

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (2018)

- November 2nd, 2018
- 2 hrs 15 mins
- \$52,000,000 (estimated) budget
- Directed by Bryan Singer
- Written by Anthony McCarten (story by), Peter Morgan (story by)
- GK Films, New Regency Pictures, Queen Films Ltd.
- Rated PG-13 for thematic elements, suggestive material, drug content and language

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Phil Svitek
- Marisa Serafini
- Demetri Panos

DEVELOPMENT

- "Bohemian Rhapsody" development began in 2010, and Fletcher was once slated to direct the film for Sony.
- Producer Graham King was persuaded to buy the rights to the story of Freddie Mercury and the band Queen by award-winning writer Peter Morgan. "I was shooting the film Hugo, and Peter called me and asked me if I liked the band Queen," he recalls. "I said, yes, I love Queen! And he told me he was writing this script on spec and that no one had the rights to their story and that I should think about getting involved." -King
- "Having Brian and Roger involved was crucial," he says. "No one knows their story and this band more than the two of them, so their insight was invaluable. It was also a terrific boost to our confidence just having them there cheering us on. Knowing that they were there and watching raised our game. It's very difficult putting your story in the hands of strangers, but we really got to know them, and there was this trust level where we did not want to let them down." -Malek
- After a long phone conversation with Jim "Miami" Beach, Queen's lawyer, King was introduced to Queen founders, guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor, and the deal was sealed.
- The deal with Baron Cohen fell apart after May voiced upset after finding that the project would only be a biopic of Freddie Mercury and not the rest of Queen. May felt that it should focus on the other members and the aftermath of Mercury's death. He also voiced his negative opinion of the casting choice of Baron Cohen, whom he felt was too much of a comedic actor who wouldn't do Mercury justice in drama.
- The project went through several incarnations until it finally reached the screen, and May and Taylor were impressed by King's tenacity and commitment. "Graham King is a wonderful producer who has been with us all along the way," says May. "There were moments when Roger and I thought it was never going to happen. So the fact that Graham has managed to pull it together with such a great team and cast is very exciting."
- In December 2017, Singer was fired for absence and clashing with the cast and crew, and [Dexter Fletcher](#) was hired to complete the film. Singer eventually retained sole director credit as per [DGA](#) guidelines, while Fletcher received an [executive producer](#) credit

REAL LIFE COMPARISONS

- There's a dramatic scene where Freddie reveals that he's signed a solo deal behind their back for \$4 million and that he wants to take a long break from the band. The others are absolutely livid and they all go their separate ways. The truth is that everyone in the band was burned out in 1983 after being on the road for a solid decade. They all wanted a break. The movie makes it seem like they didn't speak to Freddie for years, but they actually began work on *The Works* in late 1983 and were never estranged.
- In the movie, the group isn't even on speaking terms when they get the offer to play Live Aid in 1985, and they hadn't done a gig in years. It never mentions that they released *The Works* in early 1984 and then toured it all over the world. The last show of the tour was just eight weeks before Live Aid. They were extremely well-rehearsed by the time that show hit, but the movie shows them having to make peace with each other and get back into playing shape.
- Freddie didn't learn he was HIV-positive before Live Aid. During rehearsals for Live Aid in the movie. The exact time that Mercury learned he had the disease remains somewhat under dispute, but nearly everyone pins it as occurring sometime between 1986 and 1987. He almost certainly had no clue when the group was rehearsing for Live Aid.
- LIVE AID:
 - Live Aid was one of the most important cultural events of the 1980s, bringing together the world's biggest superstars in a benefit concert on two stages, Wembley Stadium in London and the John F Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia, on July 13, 1985. Organized by Bob Geldof and Midge Ure to raise funds for those affected by the famine in Ethiopia, the concert was one of the largest satellite link-ups and TV broadcasts of all time, watched by an audience totaling 1.9 billion in 150 countries around the world.
 - "People were watching in the UK, but they weren't calling in to pledge money, which was what the whole concert was about, Freddie came on and did a set that the band had rehearsed for three weeks, so it was a perfect 20-minute set, and he brought everyone together. He made them realize what the event was all about." -King

