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***Sense8*** (a [play on the word](/wiki/Word_play) [*sensate*](/wiki/Wiktionary:sensate) [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en))[[1]](#cite_note-1) is an American [science fiction](/wiki/Science_fiction) [drama](/wiki/Drama) [web television](/wiki/Web_television) series created by [Lana and Lilly Wachowski](/wiki/The_Wachowskis) and [J. Michael Straczynski](/wiki/J._Michael_Straczynski) for [Netflix](/wiki/Netflix). *Sense8* is being produced by the Wachowskis' [Anarchos Productions](/wiki/The_Wachowskis#As_film_producers_and_comic_book_publishers) and Straczynskis' [Studio JMS](/wiki/Studio_JMS), along with Javelin Productions and Georgeville Television. Unpronounceable Productions has been set up to oversee production for the show.

A multinational [ensemble cast](/wiki/Ensemble_cast) starring [Tuppence Middleton](/wiki/Tuppence_Middleton), [Brian J. Smith](/wiki/Brian_J._Smith), [Doona Bae](/wiki/Doona_Bae), [Aml Ameen](/wiki/Aml_Ameen), [Max Riemelt](/wiki/Max_Riemelt), [Tina Desai](/wiki/Tina_Desai), [Miguel Ángel Silvestre](/wiki/Miguel_Ángel_Silvestre) and [Jamie Clayton](/wiki/Jamie_Clayton) portrays eight strangers from different parts of the world who suddenly become "sensates"; human beings who are mentally and emotionally linked. [Freema Agyeman](/wiki/Freema_Agyeman), [Terrence Mann](/wiki/Terrence_Mann), [Anupam Kher](/wiki/Anupam_Kher), [Naveen Andrews](/wiki/Naveen_Andrews) and [Daryl Hannah](/wiki/Daryl_Hannah) also star. The show aims to explore subjects that its creators feel have historically not been emphasized in most science fiction shows to date,[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) such as [politics](/wiki/Politics), [identity](/wiki/Identity_(social_science)), [sexuality](/wiki/Sexuality), [AIDS](/wiki/HIV/AIDS), [gender](/wiki/Gender) and [religion](/wiki/Religion).[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) The first season was written by the Wachowskis and Straczynski and most episodes were directed by the Wachowskis, with the remainder being divided between their [frequent collaborators](/wiki/The_Wachowskis#Frequent_collaborators) [James McTeigue](/wiki/James_McTeigue), [Tom Tykwer](/wiki/Tom_Tykwer) and Dan Glass. For the production of the second season, Lilly Wachowski remained active as co-creator but took a break from writing and directing, marking it as the first time the sisters didn't work as one unit in their professional careers. *Sense8* is shot almost entirely [on location](/wiki/Location_shooting) in a multitude of cities around the world.

The first season, consisting of 12 episodes, became available for [streaming](/wiki/Streaming_media) on Netflix on June 5, 2015, and has been met with generally favorable critical reception. It has become notable for its presentation of [LGBT](/wiki/LGBT) characters and themes, winning the [GLAAD Media Award](/wiki/GLAAD_Media_Award) for [Outstanding Drama Series](/wiki/GLAAD_Media_Award#Categories). On August 8, 2015, Netflix announced that it had renewed the show for a second season.

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## Premise[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

*Sense8* tells the story of eight strangers: Riley, Will, Sun, Capheus, Wolfgang, Kala, Lito and Nomi, each from a different culture and part of the world. While living their everyday lives, they suddenly have a vision of the violent death of a woman called Angelica and discover that they are "sensates": otherwise normal humans who are [mentally and emotionally connected](/wiki/Telepathy#Types) and who are able to communicate, sense and use each other's knowledge, language and skills. While trying to live their lives and figure out how and why this connection has happened and what it means, they are aided by another sensate, Jonas, who is trying to protect them from a similarly empowered sensate called "Whispers", who hunts down sensates by tapping into their psychic link.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5)

## Cast[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### The eight sensates[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

