

MAMMA MIA!: HERE WE GO AGAIN (2018)

- July 20th, 2018
- 1 hr 54 minutes
- \$70,000,000 (Estimated)
- Directed by Ol Parker
- Written by Ol Parker, Richard Curtis
- Production company: Legendary Entertainment, Universal
- Rated PG-13 for some suggestive material

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Marisa Serafini
- Phil Svitek
- Demetri Panos

DEVELOPMENT

- “Richard Curtis wrote me an email and asked, “Random question — do you like Abba?” and I went, “Well, who doesn’t?” and that was like two years ago, and I thought he was going to invite me to dinner with them, because he knows everybody and that’s how he rolls. Then he wrote me again and asked, “How do you feel about writing the sequel to Mamma Mia?” -Parker

ABBA HISTORY <https://abbasite.com/story/>

- started in 1966: Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson first met and wrote first song
- Bjorn was in folk group “The Hootenanny Singers” and Benny in “The Hep Stars” (biggest Swedish pop band at time)
- Benny left his band; Bjorn was still recording with his
- 1969: they met solo singers Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid Lyngstad (Frida)
 - At first, the four members collaborated musically mainly by contributing songs, instrumental backing, production work or backing vocals to the recordings they each made as solo or duo acts.
- 1970: put together the cabaret act Festfolk (translates to “engaged couples” or “party people”); their first attempt at collaboration was unsuccessful
- 1971: Bjorn married Agnetha
- 1972: recorded song “People Need Love”
- 1973: entered Melodifestivalen, the Swedish selection for the Eurovision Song Contest, with the song ‘Ring Ring’.
 - they finished third, but the single and the album of the same name were the biggest hits of the year in Sweden
- 1974: group entered Melodifestivalen again in 1974, this time with ‘Waterloo’, which took them all the way to the Eurovision finals in Brighton –they won
 - now called ABBA –an acronym for their initials
 - Waterloo #1 across Europe and top 10 in US
 - ‘Mamma Mia’, also from the *ABBA* album, returned the group to the UK Number One spot, which they occupied a total of nine times between 1974 and 1980.
- 1976: classic singles such as ‘Fernando’ and ‘Dancing Queen’ topped the charts all over the world, including the US (in 1977) – ‘Dancing Queen’ was ABBA’s only stateside Number One.
 - fourth album “Arrival” released; toured Europe and Australia

- 1977: ABBA – The Movie and ABBA – The Album released
- 1978: Benny married Frida
- 1979: Fifth album “Voulez-vous” released
 - Björn and Agnetha announced their divorce
 - “Gimme Gimme Gimme” released
- 1980: ABBA took their tour to Japan for what turned out to be their very last live concerts in front of a paying audience.
 - recorded “Super Trouper” album
- 1981: Benny and Frida announced divorce
 - eighth album “The Visitors” released
- 1982: the energy was gradually running out of the group, as Björn and Benny set their sights on writing the musical *Chess* and Agnetha and Frida were reviving their solo careers
 - released “*The Singles – The First Ten Years*” and two new songs
 - group decided to take a break
- Going forward...
 - 1990: many compilations, covers and movies kept group living despite no reunion

WRITING (Ol Parker, Richard Curtis)

Ol Parker – has basically done everything!

- used to act in theater productions and guest star on TV (Matlock) and film (Hellraiser, Nuns on the Run, An Ideal Husband)
- did stand-up comedy for awhile
- writing credits: Grange Hill, Unsigned (directed), Othello, An Ideal Husband, The Importance of Being Earnest, It Was An Accident, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
- directing credits: Imagine Me & You, Now Is Good
- Richard Curtis –
 - works primarily on rom-coms
 - past projects: Four Weddings and a Funeral, Notting Hill, Bridget Jones's Diary, Love Actually, About Time, War Horse, Blackadder, Mr. Bean, The Vicar of Dibley
 - BAFTA Academy Fellowship Award recipient
 - '08: ranked #12 on The Telegraph's “100 most powerful people in British culture”
 - co-founded and co-created Comic Relief and Red Nose Day
 - founder of Make Poverty History

