " was due to be released as a promotional single from Love ? on April 26 , 2011 , but was " unlocked " and released four days earlier , on April 22 , 2011 by through a campaign on Lopez 's Facebook page . It was released in many European countries on April 25 .

= = Critical response = =

The song received a positive review from Digital Spy 's Robert Copsey , who although stating that it isn 't any " we haven 't heard before , " Lopez carries " it off with her unrivalled glamour and effortless sophistication . " He concluded by stating that the song was worthy of a standalone release . Monica Herrera from Billboard commented that on the song , Lopez channels " J.Lo circa 2003 . " Herrera added the song would have been " slayed if the gender had been flipped " , and it had been sung by Justin Bieber . Joey Guerra from the Houston Chronicle said that Lopez uses " (What Is) Love ? " (and the album cut " Starting Over ") to play the jilted lover . Us Weekly noted the song 's lyrics to be pointing " a few fingers " at Lopez 's previous relationships , seen in the line dissing " blind dates " and the declaration of : " Musicians are the worst . "

= = " What Is Love ? (Part II) " = =

During the first album listening party for Love ? in 2009 , Rap @-@ Up magazine revealed that Jean @-@ Baptiste had produced a second version of the song called " What Is Love ? (Part II) " . It was considered for included on the album but ultimately did not make the final track listing . It samples the " club @-@ friendly " riff of Edwin Starr 's 1970 single " War " . " What Is Love ? Part II " was leaked onto the internet on April 20 , 2013 . According to Jessica Sager of PopCrush , it picks up where the original song left off . Sager wrote that the song " likely isn 't about [Marc] Anthony ? but for those new to the song , it 's surely easy to interpret it as such . Lopez gets pretty revealing in the new song , addressing a divorce directly and explicitly " .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Love ? .

= = Charts = =