* [Tuppence Middleton](/wiki/Tuppence_Middleton) as Riley Blue (née Gunnarsdóttir), an [Icelandic](/wiki/Iceland) [DJ](/wiki/DJ) living in [London](/wiki/London) who is trying to escape a troubled past.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7)\* [Brian J. Smith](/wiki/Brian_J._Smith) as Will Gorski, a [Chicago](/wiki/Chicago) [police officer](/wiki/Police_officer) haunted by an unsolved murder from his childhood.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[8]](#cite_note-8)\* [Doona Bae](/wiki/Doona_Bae) as Sun Bak, daughter of a powerful [Seoul](/wiki/Seoul) businessman and a burgeoning star in the underground [kickboxing](/wiki/Kickboxing) world.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[9]](#cite_note-9)\* [Aml Ameen](/wiki/Aml_Ameen) as Capheus, a [matatu](/wiki/Matatu) driver in [Nairobi](/wiki/Nairobi) and a passionate fan of [Jean-Claude Van Damme](/wiki/Jean-Claude_Van_Damme) who is trying to earn money to buy [AIDS](/wiki/AIDS) medicine for his mother.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[10]](#cite_note-10) Toby Onwumere has been set to replace Ameen in the second season.[[11]](#cite_note-11)\* [Max Riemelt](/wiki/Max_Riemelt) as Wolfgang Bogdanow, a [Berlin](/wiki/Berlin) locksmith and [safe-cracker](/wiki/Safe-cracker) who has unresolved issues with his late father and participates in organized crime.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[12]](#cite_note-12)\* [Tina Desai](/wiki/Tina_Desai) as Kala Dandekar, a university-educated [pharmacist](/wiki/Pharmacist) and devout [Hindu](/wiki/Hindu) in [Mumbai](/wiki/Mumbai) who is engaged to marry a man she does not love.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[13]](#cite_note-13)\* [Miguel Ángel Silvestre](/wiki/Miguel_Ángel_Silvestre) as Lito Rodriguez, a [closeted](/wiki/Closeted) actor of [Basque](/wiki/Basque_Country_(autonomous_community)) background living in [Mexico City](/wiki/Mexico_City) with his boyfriend Hernando.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[14]](#cite_note-14)\* [Jamie Clayton](/wiki/Jamie_Clayton) as Nomi Marks, a [trans woman](/wiki/Trans_woman) [hacktivist](/wiki/Hacktivist) and [blogger](/wiki/Blog) living in [San Francisco](/wiki/San_Francisco) with her girlfriend Amanita.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[15]](#cite_note-15)

### Other regulars[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

* [Freema Agyeman](/wiki/Freema_Agyeman) as Amanita, Nomi's girlfriend, who later becomes an ally for the new sensates.[[16]](#cite_note-16)\* [Terrence Mann](/wiki/Terrence_Mann) as "Whispers", a sensate who turned against his own kind and who leads an organization determined to neutralize sensates.[[4]](#cite_note-4)\* [Anupam Kher](/wiki/Anupam_Kher) as Sanyam Dandekar, Kala's loving father, a chef and restaurant owner.[[17]](#cite_note-17)\* [Naveen Andrews](/wiki/Naveen_Andrews) as Jonas Maliki, a sensate from a different cluster who wants to help the newly-born cluster of sensates.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[18]](#cite_note-18)\* [Daryl Hannah](/wiki/Daryl_Hannah) as Angelica "Angel" Turing, a sensate from an older cluster (which included Jonas) who becomes the "mother" of the new sensates' cluster as she activates their psychic connection.[[19]](#cite_note-19)

## Production[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

### Conception[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

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According to the Wachowskis, the origins of *Sense8* date back several years to "a late-night conversation about the ways technology simultaneously unites and divides us".[[20]](#cite_note-20) Straczynski recalls that when the Wachowskis decided to create their own series, they chose to invite him to San Francisco because of his [experience working with the format](/wiki/J._Michael_Straczynski#Television_bio) to brainstorm ideas.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Both the Wachowskis and Straczynski agreed if they were to do a TV series, they wanted to attempt to do something that had never been done before[[21]](#cite_note-21) and change the "vocabulary for television production", the same way [*The Matrix* became a major influence for action movies](/wiki/The_Matrix#Legacy).[[22]](#cite_note-22) After several days of discussion they decided on exploring the relationship between [empathy](/wiki/Empathy) and [evolution](/wiki/Evolution) in the human race.[[1]](#cite_note-1)