STORY/TOPICS

- Sex Positivity & Liberation: It doesn't really matter who Sophie's dad is because she came from love and happiness, which is ultimately most important.
 - “As a result, all potential for judgment is removed from the very beginning of *Mamma Mia*, imbuing the movies with a sense of freedom. It's not age-restricted either: Whether 20-something Sophie, or her 40-something mother Donna, or Donna's friends Rosie (Julie Walters) and Tanya (Christine Baranski), the women of the film are empowered, frank, and unashamedly confident in their sexuality.” -Glamour

CAST:

AMANDA SEYFRIED (Sophie)

- TV: As The World Turns, All My Children, Veronica Mars, Big Love
- Film: Mean Girls, Nine Lives, Alpha Dog, Mama Mia!, Jennifer's Body, Chloe, Dear John, Letters to Juliet, Red Riding Hood, In Time, Les Misérables, Lovelace, A Million Ways to Die in the West, Ted 2, Fathers and Daughters, First Reformed, Gringo
- got matching foot tattoos with costars Rachel McDowall and Ashley Lilley, who played her character Sophie's BFFs and bridesmaids in the first film: the word 'minge', a term of endearment (means 'vagina' in England but doesn't mean anything in the US)
 - her insta handle is @mingey

LILY JAMES (Young Donna) / **MERYL STREEP** (Donna)

- Meryl Streep (Donna)
 - filmed all her scenes in one week.
 - called "the best actress of her generation"
 - nominated for 21 Academy Awards; won 3
 - nominated for 31 Golden Globes; won 8 (more noms/wins than anyone else)
 - awarded AFI Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004
 - won Kennedy Center Honor in 2011
 - awarded National Medal of Arts by Obama in 2010 and Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2014
 - 2003: Gov't of France named her Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters
 - began in theater: Trelawny of the Wells, 27 Wagons Full of Cotton
 - TV: The Deadliest Season, Holocaust, Angels in America
 - Film: Julia, The Deer Hunter, Kramer vs. Kramer, Sophie's Choice, The Iron Lady, The French Lieutenant's Woman, Silkwood, Out of Africa, Ironweed, Evil Angels, Postcards from the Edge, The Bridges of Madison County, One True Thing, Music of the Heart, Adaptation, The Devil Wears Prada, Doubt, Julie & Julia, August: Osage County, Into the Woods, Florence Foster Jenkins, The Post
- Lily James (Young Donna)
 - "Lily is in life and art, completely uninhibited and just commits fully on screen."
-Parker
 - TV: Just William, Downton Abbey, War & Peace
 - Film: Cinderella, Baby Driver, Darkest Hour

PIERCE BROSNAN (Sam) / **JEREMY IRVINE** (Young Sam)

- Pierce Brosnan –
 - dropped out of school at age 16
 - TV: Remington Steele, Nancy Astor, Noble House, Around the World in 80 Days, Bag of Bones, The Son
 - Film: The Fourth Protocol, Mrs. Doubtfire, GoldenEye, Tomorrow Never Dies, The World Is Not Enough and Die Another Day, Dante's Peak, The Thomas Crown Affair, Mama Mia!, The Ghost Writer, The November Man, The Matador, The Laws of Attraction, Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief, I Don't Know How She Does It, Love Is All You Need, Some Kind of Beautiful, Survivor, A Christmas Star I.T., The Foreigner
 - along with Beau St. Clair, Brosnan formed Irish DreamTime, a Los Angeles-based production company.

- married American journalist/author Keely Shaye Smith in 2001; became an American citizen in 2004
- Jeremy Irvine –
 - TV: Life Bites
 - Film: War Horse, Great Expectations, The Railway Man, The Women in Black: Angel of Death, Fallen The Beautiful Fantastic
 - said he never saw himself in a musical, but Parker convinced him to audition as they'd worked together in the past

STELLAN SKARSGAARD (Bill) / JOSH DYLAN (Young Bill)

- Stellan Skarsgaard –
 - Film: Breaking the Waves, The Hunt for Red October, Good Will Hunting, Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End, Mamma Mia!, Angels and Demons, The Girls with the Dragon Tattoo, Thor, Thor: The Dark World, The Avengers, Avengers: Age of Ultron, Cinderella, Exorcist, Frankie and Alice, Melancholia, Romeo and Juliet
 - TV: Entourage, Arn, Rouge Bresil, River
 - said he didn't listen to ABBA during the height of their popularity in Sweden bc it wasn't "his taste"
 - "I wouldn't say high school reunion, but it was like returning to a very nice party you had 10 years ago."
- Josh Dylan –
 - Film: Allied, The Little Stranger (2018)