WRITING (Luke Davies (screenplay by), Felix van Groeningen (screenplay by))

- In November 2015, screenwriter [Anthony McCarten](#) had become attached to the project, which now had the working title of *Bohemian Rhapsody* after the band's [song of the same name](#).^[27] Developing a fresh take on the story from his interviews with the band (May and Taylor), he delivered his first draft in February 2016

CAST:

- On 4 November 2016, it was announced that [Rami Malek](#) would star as [Freddie Mercury](#)
- On 21 August 2017, additional cast members were announced, including [Ben Hardy](#) as drummer Roger Taylor, [Gwilym Lee](#) as lead guitarist Brian May, and [Joseph Mazzello](#) as bass guitarist [John Deacon](#)
- On 30 August 2017, it was reported that [Allen Leech](#) had been cast in the film to play Mercury's personal manager, Paul Prenter, who worked for him from 1977 to 1982 when he was fired for betraying Mercury by selling his personal information to the UK newspapers

- On 6 September 2017, [Lucy Boynton](#) joined the cast of the film to play Mercury's long-term girlfriend, Mary Austin. [Lindsey Stirling](#), [Bryce Dallas Howard](#), [Maria Bello](#) and [Ashley Johnson](#) were also considered
- On 11 September 2017, [Mike Myers](#) joined the cast to play [EMI](#) executive Ray Foster
- On 22 September 2017, [Aaron McCusker](#) joined the cast of the film to play Mercury's long-term boyfriend, Jim Hutton
- On 26 September 2017, it was announced that [Aidan Gillen](#) was cast as [John Reid](#), Queen's second manager, from 1975 to 1978, who took over from [Norman Sheffield](#) of [Trident Studios](#) and [Tom Hollander](#) would play [Jim Beach](#), Queen's third manager, who took over from John Reid in 1978

RAMI MALEK (Freddie Mercury)

- Sacha Baron Cohen was the original choice to play Freddie Mercury. He left the project due to creative differences with the band's guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor.
- Rami Malek landed the leading role because the producers like him so much in *Mr. Robot* (2015) as his jawline reminded them of Mercury.
- Rami Malek had sent a video of him singing to the band members of Queen, however when he finally met them they hadn't watched it due to not downloading it properly. Rami saw first hand their reaction to his singing.
- Canadian Singer Marc Martel lends his voice to the biopic as Freddie. They use a mix of his voice and Freddie's together, on top of Malek's. In an interview, he said his singing was seamlessly mixed with both Freddie's and Martel's.
- Rami Malek's movement coach for the part had him study Liza Minnelli in *Cabaret* (1972) as well as performances by (all now deceased) Jimi Hendrix, David Bowie, and Aretha Franklin.
- Rami Malek was fitted with special prosthetic teeth to best resemble Freddie's prominent overbite. After the film wrapped, Rami got to keep the teeth as a special memento from his experience on the shoot.
- British choreographer and movement coach Polly Bennett worked painstakingly with Rami Malek to perfect every nuance of Freddie's mannerisms. Every eye glance, every body turn, every cocky strut on stage and every flick of the microphone had to be just right. "Movement isn't just the performance," explains Bennett. "It's everything the character is and has ever been." -Malek
- Malek loved the music and was thrilled about having the chance to find out more about this musical icon. "I knew that Queen was massive and Freddie Mercury was an icon and a hero to so many," says Malek. "But I don't think I completely understood just how important he is to so many people across the world. Queen's fan base is massive. I was always a fan of Queen and Freddie Mercury, but it was only when I started researching the band that I realized they began in the 1970s, when they all had long hair and black fingernails and wore outrageous outfits. I think most people identify Freddie as this crop-haired, mustachioed, tank top wearing, muscular man who had a ton of bravado and machismo. It was astonishing to get to know the many versions and the very sweet side of him as well."