### Development[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

The trio became so excited with the concept they came up with, they decided to develop it on their own instead of pitching it to someone else.[[1]](#cite_note-1) The Wachowskis wrote three hour-long [spec scripts](/wiki/Spec_scripts),[[23]](#cite_note-23) and together with Straczynski, attempted to shop them to interested networks, but when they saw those had trouble understanding the concept they decided to shelve it.[[24]](#cite_note-24) A few years later, when they felt that the landscape of television had become friendlier towards more experimental concepts, they decided to try pitching it a second time.[[24]](#cite_note-24) On October 2, 2012, [*Variety*](/wiki/Variety_(magazine)) first reported the existence of the show, by writing that the Wachowskis, with the help of Straczynski's Studio JMS and Georgeville Television, would be shopping *Sense8* around Los Angeles the week to follow.[[23]](#cite_note-23) If the series was picked up, the sisters and Straczynski would be sharing showrunner duties. Additionally, the Wachowskis were planning to direct a few episodes of the show if their schedule permitted it. According to Straczynski, the first meeting with potential buyers was with Netflix. The Wachowskis and Straczynski talked to them about subjects such as [gender](/wiki/Gender), [identity](/wiki/Identity_(social_science)), [secrecy](/wiki/Secrecy#Secrecy_in_sociology_and_zoology) and [privacy](/wiki/Privacy) instead of pitching action or otherwise commercial aspects and, when the meeting was over, they worried they made a mistake.[[25]](#cite_note-25) By noon, and before they had the chance to pitch it to other outlets, such as HBO,[[22]](#cite_note-22) Netflix called them to preemptively offer to buy and produce the first season.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Netflix announced that they had ordered a 10-episode first season for the series on March 27, 2013.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Later, during filming,[[26]](#cite_note-26) because of the density of the scripts and the extended length of the first cut of the first episode, the showrunners and Netflix came to an agreement to extend the season to 12 episodes.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Before filming began, Straczynski and the Wachowskis mapped out five seasons worth of stories for the series,[[27]](#cite_note-27) including the series' final episode.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Straczynski compiled a 30-page document detailing the key points of a hypothetical second season.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The actors cast were signed for five seasons. "We pitched it as a five-year story. We've mapped out five seasons of this thing, our actor deals are being made for five seasons, five or six depending on the breaks," said Straczynski.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Comic book artist [Steve Skroce](/wiki/Steve_Skroce), who has been collaborating with the Wachowskis since *The Matrix* on both film and comic book media, has created [storyboards](/wiki/Storyboards) for the show.[[31]](#cite_note-31)

### Writing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

Initial writing was split between the Wachowskis and Straczynski. The Wachowskis wrote episodes one, two, three, seven and eight. Straczynski wrote episodes four, five, six, nine and ten. Then the Wachowskis rewrote Straczynski's scripts and vice versa. Straczynski said a good portion of the writing was done by just Lana and himself.[[32]](#cite_note-32) Straczynski believes writing with the Wachowskis helped mask each other's weaknesses. He recognizes action and plot as their biggest strengths but structure as their weakness. On the other hand he views himself as really good on structure but weak on action.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Earlier versions of the story featured a sensate from Iraq and more about Whispers, the villain of the show. The show was transformed when the writers decided to limit the storytelling, with the exception of the opening scene of the first episode, to the perspective of the eight characters.[[33]](#cite_note-33) This means that every scene set in San Francisco must be about Nomi, in Chicago about Will and so on. Since the show begins with the characters not knowing what is happening to them and without being able to cut e.g. to the villains like a traditional show, the audience starts with the same questions and confusion as the characters do.[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[29]](#cite_note-29) As the characters slowly begin to understand more about what's happening to them over the course of several episodes, the audience does as well, at the same pace. Straczynski notes this type of writing wouldn't work if they were writing for a [traditional network](/wiki/Television_network#United_States). "The first episode is written in a way that you could never do a pilot. With pilots you have to set up all the rules and explain everything to hook people in." said Stranczynski. Instead, taking advantage of the [binge-watching](/wiki/Binge-watching) model Netflix promotes, the series was written as a continuous 12 hour movie, making it possible to tell the story at a different pace.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Lana Wachowski, a [trans woman](/wiki/Trans_woman), has written her first [transgender](/wiki/Transgender) character in her career in the series: Nomi Marks. For that she partly used her own experiences. "It has some very intense, [autobiographical](/wiki/Autobiographical) scenes, and that was very difficult and surreal", said Lana.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Straczynski stated that like Lana felt the closest to Nomi, Wolfgang Bogdanow was the character he felt the closest to, because they both had a bad relationship with their respective fathers.[[35]](#cite_note-35) "Wolfgang was my true north in the storytelling." said Straczynski.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Straczynski did not reveal who was the character Lilly Wachowski felt the closest to during the writing process, saying it's up to her to do that.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Since then Lilly has come out as transgender too.[[36]](#cite_note-36) The beginning of her transitioning process preceded the release of the first season and Jamie Clayton had known early on.[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38) Unlike the first season, where the Wachowskis and Straczynski split the amount of scripts in half and worked remotely from each other (but with frequent meetings),[[1]](#cite_note-1) writing for the second season was done by collaborating inside a shared writers' room.[[33]](#cite_note-33)

