**LA LA LAND**

Cost of production : It grossed $446 million worldwide against a production budget of **$30 million**. La La Land received positive reviews, being praised for Chazelle's screenplay and direction, Gosling and Stone's performances, Justin Hurwitz's musical score, and the film's musical numbers.

Nominated and won Oscar:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Won  Oscar | |  | | --- | | Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role [Emma Stone](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1297015?ref_=ttawd_awd_1) | | Best Achievement in Directing [Damien Chazelle](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3227090?ref_=ttawd_awd_2)  At 32 years, 38 days of age, Damien Chazelle became the youngest winner of Best Director | | Best Achievement in Cinematography [Linus Sandgren](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0761874?ref_=ttawd_awd_3) | | Best Achievement in Music Written for Motion Pictures (Original Score) [Justin Hurwitz](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3225654?ref_=ttawd_awd_4) | | Best Achievement in Music Written for Motion Pictures (Original Song) [Justin Hurwitz](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3225654?ref_=ttawd_awd_5) (music)  [Benj Pasek](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2537947?ref_=ttawd_awd_5) (lyrics)  [Justin Paul](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2524192?ref_=ttawd_awd_5) (lyrics)  Song: "City of Stars" | | Best Achievement in Production Design [David Wasco](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0913300?ref_=ttawd_awd_6) (production design)  [Sandy Reynolds-Wasco](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0722012?ref_=ttawd_awd_6) (set decoration) | |
| Nominated  Oscar | |  | | --- | | Best Motion Picture of the Year [Fred Berger](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1757754?ref_=ttawd_awd_7)  [Jordan Horowitz](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3527897?ref_=ttawd_awd_7)  [Marc Platt](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0686887?ref_=ttawd_awd_7) | | Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role [Ryan Gosling](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0331516?ref_=ttawd_awd_8) | | Best Original Screenplay [Damien Chazelle](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3227090?ref_=ttawd_awd_9) | | Best Achievement in Film Editing [Tom Cross](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0189285?ref_=ttawd_awd_10) | | Best Achievement in Costume Design [Mary Zophres](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0957861?ref_=ttawd_awd_11) | | Best Achievement in Sound Mixing [Andy Nelson](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0625144?ref_=ttawd_awd_12)  [Ai-Ling Lee](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0496763?ref_=ttawd_awd_12)  [Steven Morrow](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0607551?ref_=ttawd_awd_12) | | Best Achievement in Sound Editing [Ai-Ling Lee](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0496763?ref_=ttawd_awd_13)  [Mildred Iatrou](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0406375?ref_=ttawd_awd_13) | | Best Achievement in Music Written for Motion Pictures (Original Song) [Justin Hurwitz](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3225654?ref_=ttawd_awd_14) (music)  [Benj Pasek](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2537947?ref_=ttawd_awd_14) (lyrics)  [Justin Paul](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2524192?ref_=ttawd_awd_14) (lyrics)  Song: "Audition (The Fools Who Dream)" | |

LA LA LAND wining the Oscar (video) :

# "La La Land" wins Best Cinematography

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ys4YpMHkaA>

# Emma Stone wins Best Actress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3sotAxZSG8>

# Justin Hurwitz wins Best Original Score for "La La Land"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlaapIJVFUU>

# "City Of Stars" from La La Land winning Best Original Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lT5AHleSYKk>

# Damien Chazelle wins Best Directing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1_CgxQ3Ku4>

# "La La Land" wins for Production Design

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPCm8Wcf-ZI>

### LA LA LAND Production:]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Damien_Chazelle_(cropped).jpg)

[Damien Chazelle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damien_Chazelle) received many awards and nominations for writing and directing the film.

As a drummer, [Damien Chazelle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damien_Chazelle) has a predilection for musical films. He wrote the screenplay for *La La Land* in 2010, when the film industry seemed out of reach for him. His idea was "to take the old musical but ground it in real life where things don't always exactly work out, and to salute creative people who move to Los Angeles to chase their dreams. He conceived the film when he was a student at [Harvard University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_University) with his classmate, [Justin Hurwitz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Hurwitz). The two explored the concept in their senior thesis through a low-budget musical about a [Boston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston) jazz musician, [*Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_and_Madeline_on_a_Park_Bench)*.*  Chazelle was moved by the tradition of 1920s city symphony films, such as *Manhattan* (1921) and [*Man With a Movie Camera*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Man_With_a_Movie_Camera) (1929), that paid tribute to cities. After graduating, both moved to Los Angeles in 2010 and continued writing the script, but made a few modifications, such as altering the location to Los Angeles instead of Boston.