LUCY BOYNTON (Mary Austin)

- Mary was "the closest person to Freddie in his life. She was someone he could implicitly trust and rely on. There was a love and a bond between them that was unmistakable

and undeniable. He referred to her as his common law wife. Mary allowed him the confidence and the courage to be exactly who he knew he could be. And that's what true friends do. I think they allow you to feel confident in your own skin, to find that confidence and to share it with others."

- It was the script that drew Boynton to the film. "I really loved it, and it surprised me because it was very much a celebration of Queen and everything that they created and a celebration of Freddie," she says. "You can tell that it was written by people who really love him. It was a really beautiful exploration into his beautiful existence."
- Lucy Boynton (born 17 January 1994) is an American-English actress. She made her film debut with a leading role in [Miss Potter](#) (2006). Boynton starred in *Copperhead* (2013), *Sing Street* (2016), *Murder on the Orient Express* (2017) and *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018).

GWILYM LEE (Brian May)

- "It's a real pleasure to play such an iconic character in a band that is loved by so many people," says Lee. "I also loved that the film tells a very human story where these iconic rock gods are portrayed as real individuals. They were grafters, and it was a real struggle in the UK where they didn't have any kind of popular success. They went on tour to Japan, and they landed in Japan to absolute mayhem. There was completely adoration, but when they get home, there's nothing."
- Gwilym Lee was born on November 24, 1983 in London, England. He is an actor, known for [Bohemian Rhapsody](#) (2018), [Fresh Meat](#) (2011) and [The Tourist](#) (2010).

BEN HARDY (Roger Taylor)

- Hardy recalls how he got the role: "It was a very daunting task to play Roger Taylor, as he is a fantastic drummer, and I haven't drummed a day in my life. Which I wasn't completely honest about when I auditioned for the part! I said I could drum, and the director said, 'Okay, great, could you put together a video of this track?' And I was like, 'You know, yeah, sure, of course'. And I went home, bought the cheapest drum kit I could find and just had lessons every day for a couple of weeks. I put together a tape to show to casting. And luckily it was good enough. Then the real work started--10 hours of intensive drumming every day with instructor Brett Morgan. It was a crash course in drumming."
- Ben Hardy was born Ben Jones on 2 January 1991 in England, United Kingdom. He grew up in Sherborne and attended The Gryphon School.
- Ben starred in *The Judas Kiss* (1998) play, written by [David Hare](#), in 2012 and played the character Arthur Wellesley, a member of the hotel staff. The play was held in Hampstead Theatre on the September 6, 2012.
- On April 19, 2013 it was announced that Ben would play Peter Beale in *EastEnders*, taking over from [Thomas Law](#) who played the character from 2006 until 2010. He made his first appearance as Peter on 7 June 2013. On November 19, 2014 it was announced that Ben would leave the show.
- Hardy joined the cast of [X-Men: Apocalypse](#) (2016) on February 25, 2015, following his departure from *EastEnders* in an (at the time) undisclosed role. Since leaving *EastEnders* that February, he was persistently linked to Singer's next X-Men film, and was at one point rumored to be in the running to play Cyclops, a role that went to Tye Sheridan. However, Hardy ended up playing winged mutant Angel (a.k.a Warren Worthington III)

JOSEPH MAZZELLO (John Deacon)

- Rami Malek and Joseph Mazzello had known each other for over 10 years and had been good friends prior to shooting the film.
- Joseph Mazzello has said that "Bohemian Rhapsody" was the very first song he downloaded on Napster.
- To prepare for the part, Mazzello scoured the internet for videos of the band. "I found every interview John ever did, any live footage of him playing, any behind the scenes footage, every documentary," he says. "I watched it all just to get a sense of who he was, how he fitted in, how he felt about himself in the context of the band and how he changed over time. Those are what I call the macro elements. And it's important to stay very faithful to those. But we were making a movie, and there's a 99% chance that the lines we're saying are not true to life. However, as long as you can make the words that you say and scenes that you play--what I call the micro elements-- fit those macro elements, that's the way in to playing a character who is alive and is well-known and who people are going to have strong opinions about."
- Born in Rhinebeck, New York, he got into acting when he was 5 years old, after his sister had appeared in 30-odd commercials. Since then he has acted opposite some of the best actors in Hollywood as a bright, expressive actor with complexity, sensitivity, and emotion. He attended film school at USC and got a degree in cinema and television production. He plans on continuing his acting career while also following his aspirations of becoming a director.