### Casting[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

For the roles of those characters living outside of America, the filmmakers wanted to assemble a cast of international actors that matched the nationality of their respective characters, if possible. For example Riemelt, Desai and Bae are from Berlin, Mumbai and Seoul like their respective characters.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Because the eight leads share the same birthday, the actors selected were all somewhere between mid-20s and mid-30s.[[30]](#cite_note-30) The filmmakers wanted to write a Chinese, Japanese or Korean character and since the Wachowskis had worked with Bae on [*Cloud Atlas*](/wiki/Cloud_Atlas_(film)) and [*Jupiter Ascending*](/wiki/Jupiter_Ascending) before, they decided on creating a Korean character for her.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Middleton knew the Wachowskis were writing *Sense8* while working with them on *Jupiter Ascending* but she didn't think they would ask her to play a role.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Hannah was brought in to read for Whispers, because they were thinking of making him an androgynous character at the time, but when she arrived she was told they'd like her to read for the role of Angelica.[[39]](#cite_note-39) For the second season of *Sense8*, [Kick Gurry](/wiki/Kick_Gurry), who had played parts in the Wachowskis' [*Speed Racer*](/wiki/Speed_Racer_(film)) and *Jupiter Ascending* in the past, received a call by Lana informing him they had a written a role specifically for him.[[40]](#cite_note-40)

### Filming[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

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| --- | --- |
| [thumb|150px|alt=San Francisco|](/wiki/File:Market_Street_San_Francisco_From_Twin_Peaks.jpg)[San Francisco](/wiki/San_Francisco) [thumb|150px|alt=Chicago|](/wiki/File:North_View_from_the_skydeck_of_Sears_Tower.JPG)[Chicago](/wiki/Chicago) [thumb|150px|alt=London|](/wiki/File:London_from_a_hot_air_balloon.jpg)[London](/wiki/London) [thumb|150px|alt=Nairobi|](/wiki/File:City_view_from_Uhuru_Park,_Nairobi.jpg)[Nairobi](/wiki/Nairobi) [thumb|150px|alt=Seoul|](/wiki/File:Seoul-Cityscape-04.jpg)[Seoul](/wiki/Seoul) | [thumb|150px|alt=Mexico City|](/wiki/File:AerialViewMexicoCity.jpg)[Mexico City](/wiki/Mexico_City) [thumb|150px|alt=Reykjavík|](/wiki/File:View_from_Hallgrímskirkja_2.JPG)[Reykjavík](/wiki/Reykjavík) [thumb|150px|alt=Berlin|](/wiki/File:Oberbaumbruecke_beim_Berliner_Osthafen_cropped.jpg)[Berlin](/wiki/Berlin) [thumb|150px|alt=Mumbai|](/wiki/File:Worli_skyline_with_BSWL.jpg)[Mumbai](/wiki/Mumbai) |

To properly tell the international aspects of the story, filming took place almost entirely [on location](/wiki/Location_shooting) around the globe in nine cities located in eight countries: [Chicago](/wiki/Chicago), [San Francisco](/wiki/San_Francisco), [London](/wiki/London), [Berlin](/wiki/Berlin), [Seoul](/wiki/Seoul), [Reykjavík](/wiki/Reykjavík), [Mexico City](/wiki/Mexico_City), [Nairobi](/wiki/Nairobi) and [Mumbai](/wiki/Mumbai).[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[41]](#cite_note-41) Production on the series began on June 18, 2014 in San Francisco.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The filmmakers successfully negotiated with the organizers of the [Clarion Alley Mural Project](/wiki/Clarion_Alley_Mural_Project) and select artists to feature their artwork in the show.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Shooting in Chicago began on July 9 and wrapped up on August 8,[[44]](#cite_note-44) with filming taking place both on location and at the Cinespace Film Studios.<ref name=July7>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> During [location scouting](/wiki/Location_scouting), the producers found the City Methodist Church in [Gary, Indiana](/wiki/Gary,_Indiana) and changed one site's description in the scripts to a church accordingly in order to fit that particular site into the filming.[[45]](#cite_note-45) They also shot some scenes in Chicago's [Superdawg](/wiki/Superdawg) drive-through restaurant, while customers were being asked not to stare at the filming. Lana and Lilly Wachowski are frequent customers of the place.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Filming in Berlin was done partly in [Babelsberg Studio](/wiki/Babelsberg_Studio).[[47]](#cite_note-47) A sequence in Nairobi required a crowd of 700 [extras](/wiki/Extra_(acting)), 200 cars and a helicopter.[[48]](#cite_note-48) In Mumbai they shot a [Bollywood](/wiki/Bollywood) [dance number](/wiki/Bollywood_song_and_dance) that was choreographed by [*Slumdog Millionaire*](/wiki/Slumdog_Millionaire)[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') [Longinus Fernandes](/wiki/Longinus_Fernandes).[[49]](#cite_note-49) The writers wanted to feature an event in each city.[[50]](#cite_note-50) They were able to schedule the [Pride](/wiki/San_Francisco_Pride)[[51]](#cite_note-51) scenes with its [Dykes on Bikes](/wiki/Dykes_on_Bikes) on the [Dyke March](/wiki/Dyke_March#San_Francisco)[[52]](#cite_note-52)[[53]](#cite_note-53) in San Francisco, the [Fourth of July fireworks celebration](/wiki/Independence_Day_(United_States)#Customs) in Chicago, and the [Ganesha Chaturthi](/wiki/Ganesha_Chaturthi) Hindu festival in Mumbai.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Additionally they recorded footage from the Fresh Meat Festival of [transgender and queer performance](/wiki/Queer#Queer_art)[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56) in San Francisco, a club event taking place at the [KOKO](/wiki/KOKO_(music_venue)) in London,[[57]](#cite_note-57)[[58]](#cite_note-58) and a real [lucha libre](/wiki/Lucha_libre) (Mexican [professional wrestling](/wiki/Professional_wrestling)) event with the fighters wearing [wrestling masks](/wiki/Wrestling_mask#The_mask_in_Lucha_Libre) in [Arena Naucalpan](/wiki/Naucalpan#The_city), in Mexico City.[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[59]](#cite_note-59) Lastly the scenes where characters are flying on an airplane were recorded during the real flights the cast and crew had to do to get from London to Iceland.[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[60]](#cite_note-60) On November 17, 2014. Straczynski wrote that the main unit shooting had wrapped, with only a few winter shots in Iceland remaining to be captured the next month.[[61]](#cite_note-61) These scenes were further delayed to mid-January 2015, until Iceland had the necessary amount of snow,[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[62]](#cite_note-62) with the [wrap party](/wiki/Wrap_party) taking place in Reykjavík's [Harpa Music and Concert hall](/wiki/Harpa_(concert_hall)) on January 21, 2015.[[63]](#cite_note-63) By the end of the shooting, the filmmakers had completed 100,000 miles of flight time, or four times around the globe.[[41]](#cite_note-41)