L.A., even more so than any other American city, obscures, sometimes neglects, its own history. But that can also be its own magical thing, because it's a city that reveals itself bit by bit, like an onion, if you take the time to explore it.

Rather than trying to match L.A. to the charms of [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris) or [San Francisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco), he focused on the qualities that make the city distinctive: the traffic, the sprawl, and the skylines. The style and tone of the film were inspired by [Jacques Demy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Demy)'s [*The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Umbrellas_of_Cherbourg) and [*The Young Girls of Rochefort*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Young_Girls_of_Rochefort), especially the latter, which was more dance and jazz-oriented. The film also makes visual allusions to Hollywood classics such as [*Broadway Melody of 1940*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadway_Melody_of_1940)*,* *[Singin' in the Rain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singin%27_in_the_Rain" \o "Singin' in the Rain),* [*The Band Wagon*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Band_Wagon) and [*An American in Paris*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_American_in_Paris_(film))*.*  About *An American in Paris,* Chazelle commented: “That’s a movie that we just pillaged. It’s an awesome example of how daring some of those old musicals really were." It shares some character development and themes with Chazelle's previous musical work, [*Whiplash*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whiplash_(2014_film))*;* Chazelle said:

"They're both about the struggle of being an artist and reconciling your dreams with the need to be human. *La La Land* is just much less angry about it."

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Director_Damien_Chazelle_and_Emma_Stone_on_the_set_of_La_La_Land.jpg)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Damien_Chazelle_and_Ryan_Gosling_on_the_set_of_La_La_Land.jpg)

Top to bottom: [Damien Chazelle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damien_Chazelle)directing [Emma Stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Stone) and [Ryan Gosling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan_Gosling) on the set of *La La Land*.

He said that both films reflect his own experiences as a filmmaker working his way up the Hollywood ladder. *La La Land* in particular is inspired by his experience of moving from the [East Coast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Coast_of_the_United_States) with preconceived notions of what L.A. would be like, "that it was all just strip malls and freeways."

Chazelle was unable to produce the film for years as no studio was willing to finance an original contemporary musical, with no familiar songs. It was also a jazz musical, which [*The Hollywood Reporter*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hollywood_Reporter) called an "extinct genre". He believed that since he and Hurwitz were unknown at that time, it might have made financiers dubious about the project's potential. Chazelle found producers through friends who introduced him to [Fred Berger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Berger_(producer)) and [Jordan Horowitz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Horowitz). With the two producers on board, the script went to [Focus Features](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Focus_Features) at a budget of around $1 million. The studio demanded alterations: the male lead was asked to be changed from a jazz pianist to a rock musician, the complicated opening number had to be altered, and the story's bittersweet ending needed to be dropped. Chazelle scrapped the project and moved on.

Chazelle later wrote *Whiplash*, which was an easier concept to sell and a less risky investment. After *Whiplash* was well received by critics upon its premiere at the [2014 Sundance Film Festival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Sundance_Film_Festival) in January, Chazelle continued his efforts to bring *La La Land* to the big screen. A year later, when *Whiplash* earned five Oscar nominations at the [87th Academy Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/87th_Academy_Awards) including [Best Picture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Picture), and grossed nearly $50 million worldwide off a $3.3 million production budget, Chazelle and his project began to attract attention from studios.

Five years after Chazelle wrote the script [Summit Entertainment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summit_Entertainment) and Black Label Media, along with producer [Marc Platt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc_Platt_(producer)), agreed to invest in *La La Land* and distribute it. They had been impressed by the critical and commercial success of *Whiplash.* Lionsgate's Patrick Wachsberger, who had previously worked on the [*Step Up* franchise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Step_Up_(film_series)), pushed Chazelle to increase the film's budget since he felt high-quality musicals could not be made cheaply.

LA LA LAND interview & backtages (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhDtuy-YG74>

LA LA LAND soundtrack(audio): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmKlaGpmYig&t=13s>