MIKE MYERS (Ray Foster)

- Mike Myers plays Ray Foster in the film who complains about Bohemian Rhapsody saying that it's not music that teenagers can bang their heads to. This is clearly a nod to 'Wayne's World' where Mike Myers (who plays Wayne) is headbanging to Bohemian Rhapsody in the car.
- The success of Wayne's World put the song Bohemian Rhapsody back on the Billboard Hot 100, where it reached No. 2. In 2014, Myers revealed that he lobbied to get Queen's classic in the movie against the wishes of the studio, which wanted a song by Guns N' Roses for that scene. "I always loved 'Bohemian Rhapsody.' I thought it was a masterpiece. So I fought really, really hard for it. And at one point I said, 'Well, I'm out. I don't want to make this movie if it's not 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'"

DIRECTING: (Bryan Singer/Dexter Fletcher)

- Reportedly butting heads with star Rami Malek, Singer never returned to the London set following the Thanksgiving holiday. The studio announced Fletcher as his successor December 6, the day between Singer's firing and being hit with a sexual assault lawsuit.
- Bryan Singer was fired by 20th Century Fox on December 5, 2017 for reportedly being at odds with his star, Rami Malek.
- The film's producers and lead star, Rami Malek, had grown tired of Director Bryan Singer's erratic behavior, which saw him routinely showing up late to set or disappearing altogether.
- Partway through filming, director Bryan Singer was fired and replaced by Dexter Fletcher. Even though Fletcher directed 16 days of filming and oversaw post-production, the Director's Guild of America (DGA) deemed the sole credit for directing the movie belonged to Singer.

- Marks the second biographical movie about a music icon for director Dexter Fletcher who also directed the Elton John biopic *Rocketman* (2019).
- Fletcher's main job on the biggest production he has overseen thus far was "to not ignore [...] what had been already been achieved," he said. "I was looking at two complete [acts] in a good film, and [I had to] not let it down."
- Fletcher estimated two-thirds of the principal photography had been completed when he joined the production, saying, "I came into the last few weeks of principal photography and editing and the bits and pieces like that... I was looking at two complete [acts] in a good film, and [I had to] not let it down."
- On 16 January 2018, Brian May uploaded a photo on his [Instagram](#) account on the set of the film and said:
- Today, under the auspices of our new supreme pilot, Dexter Fletcher, I got my own directorial chair! I was very touched. So! My first day on the set of *Bohemian Rhapsody the Movie* for more than 6 weeks, and the atmosphere is massively warm and joyful. The entire BR company has been through storms which would have sunk many a ship, but they're all still on board, full of optimism – and with a team spirit stronger than ever. There's such a great feeling of pride in this movie. I wish I could show you pictures ! But for now it's good to protect the surprises. The *Bohemian Rhapsody* ship is on course !! With full steam up ! Bri.
- According to the [Directors Guild of America](#), only one director can be named for a film, and the DGA has sole control over who that will be. Although Dexter Fletcher replaced Bryan Singer on the set before filming was completed, producer Graham King announced in June 2018 that Singer would receive the directing credit on the finished film. Fletcher received executive producer credit

TRIVIA

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Newton Thomas Sigel - DP - Aaron Haye- Production Designer)