### Directing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

The show's directors were attached to locations instead of episodes[[64]](#cite_note-64) and with all eight countries featured in every one of them, each episode ended up having multiple directors.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The Wachowskis were responsible for directorial duties in scenes shot in Chicago[[66]](#cite_note-66) and San Francisco[[67]](#cite_note-67) along with London and Iceland, two places which were initially announced to be helmed by Straczynski.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Straczynski eventually opted to offer them to the siblings because of the extensive action scenes involved in those locations[[68]](#cite_note-68) and instead focused his energy on [post-production](/wiki/Post-production#Television).[[27]](#cite_note-27) [James McTeigue](/wiki/James_McTeigue) ([*V for Vendetta*](/wiki/V_for_Vendetta_(film)), [*Ninja Assassin*](/wiki/Ninja_Assassin)) worked on the Mexico City and Mumbai parts[[50]](#cite_note-50) along with some in Reykjavík[[65]](#cite_note-65) and German director Tom Tykwer (*Cloud Atlas*), whose [*Nairobi Half Life*](/wiki/Nairobi_Half_Life) production impressed the Wachowskis, helmed Berlin[[69]](#cite_note-69)[[70]](#cite_note-70) and Nairobi.[[48]](#cite_note-48) Dan Glass, who had been the [visual effects supervisor](/wiki/Visual_effects_supervisor) for every Wachowski film since [*The Matrix Reloaded*](/wiki/The_Matrix_Reloaded), reprised his role in *Sense8* while also making his directorial debut in the Seoul part of the story.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Even though there were times that units located in different countries were simultaneously shooting, the Wachowskis would travel to the various locations and have collaborations with the attached directors.[[72]](#cite_note-72) Reportedly the Wachowskis directed such segments in locations where a different director was otherwise attached as the [stunts](/wiki/Stunts) the character of Silvestre performed for his action movie in Mexico City[[73]](#cite_note-73) and in Nairobi [car chase](/wiki/Car_chase#In_film) scenes with the 'Van Damn' bus[[48]](#cite_note-48) along with a [fight scene](/wiki/Combat_in_film) involving [machetes](/wiki/Machetes).[[74]](#cite_note-74) In total, the Wachowskis were credited for directing seven episodes, McTeigue and Tykwer two each, and Glass one.[[75]](#cite_note-75)