COLIN FIRTH (Harry) / HUGH SKINNER (Young Harry)

- Colin Firth –
 - Film: The King's Speech, Pride and Prejudice, The English Patient, Bridget Jones's Diary, Shakespeare in Love, Love Actually, A Single Man, Kingsman: The Secret Service, Kingsman: The Golden Circle
 - 2011: received star on Hollywood Walk of Fame
 - 2011: named on Time 100 list
 - has campaigned on issues of asylum seekers, refugees' rights, and the environment. He commissioned and co-authored a scientific paper on a study into the differences in brain structure between people of differing political orientations
- Hugh Skinner –
 - TV: The Wipers Times, W1A, Our Zoo, Fleabag, The Windsors, Poldark, Harlots
 - Film: Les Miserables, Hampstead, Steven Berkoff's Tell Tale Heart, Star Wars: The Last Jedi

CHRISTINE BARANSKI (Tanya) / JESSICA KEENAN WYNN (Young Tanya)

- Christine Baranski –
 - 15-time Emmy Award nominee
 - TV: Cybill, The Good Wife, The Big Bang Theory
 - Film: 9½ Weeks, Legal Eagles, Reversal of Fortune, Addams Family Values, Jeffrey, The Birdcage, Bulworth, Cruel Intentions, Bowfinger, Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Chicago, Mamma Mia!, Into the Woods, A Bad Moms Christmas

- Broadway: The Real Thing, Rumors, Hide and Seek, Hurlyburly, The House of Blue Leaves and Boeing Boeing
- Jessica Keenan Wynn –
 - Broadway: Heathers: The Musical, Life Could Be A Dream, Les Miserables, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical
 - Film: Go Green, The House of Americans
 - TV appearances: The Golden Girls, The Knick, Forever, The Mysteries of Laura, Billions

JULIE WALTERS (Rosie) / ALEXA DAVIES (Young Rosie)

- Julie Walters –
 - Film: Educating Rita, Billy Elliot, Personal Services, Prick Up Your Ears, Buster, Stepping Out, Calendar Girls, Mamma Mia!, Brave, Harry Potter Series (7/8 films)
 - TV: Wood and Walters, Victoria Wood As Seen on TV, Pat and Margaret, Dinnerladies
 - She has won the BAFTA TV Award for Best Actress four times, for My Beautiful Son, Murder, The Canterbury Tales and as Mo Mowlam in Mo
 - wrote 2008 autobiography “That’s Another Story”
- Alexa Davies –
 - Film: Sticky, Vinyl, X + Y, Absolutely Anything, The Sense of an Ending
 - TV: Raised by Wolves, Cradle to Grave,

ANDY GARCIA (Fernando)

- Cher handpicked Andy Garcia to play the character of Fernando out of a bunch of selected actors.
- Films: The Godfather Part III, The Untouchables, Internal Affairs, When a Man Loves a Woman, Oceans 11-13, The Lost City, For Love or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story, Beverly Hills Chihuahua, Pink Panther 2

CHER (Ruby Sheridan)

- Films: Mask, Suspect, Moonstruck
- Cher is just three years older than Meryl Streep.
- Parker said he didn’t contemplate hiring anyone other than Cher.
- Cher was originally offered the role of Tanya in the first film which she turned down. She appears in this movie but in a different role.
- Cher had a cameo in ABBA's last video in 2004, named ABBA: Our Last Video Ever (2004). In the video Cher was an audience member while ABBA, portrayed by puppets, performer their winning song "Waterloo."
- Cher (Ruby) announced on Twitter on 16 October 2017 that she'll be performing the somber ABBA hit "Fernando."

DIRECTING: (Ol Parker)

- Past Projects: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Imagine Me & You, Now is Good
- “When I first got the gig I spent a couple of the first days terrified! Obviously we are here because of the enormous success of the first one, so I realized quite quickly that if I succumbed to the pressure that I would never get out of bed and would never write a word. So I just tried to view it that I got the chance to inherit these characters that people

knew and loved and these songs and extraordinary music as well as these wonderful actors I get the chance to work with and not get too freaked out by the level of expectations.” -Parker

TRIVIA

- Released exactly 10 years after Mamma Mia! (2008).
- The musical score playing during the end credits is a medley of songs featured in the first film, including "Lay All Your Love on Me."
- Meryl would hide behind plants and props on set to avoid Cher seeing her because they're such close and friends and she didn't wanna make her nervous.