- Locations which included Bovingdon Airfield in Hertfordshire, the glorious art deco masterpiece Hornsey Town Hall in north London, the LH2 Studios in west London, London's renowned night club Heaven and the Edwardian splendor of Bromley Town Hall in South East London.
- Used the Gillette building in southwest London for the majority of the stage sets in the film. These included 1950's Zanzibar, where we see Freddie in his childhood days, the Top of the Pops stage, which gave the band its break, Capitol Radio, the Bulsara family home, Garden Lodge, the Rio de Janeiro hotel and the farm house where Freddie composed "Bohemian Rhapsody," and three recording studios.
- "Once we had the timeline, I took a bit of a palette approach and decided on the colors of 1970, 1975, 1978, 1982, etc. We made a longer timeline that had certain touchstones along the way, and we tried to stick to those palettes in between construction and paint and set dec and wardrobe and everything else. As the '60s turned into the '70s, there's wonderful warm tones that are avocado and orange and brown--warm, earthy colors. From the mid to late '70s, it starts to get almost a disco palette--the primary colors start to pop a little bit more until we get to the early '80s, and there's a neon and brighter colored palette. These different eras have really distinct looks, and it's really a fantastic period to work with. Those 15 years, from 1970 to 1985, a lot of stuff happened, and visually there's a lot to play with." -Haye

- "Those early conversations with cinematographer Tom Sigel helped define those color palettes. That goes for stage lighting as well because the stage lighting was key for all of the live gigs. We wanted to make sure that each of those concepts along the way fell within a certain look." - Haye
- "What begins as warm and golden, with its own special LUT, grows ever sharper and cooler, even desaturated," he explains. "The beginning is all handheld and grainy, the rest much cleaner, with the camera on Steadicam and crane." - Sigel
- Haye and his team were fortunate to be allowed into the real Bulsara home, now occupied by another family.
- Sigel has forged working relationships with numerous directors, working most often with Bryan Singer. "Bohemian Rhapsody" is their 12th narrative project together.
- Sigel employed both the Alexa SXT and Alexa 65. "I decided the movie needed to have a visual arc that best represented the band's transition from idealists to rock stars and all the issues that it creates. To that effect, I did the first act with old Cooke Speed Panchro lenses on the Alexa SXT. As Queen is discovered and begins to be known on the international stage, we transition to the Alexa 65." Sigel later fine-tuned this arc during grading.
- Sigel paired the large-format Alexa 65 with Prime DNA and Prime 65-S glass, testing all the lenses to find the ones with the most gentle fall-off in focus. "Each lens had its own personality and was never really 'perfect'. Our 28mm had a particularly crazy quality that, when used sparingly, had a great effect."
- "I wanted to be as faithful to that as I could, while still having it service our story," he says. That meant eschewing the easily-coloured RGB LED fixtures so common in movies and concerts today and going back to the traditional method of laboriously changing gels on tungsten units. "We stuck to period lights," Sigel confirms, "predominantly par cans and follow spots." - Sigel
- "We had so many concerts to shoot and so little time, I needed to develop a system to quickly change from one venue to the next," Sigel recalls. "Because Queen's lighting was based on large racks of par cans, we were able to construct a very modular system that would allow us to raise or lower different sections very quickly. By pre-programming lighting sequences, we could also create sequence patterns with different configurations of light pods to make it look like a different venue." - Sigel
- LIVE AID
 - "We had to recreate Wembley from photographs of the time as well as documentary footage from Live Aid, but we also had to create a set that would best tell the story," recalls Haye.
 - "We built a massive raised platform about 18 feet in the air, which matched the height of the Wembley stage at Live Aid," continues the designer. "Then we built a tent over the backstage area so it was under weather cover. We recreated exactly the giant scaffolding towers that were at Live Aid, as well as all the posters and the large-scale banners, some three stories in height, and the logos that adorn the sides of the stage."
 - "Queen's entire Live Aid 20-minute set was recreated over seven days of shooting. "We photographed it in every type of weather Great Britain has ever seen: rain, sun, overcast, front light, backlight - you name it. We couldn't afford to silk the area as I would have liked," Sigel adds, referring to large sheets of diffusion hung from cranes to maintain a soft, consistent daylight. "So it was a constant battle and the DI (digital intermediate) certainly helped."

- The film's reenactment of Queen's landmark 1985 "Live Aid" concert segment was filmed on day one of the production shoot on a stage replica of London's Wembley Arena at Bovingdon Airfield in Hemel Hempstead. The original Wembley twin towers were demolished in 2003 when the site was being redeveloped.
- Brian May's guitar roadie, was able to lend the props department instruments from May's collection, including the white guitar Gwilym Lee plays in the Rockfield Studio scenes.