### Technical aspects[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

Netflix required the production to shoot with 4K cameras to make the look of the show future-proof and [John Toll](/wiki/John_Toll) who is credited as the main [director of photography](/wiki/Director_of_photography) for overseeing the distinct look of the nine featured locations, made the decision to shoot by using mostly Sony's [CineAlta](/wiki/CineAlta) PMW-F55 cameras.[[72]](#cite_note-72)[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77) Toll, once again collaborating with the Wachowskis and Glass after *Cloud Atlas* and *Jupiter Ascending*,[[78]](#cite_note-78) personally handled the cinematography in Chicago,[[79]](#cite_note-79) San Francisco,[[80]](#cite_note-80) London,[[81]](#cite_note-81) Iceland,[[82]](#cite_note-82) and Seoul.[[83]](#cite_note-83) Toll's approach to shooting was to use a lot of [Steadicam](/wiki/Steadicam) and [hand-held](/wiki/Hand-held_camera) partly out of the necessity to follow the faster schedule of a television production compared to the feature films he was used to working on. Additional cinematographers worked with the rest of the directors in the remaining locations and they used a similar shooting style because they were facing the same scheduling challenges.[[72]](#cite_note-72) McTeigue's cinematographer of choice for shooting in Mexico City[[84]](#cite_note-84) and Mumbai[[50]](#cite_note-50) was Danny Ruhlmann, who previously shot [*The Raven*](/wiki/The_Raven_(2012_film)) and [*Survivor*](/wiki/Survivor_(film)) for him.[[85]](#cite_note-85) Tykwer worked with [Frank Griebe](/wiki/Frank_Griebe) and Christian Almesberger for the Berlin[[86]](#cite_note-86) and Nairobi[[87]](#cite_note-87) scenes respectively. Griebe had previously shot seven feature films of Tykwer's including *Cloud Atlas* and Almesberger was the cinematographer of two films Tykwer had produced in Nairobi: [*Soul Boy*](/wiki/Soul_Boy) and *Nairobi Half Life*.

### Title sequence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

For the series' almost two-minute long [title sequence](/wiki/Title_sequence), Karin Winslow — wife of Lana Wachowski — rented a car and with the help of a [camera assistant](/wiki/Camera_assistant) traveled in the eight featured countries and captured over a hundred shots. "My directive from Lana was to go out and describe each country by what you see; find the nuances, find the food, find what people are doing, get a feel for the place," said Winslow.[[88]](#cite_note-88) In the [closing credits](/wiki/Closing_credits) of each episode, she is credited for the ["main title design"](/wiki/Film_title_design).

### Effects and post-production[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

Seoul unit director Dan Glass and Jim Mitchell were the visual effects supervisors of the series. An in-house [VFX](/wiki/VFX) team was established in Chicago which completed over 700 shots. The major external VFX vendors were Locktix VFX (160-180 shots), [Technicolor VFX](/wiki/Technicolor_SA) (over 100 shots)[[77]](#cite_note-77) and [Encore VFX](/wiki/Deluxe_Entertainment_Services_Group). Additional work was done by Studio 8 FX, [Trace VFX](/wiki/Trace_VFX) and Almost Gold.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Because of the series' tight budget and timeline the production made the decision to do most of the effects [in-camera](/wiki/In-camera_effect) and only enhance them digitally where appropriate. In fact for a great number of shots which involved the sensates communicating and visiting each other telepathically the cast were simply moving in and out of the frame in timely fashion requiring no additional work.[[54]](#cite_note-54) According to Glass most of the VFX work that was done is invisible in the final show and consisted mostly of [split-screens](/wiki/Split_screen_(filmmaking)), crew and rig removal, weather augmentation and screen inserts. Of the more visible work done Glass provided the examples of age manipulation of actors, dramatic enhancement of the weather in the car scenes in Iceland, a few [greenscreens](/wiki/Greenscreens) and [computer generated](/wiki/Computer-generated_imagery) blades, blood and wounds.[[71]](#cite_note-71) [Technicolor](/wiki/Technicolor_SA) provided [dailies](/wiki/Dailies) and worked with cinematographer John Toll to [color grade](/wiki/Color_grading) the show giving it a look which colorist Tony Dustin describes as "both real and surreal, with a slightly elevated color-saturation". The Wachowskis made the mandate for production to not "lock reels", as it's typically done on TV shows, but instead be able to tinker editorially with the series' narrative, look and tone up to release. They also wanted the color grading of the series to be done in the [da Vinci Resolve](/wiki/Da_Vinci_Systems#da_Vinci_Resolve) software and be of theatrical feature film quality. Technicolor finished the show in 4K and delivered both [2K](/wiki/2K_resolution) and [4K resolution](/wiki/4K_resolution) masters.[[77]](#cite_note-77)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Tom Tykwer](/wiki/Tom_Tykwer) and Johnny Klimek, who co-composed the score for *Cloud Atlas* and had a minor contribution in the soundtrack of [*The Matrix Revolutions*](/wiki/The_Matrix_Revolutions) as part of [Pale 3](/wiki/Pale_3), composed the series' music which was [orchestrated](/wiki/Rescoring) by their fellow *Cloud Atlas* collaborator [Gene Pritsker](/wiki/Gene_Pritsker).[[89]](#cite_note-89)[[90]](#cite_note-90) The music was written before filming began[[91]](#cite_note-91) and it was recorded by the [MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/MDR_Leipzig_Radio_Symphony_Orchestra).[[47]](#cite_note-47) This way the production was able to play it back to the actors before shooting a scene. Tykwer, who has made the music for all of his movies this way, introduced to the Wachowskis the concept of first writing the music during pre-production of *Cloud Atlas* and the siblings have since commented they are not making a movie again a different way.[[92]](#cite_note-92) [Ethan Stoller](/wiki/Ethan_Stoller) and Gabriel Isaac Mounsey, past collaborators of the Wachowskis and Tykwer, are credited for composing additional music and score. Stoller also acted as the series' [music editor](/wiki/Music_editor_(filmmaking)).[[93]](#cite_note-93) The title of Episode 4 "What's Going On?" refers to lyrics in the song "[What's Up?](/wiki/What's_Up?_(song))" by the [4 Non Blondes](/wiki/4_Non_Blondes), which is featured in a scene where the main cast collectively sings it as their first shared experience together. After Nomi escaped from the hospital she said the lyrics were in her head all day and Amanita recognized the song saying it was the perfect soundtrack for a lobotomy.[[94]](#cite_note-94)