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Robert D. Yeoman)

- Past Projects: Hero, Johnny Be Good, The Wizard, Kid, Past Midnight, Somebody to Love, Bottle Rocket, White Lies, Down To You, Beautiful, The Squid and the Whale, Red Eye, Hot Chevalier, Martian Child, Yes Man, Whip It, Bridesmaids, Moonrise Kingdom, The Heat, The Grand Budapest Hotel, Love & Mercy, Spy, Ghostbusters (2016)
- The film choreographer is the same choreographer who worked with the traveling Mamma Mia North American Farewell Tour.
- Filmed on the remote Croatian island of Vis, just off the Dalmatian coast in the Adriatic sea.
- When Cher filmed singing "Fernando" scene: "All the crew, all the cast that weren't working that day, they all came in and they brought their husbands and wives and children and dogs to watch Cher come down the staircase singing 'Fernando'...That day we all adored her, and she is the sweetest person. But it's next level when she sings. It's a private concert." -Parker

EDITING/VFX (Peter Lambert)

- Past Projects: The Death of Stalin, Woman in Gold, A Brilliant Young Mind, The Last Days on Mars, Now Is Good, A Better Life, The Twilight Saga: New Moon, Tonight is Cancelled
- "With editor Peter Lambert, Parker segues seamlessly between past and present, creating a number of correspondences between the young Donna and Sophie, sometimes thematic (notably motherhood) and at others involving the presence of the same three men in each of their young lives" -Screen Daily

SOUND/MUSIC (Benny Andersson, Anne Dudley, Björn Ulvaeus)

- Benny Andersson
 - member of ABBA
 - co-composer of the musicals Chess, Kristina från Duvemåla, and Mamma Mia!.
 - EP'd first Mamma Mia! movie
 - has his own band Benny Anderssons orkester
- Anne Dudley
 - She was the first BBC Concert Orchestra's Composer in Association in 2001
 - member of synth-pop band Art of Noise
 - past film projects: The Full Monty, Les Miserables, The Gathering, A Man Apart, Bright Young Things, Perfect Creature, The Walker
 - co-wrote "This Was Never Meant to Be" with Sting
- Björn Ulvaeus

- member of ABBA
- co-produced first Mamma Mia! movie
- created musical "Chess" with Andersson
- ABBA member, Björn Ulvaeus, makes a cameo appearance in the number "When I Kissed The Teacher".
- Benny Andersson appears as a piano player during the Waterloo number. Benny Anderson is one of the members of the ABBA which the musical is based on

Title	Performed by	Original album	Notes	
1	" When I Kissed the Teacher "	Young Donna and the Dynamos & Vice-Chancellor (Lily James , Jessica Keenan Wynn , Alexa Davies & Celia Imrie)	Arrival (1976)	
2	" One of Us "	Sophie & Sky (Amanda Seyfried & Dominic Cooper)	The Visitors (1981)	
3	" Waterloo "	Young Harry & Young Donna (Hugh Skinner & Lily James)	Waterloo (1974)	
4	" Why Did It Have to Be Me? "	Young Bill, Young Donna, Young Harry (Josh Dylan , Lily James & Hugh Skinner)	Arrival (1976)	
5	" I Have a Dream "	Young Donna (Lily James)	Voulez-Vous (1979)	
6	" Kisses of Fire "	Lazaros (Panos Mouzourakis)	Voulez-Vous (1979)	<i>Vocals with Young Tanya (Jessica Keenan Wynn) and Young Rosie (Alexa Davies) are absent from the film.</i>
7	" Andante Andante "	Young Donna (Lily James)	Super Trouper (1980)	