WARDROBE (Julian Day -makeup, Jan Sewell- hair designer)

- Rami Malek underwent a reported 50 hours of costume fittings with designer Julian Day that involved everything from 4-inch platform sole shoes, an array of skintight satin pants and complete Lycra outfits, etc.
- "For the live concert scenes, we designed two skintight lycra catsuits, the black and white harlequin catsuit and the silver sequin catsuit that we copied from the originals, and we asked Zandra Rhodes to design the incredible white batwing outfit for the Budakon concert." -Day
- Freddie's crown and red cape which he wears in the party scene at Garden Lodge, was made by the two people who worked on it originally.
- "The studded belt that Freddie wears for Live Aid comprises two different sets of studs. And the vest has a particular shape. Rami Malek was a joy to work with and so attentive to detail. We made 15 vests for him for those scenes, and he pointed out just a few days before shooting that the vest's neckline wasn't quite low enough. So we had to cut and re sew all 15 but that half inch made an enormous difference to the costume's authenticity. Also, we reproduced the cartoon on the shirt John Deacon wears in the scene to make it exactly right. We sourced Freddie's Wranglers from America and asked Adidas to reproduce the boxing boots. It was fun but also challenging!" -Day
- "I don't think I've ever done as many fittings on any film ever before," says Day. "We've got hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of costumes, one bus for just the four band members! And something in the region of 8-10,000 in total, including all the extras." -Day
- There were two key areas where Sewell had to use prosthetics: Freddie's signature teeth and his aquiline nose. Sewell tested several pairs of teeth on Rami Malek to ensure they would look just right on camera. "What's so fascinating about watching Rami play Freddie is how he has absolutely captured Freddie's mannerisms," says Sewell. "Freddie was very aware of his teeth. He chose not to get them fixed even though he could have afforded it, and a lot of what he did was hiding them, which meant a lot of mouth movement. So it was very important to get the right size so that Rami felt he could act with them and be able to do those mannerisms."

EDITING/VFX (John Ottman)

- The Daily Mail reported 20 October 2018 that Chrissie Mullen, the first wife of lead guitarist Brian May, was unhappy at how she was portrayed in the movie - prompting producers to cut her out altogether. She had protested to ex-husband, Brian.

SOUND/MUSIC (Becky Bentham- Supervisor, Jonathan Connaught- Music coordinator)

- Despite actually playing their instruments, the music heard in the film is a backing track, with the exception of "Another One Bites the Dust" with the cast playing and collaborating like a real band.
- [John Ottman](#), a frequent collaborator of Singer, composed the film's score. An official soundtrack album, containing several Queen hits and 11 previously unreleased

recordings, including five tracks from their 21-minute [Live Aid](#) performance in July 1985 which have never before been released in audio form, was released by [Hollywood Records](#) on CD, cassette, and digital formats on 19 October 2018, with a release on vinyl following in February or March 2019

- Prior to the release of the film, Canadian singer [Shawn Mendes](#) in collaboration with [Teddy Geiger](#) released an acoustic cover of "Under Pressure" on 12 October 2018^{[52][53]}. On 26 October 2018, Australian rock band [5 Seconds of Summer](#) released a cover of "Killer Queen"
- On 2 November 2018, Australian singer [Troye Sivan](#) released a cover of "Somebody To Love"
- These covers were released on digital platforms and each had artwork very similar to the movie soundtrack, but were not included in the tracklist nor used in the movie itself