## Episodes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

### Season 1 (2015)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Sense8 (season 1)](/wiki/Sense8_(season_1))

### Season 2[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

The series was renewed for a second season on August 8, 2015.[[95]](#cite_note-95) Lilly Wachowski, after completing [her gender transition](/wiki/The_Wachowskis#Lilly's_gender_transition) decided to take some time off and did not return as writer or director for the second season,[[24]](#cite_note-24) although she remained active as co-creator.[[96]](#cite_note-96) Straczynski, who had a very active role during Season 1 from pre-production to post-production in order to assist the Wachowskis with their first foray into TV, said his primary involvement in Season 2 finished with the completion of the writing phase, as Lana felt this time she had the required experience to tackle the filmmaking aspect of the show on her own.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Production start for the main unit was given an expected date of March 2016,[[72]](#cite_note-72) but a separate shoot involving the principal actors began on December 30, 2015 in Berlin to capture footage during the [Christmas holidays](/wiki/Christmas_and_holiday_season).[[97]](#cite_note-97)[[98]](#cite_note-98)[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100) This was followed by a short two-day shoot in Chicago on January 23 and 24, 2016.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Filming resumed in Berlin in the middle of March 2016[[102]](#cite_note-102) and proceeded to Mumbai on March 25, 2016 for a ten-day shoot.[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[103]](#cite_note-103) On April 7, 2016 filming started in [Positano](/wiki/Positano)[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[104]](#cite_note-104) and later in April moved to Mexico City and for one day in [Metepec](/wiki/Metepec).[[105]](#cite_note-105)[[106]](#cite_note-106)[[107]](#cite_note-107)[[108]](#cite_note-108) On May 7, 2016 filming began on San Francisco and lasted up to the 23rd of May.[[109]](#cite_note-109) A short shoot in [Malibu, California](/wiki/Malibu,_California) followed.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111) Filming in [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo), including its [20th Gay Pride Parade](/wiki/São_Paulo_Gay_Pride_Parade) took place in late May.[[112]](#cite_note-112)[[113]](#cite_note-113)[[114]](#cite_note-114) Filming in Chicago began on June 5 and wrapped up on June 15th,[[115]](#cite_note-115)[[116]](#cite_note-116) then moved to London,[[117]](#cite_note-117) [Cambridge](/wiki/Cambridge) and [Scotland](/wiki/Scotland).[[118]](#cite_note-118) Plans to film in [Amsterdam](/wiki/Amsterdam) during the summer[[119]](#cite_note-119) and return for five days in Chicago on October have been reported.[[101]](#cite_note-101) Filming in [Namibia](/wiki/Namibia), [Rome](/wiki/Rome) and [South Korea](/wiki/South_Korea) has also been mentioned.[[40]](#cite_note-40) According to the actors shooting locations in the second season have expanded from nine cities in the first season to fifteen.[[105]](#cite_note-105)[[120]](#cite_note-120) On April 26, 2016 [*Deadline*](/wiki/Deadline.com) reported that Ameen abruptly left production a couple of episodes into filming over a conflict with Lana Wachowski that started during the [table read](/wiki/Table_read) for the season and progressively got worse. Subsequently the role of Capheus was recast to Toby Onwumere.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Both the *Deadline* article and Ameen's co-star on *Sense8*, Tuppence Middleton, suggested the conflict was over creative differences.[[120]](#cite_note-120) Although an official date has not been published by Netflix, Clayton has stated the first episode is expected to be released around Christmas 2016, with the rest of the episodes following at some point in 2017. The first episode's script bears the title "[Christmas](/wiki/Christmas_by_medium#Television_specials_and_episodes) [Special](/wiki/Television_special)" on it.[[121]](#cite_note-121)