8	"The Name of the Game"	Young Donna (Lily James)	ABBA: The Album (1977)	
9	"Knowing Me, Knowing You"	Young Donna & Young Sam (Lily James & Jeremy Irvine)	Arrival (1976)	<i>Lines with Sam (Pierce Brosnan) and Sophie (Amanda Seyfried) are absent from the film.</i>
10	"Mamma Mia"	Young Donna and the Dynamos (Lily James , Jessica Keenan Wynn & Alexa Davies)	ABBA (1975)	
11	"Angel Eyes"	Rosie, Tanya & Sophie (Julie Walters , Christine Baranski & Amanda Seyfried)	Voulez-Vous (1979)	
12	"Dancing Queen"	Sophie, Rosie, Tanya, Sam, Bill & Harry (Amanda Seyfried , Julie Walters , Christina Baranski , Pierce Brosnan , Stellan Skarsgård & Colin Firth)	Arrival (1976)	
13	"I've Been Waiting for You"	Sophie, Rosie & Tanya (Amanda Seyfried , Julie Walters & Christine Baranski)	ABBA (1975)	
14	"Fernando"	Ruby & Fernando (Cher & Andy Garcia)	Arrival (1976)	
15	"My Love, My Life"	Donna & Sophie (Meryl Streep & Amanda Seyfried)	Arrival (1976)	<i>With original intro from Young Donna (Lily James)</i>

16	"Super Troupers"	Ruby, Donna, Rosie, Tanya, Sophie, Sky, Sam, Bill, Harry, Fernando, Young Donna, Young Rosie, Young Tanya, Young Bill, Young Sam & Young Harry (Cher , Meryl Streep , Julie Walters , Christine Baranski , Amanda Seyfried , Dominic Cooper , Pierce Brosnan , Stellan Skarsgård , Colin Firth , Andy Garcia , Lily James , Alexa Davies , Jessica Keenan Wynn , Josh Dylan , Jeremy Irvine & Hugh Skinner)	Super Troupers (1980)	
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PROMOTION

- Pinkberry created “Mamma Mia! Mango” flavor
- get 10 percent off tickets from Citi using promo code “CITI”

BOX OFFICE

- (As of July 22nd, 2018)
- Domestic: \$34,380,000
- Foreign: \$42,400,000
- Worldwide: \$76,780,000
- Opening Weekend:
 - Had the biggest opening weekend at the box office in the careers of Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried and Cher

RECEPTION

- Rotten Tomatoes: 79% Tatometer, 78% Audience
- Cinemascore: A-
- IMDb: 7.3/10
- Variety: “‘Mamma Mia!’ is the perfect antidote to traditional summer blockbusters — it’s low-stakes, it’s lighthearted, and it’s pure fun. Moviegoers are hungry for escapism that’s a little lighter. The perfect recipe could be a slice of Lily James’ soulful rendition of ‘Mamma Mia,’ a hint of Greece’s crystal blue waters, and a dollop of Cher.
- Vulture: Wynn completely nailed the part of Christine: “The link between the Baranskis is so strong that it helps the movie span decades seamlessly, and after watching Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again flit between 1979 and and 2018 with Baranski’s bob as a constant, Westworld’s over complicated timelines just look like a dumb dork.”
- Jezebel: it didn’t deliver: “I get that the sequel focuses on how Sophie is coping with the loss of her mom, and there were some sweet moments that (maybe!) made me tear up, especially towards the end, but it felt like some of the energy of the original was gone. It was trying to thread the needle and be both a tearjerker about family and loss and a campy musical based off of the b-sides of what is truly the corniest band of all time, and it didn’t really succeed. For me!”
- Glamour: praise for being sex-positive and feminist: “Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again is an absolute delight of a film. It’s fun, it’s energetic, but it’s more than that. Interspersed between the songs and the sun is a message vital for young women: Our life and self should be enjoyed exactly how you want, and that includes your sexuality.”

- The New York Times: They shouldn't have cut Meryl and Cher didn't fill her spot: "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again' Takes a Detour and Loses Its Kick...you were watching very good actors do karaoke in an Anglo-Nordic telenovela. Now you're watching them do it in a sequel, which means you're also watching something more inscrutably sad: karaoke of karaoke."

SEQUELS

- desire for a sequel: "There's little separating the MCU, a billion-dollar comic-book mega-franchise, from the MMCU: the ABBA-infused Mamma Mia! Cinematic Universe. The fandom is alive, and the potential for endless sequels is there. You just have to believe." -Polygon
- Seyfried says probably not: "I feel there is enough ABBA music for sure but I'm gonna say the same thing I said 10 years ago: I don't f—ing think so...it seems like it would be ridiculous. But now anything can happen! The only thing is I would be worried the studio would only make it to make money and, with Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again, I know that's not the case."

MEDIA