PROMOTION

- Rami Malek appeared on the cover of "GQ" magazine's Egyptian launch issue, Egypt being his ancestral home
- *Bohemian Rhapsody* was released in the United Kingdom on 24 October 2018 in [IMAX](#) and the United States by [20th Century Fox](#) on 2 November 2018. The film was previously scheduled for release on 25 December 2018
- The world premiere took place in London at the [SSE Arena](#), Wembley on 23 October 2018
- The teaser trailer for the film was released on 15 May 2018 and with more than 5 million views in the first 24 hours, it was the top trending video on [YouTube](#)
- Television writer and producer [Bryan Fuller](#) argued that the trailer favours Mercury's relationship with women as opposed to his ones with men while also highlighting the absence of the singer's [AIDS](#) diagnosis from the synopsis. Instead, it's simply referred to as "a life-threatening illness".
- Executives have stated that the film will still acknowledge Mercury's gay relationships. With the recent release of the trailer, Queen had three of the top 20 positions on [Billboard's Hot Rock Songs](#) chart: "[Bohemian Rhapsody](#)", "[Another One Bites the Dust](#)" and "[We Are the Champions](#)"
- On 11 June 2018, at [CineEurope](#), a showing of the film *Bohemian Rhapsody* closed the show with appearances by Rami Malek, producer Graham King, and special appearances by Brian May and Roger Taylor, who were playing a concert of [Queen + Adam Lambert](#) in [Barcelona](#).
- The first teaser trailer was released on 14 May 2018 with the full trailer coming a day later showing the band working on their song "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- It was announced on 6 September 2018 that the film would receive a PG-13 rating

BOX OFFICE

- As of 6 November 2018, *Bohemian Rhapsody* has grossed \$61.7 million in the United States and Canada, and \$110.6 million in other territories (including \$26.7 million in the UK), for a total worldwide gross of \$172.3 million, against a production budget of about \$52 million.
- In the United Kingdom, the film had preview screenings on its opening night of 24 October 2018, grossing £1.62 million (\$2.08 million) from 575 venues, with a per-screen average of £2,817 (\$3,612)

- It went on to gross \$12.5 million from 1,250 screens in its opening weekend, finishing first at the box office
- It grossed another \$7.4 million in its second weekend, remaining at number-one and grossing £20.4 million (\$26.15 million) through 12 days
- In its second weekend of international release, the film topped the worldwide box office, grossing \$72.5 million in international markets. New markets included France (\$7.7 million), Mexico (\$5.8 million), Germany (\$5.7 million) and Australia (\$5.7 million)
- In the United States and Canada, *Bohemian Rhapsody* was released alongside [The Nutcracker and the Four Realms](#) and [Nobody's Fool](#), and was originally projected to gross \$26–30 million in its opening weekend
- By the week of its release, weekend estimates had reached \$35–40 million
- It made \$18.4 million on its first day, including \$3.9 million from Thursday night previews. It went on to debut to \$51.1 million, topping the box office and marking the second-best opening ever for a musical biopic behind [Straight Outta Compton](#) (\$60.2 million in August 2015)

RECEPTION

- RT: 60% Tatometer
- The website's critical consensus reads, "*Bohemian Rhapsody* hits a handful of high notes, but as an in-depth look at a beloved band, it offers more of a medley than a true greatest hits collection."
- A on cinemascore
- [Owen Gleiberman](#) of [Variety](#) wrote, "Rami Malek does a commanding job of channeling Freddie Mercury's flamboyant rock-god bravura, but Bryan Singer's middle-of-the-road Queen biopic rarely lives up to the authenticity of its lead performance." Gleiberman also stated that the film "treats Freddie's personal life – his sexual-romantic identity, his loneliness, his reckless adventures in gay leather clubs – with kid-gloves reticence, so that even if the film isn't telling major lies, you don't feel you're fully touching the real story either."
- Paul Whitington, writing for the [Irish Independent](#), gave the film 3/5 stars, saying, "*Bohemian Rhapsody* is not big on subtlety: it tells Freddie's story loudly, taking dramatic shortcuts, over-neatly conflating events and reducing most of the surrounding characters to single dimensions. Some of the dialogue's a bit heavy-handed too, but I must say I was thoroughly entertained."^[75] For the [Evening Standard](#), Craig McLean wrote, "*Bohemian Rhapsody* is triumphant entertainment. The post-production special effects have done their job: the Live Aid scenes are convincingly epic. The actors have done their job, too, notably Malek, who oozes pure Mercury."