## Marketing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

In late July 2015, Netflix released a music track titled *Brainwave Symphony* on Spotify.[[122]](#cite_note-122) To produce it they subjected eight strangers to a series of various stimuli and they recorded their individual brainwaves using [EEG](/wiki/EEG) sensors. After extracting a melody from each of them they arranged them in a way to produce a track which mirrors the escalating action of the season.[[123]](#cite_note-123)[[124]](#cite_note-124) In early August 2015, Netflix made available *Sense8: Creating the World*, a half-hour web television documentary, shot around the world, about the [making of](/wiki/Making_of) Season 1 of the series.[[125]](#cite_note-125)[[54]](#cite_note-54) On May 3, 2016 [publicity stills](/wiki/Film_still) of the ongoing production of Season 2 were posted online accompanied with a short introduction by Lana Wachowski.[[126]](#cite_note-126)[[127]](#cite_note-127)

## Reception[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

### Critical reception and popularity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

Critical reception of *Sense8* has been generally favorable. [Rotten Tomatoes](/wiki/Rotten_Tomatoes), a [review aggregator](/wiki/Review_aggregator) website, reported a 67% critical approval rating with an average rating of 6/10 based on 43 reviews, and a 92% audience approval rating. The website's critical consensus reads, "Some of the scenarios border on illogical, but the diverse characters and the creative intersections between their stories keep the Wachowskis' *Sense8* compelling."[[128]](#cite_note-128) On [Metacritic](/wiki/Metacritic) the show is assigned a score of 63 out of 100, based on 23 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".[[129]](#cite_note-129) In a report released by Netflix it was discovered that at least 70% of the viewers that watched up to the third episode ended up watching the entire first season,[[130]](#cite_note-130) and Straczynski was told there are people that watch it "straight through – three, four, six times."[[131]](#cite_note-131) In another report released by Netflix, *Sense8* was listed among the shows whose viewers tend to heavily binge-watch their first seasons, rather than savoring their episodes by watching them at a slower pace.[[132]](#cite_note-132) Netflix's [Chief Content Officer](/wiki/Chief_Content_Officer) [Ted Sarandos](/wiki/Ted_Sarandos) praised the success of *Sense8* in the up-and-coming French and German markets[[133]](#cite_note-133) but also globally.[[134]](#cite_note-134) Less than three days after its premiere, [*Variety*](/wiki/Variety_(magazine)) reported that the show had been [pirated](/wiki/Copyright_infringement) more than half a million times, regardless of the series' digital distribution.[[135]](#cite_note-135)

### Accolades[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

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cinematographer: Christian Almesberger, Frank Griebe, Danny Ruhlmann, John Toll |[Template:Nominated](/wiki/Template:Nominated) | [Template:Center](/wiki/Template:Center) |- |rowspan="6"|2016 |rowspan="2"|[Dorian Awards](/wiki/Dorian_Awards) |LGBTQ TV Show of the Year ! |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |rowspan="2"| [Template:Center](/wiki/Template:Center) |- |Campy TV Show of the Year ! |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) |- |[GLAAD Media Award](/wiki/GLAAD_Media_Award) |[Outstanding Drama Series](/wiki/GLAAD_Media_Award#Categories) ! |[Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) | [Template:Center](/wiki/Template:Center) |- |[HPA Awards](/wiki/Hollywood_Post_Alliance) |Outstanding Color Grading – Television |Tony Dustin |[Template:Nominated](/wiki/Template:Nominated) | [Template:Center](/wiki/Template:Center) |- |[Location Managers Awards](/wiki/Location_Managers_Guild_International#Events) |Outstanding Locations in a Contemporary Television Series |Marco Giacalone and Bill Bowling |[Template:Won](/wiki/Template:Won) | [Template:Center](/wiki/Template:Center) |- |[Saturn Awards](/wiki/Saturn_Awards) |[Best New Media Television Series](/wiki/Saturn_Award_for_Best_New_Media_Television_Series) ! |[Template:Nom](/wiki/Template:Nom) | [Template:Center](/wiki/Template:Center) |}

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)
* [Template:IMDb title](/wiki/Template:IMDb_title)
* [Template:Twitter](/wiki/Template:Twitter)

[Template:Sense8](/wiki/Template:Sense8) [Template:Netflix](/wiki/Template:Netflix) [Template:The Wachowskis](/wiki/Template:The_Wachowskis) [Template:J. Michael Straczynski](/wiki/Template:J._Michael_Straczynski)

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