**Some Like It Hot** is a 1959 American romantic comedy film set in 1929, directed and produced by Billy Wilder, starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon. The supporting cast includes George Raft, Pat O'Brien, Joe E. Brown, Joan Shawlee, and Nehemiah Persoff. The screenplay by Billy Wilder and I.A.L. Diamond is based on a screenplay by Billy Wilder and Michael Logan from the French film *Fanfare of Love*. The film is about two musicians who dress in drag in order to escape from mafia gangsters whom they witnessed commit a crime inspired by the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. The film was produced in black and white, even though color films were increasing in popularity. Despite Monroe's contract requiring color film, she agreed to film in black and white after seeing that Curtis and Lemmon's makeup gave them a "ghoulish" appearance on color film.[1]

*Some Like It Hot* opened to largely positive reviews and is today considered to be one of the greatest films of all time.[2] It was voted as the top comedy film by the American Film Institute on their list on AFI's *100 Years... 100 Laughs* poll in 2000. In 2017, the film was voted the best comedy of all time in a poll of 253 film critics from 52 countries conducted by the BBC in 2017.[2] In 2005, the British Film Institute included this film on British Film Institute list of the 50 films you should see by the age of 14.

The film is also notable for featuring cross dressing, and for playing with the idea of homosexuality, which led to its being produced without approval from the Motion Picture Production Code. The code had been gradually weakening in its scope during the early 1950s, due to increasing social tolerance for previously taboo topics in film, but it was still officially enforced. The overwhelming success of *Some Like It Hot* is considered one of the final nails in the coffin for the Hays Code.[3]

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![Theatrical poster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Some_Like_It_Hot)
It is February 1929 in the city of Chicago, during the era of prohibition. Joe (Tony Curtis) is an irresponsible jazz saxophone player, gambler and ladies' man; his friend Jerry (Jack Lemmon) is a sensible jazz double-bass player; both are working in a speakeasy (disguised as a funeral home) owned by mob gangster "Spats" Colombo (George Raft). When the joint is raided by the police after being tipped off by informant "Toothpick" Charlie (George E. Stone), Joe and Jerry flee—only to accidentally witness Spats and his henchmen exacting his revenge on "Toothpick" and his own gang (inspired by the real-life Saint Valentine's Day Massacre). Penniless and in a mad rush to get out of town, the two musicians take a job with Sweet Sue (Joan Shawlee) and her Society Syncopators, an all-female band headed to Miami. Disguised as women and renaming themselves Josephine and Daphne, they board a train with the band and their male manager, Bienstock. Before they board the train, Joe and Jerry notice Sugar Kane (Marilyn Monroe), the band's vocalist and ukulele player.

Joe and Jerry become enamored of Sugar and compete for her affection while maintaining their disguises. Sugar confides to Joe that she has sworn off male saxophone players, who have stolen her heart in the past and left her with "the fuzzy end of the lollipop". She has set her sights on finding a sweet, bespectacled millionaire in Florida. During the forbidden drinking and partying on the train, Josephine and Daphne become intimate friends with Sugar, and have to struggle to remember that they are supposed to be girls and cannot make a pass at her.

Once in Miami, Joe woos Sugar by assuming a second disguise as a millionaire named Junior, the heir to Shell Oil, while feigning disinterest in Sugar. An actual millionaire, the much-married aging mama's boy Osgood Fielding III, (Joe E. Brown) tries repeatedly to pick up Daphne, who rebuffs him. Osgood invites Daphne for a champagne supper on his yacht. Joe convinces Daphne to keep Osgood occupied onshore so that Junior can take Sugar to Osgood’s yacht, passing it off as his. Once on the yacht, Junior explains to Sugar that, due to psychological trauma, he is impotent and frigid, but that he would marry anyone who could change that. Sugar tries to arouse some sexual response in Junior, and begins to succeed. Meanwhile, Daphne and Osgood dance the tango ("La Cumparsita") till dawn. When Joe and Jerry get back to the hotel, Jerry explains that Osgood has proposed marriage to Daphne and that he, as Daphne, has accepted, anticipating an instant divorce and huge cash settlement when his ruse is revealed. Joe convinces Jerry that he cannot actually marry Osgood.

The hotel hosts a conference for "Friends of Italian Opera", which is in fact a front for a major meeting of various branches of La Cosa Nostra. Spats and his gang from Chicago recognize Joe and Jerry as the witnesses to the Valentine's Day murders. Joe and Jerry, fearing for their lives, realize they must quit the band and leave the hotel. Joe breaks Sugar's heart by telling her that he, Junior, has to marry a woman of his father's choosing and move to Venezuela. After several chases, Joe and Jerry witness additional mob killings, this time of Spats and his boys. Joe, dressed as Josephine, sees Sugar onstage singing that she will never love again. He kisses her before he leaves, and Sugar realizes that Joe is both Josephine and Junior.

Sugar runs from the stage at the end of her performance and manages to jump into the launch from Osgood's yacht New Caledonia just as it is leaving the dock with Joe, Jerry, and Osgood. Joe tells Sugar that he is not good enough for her, that she would be getting the "fuzzy end of the lollipop" yet again, but Sugar wants him anyway. Jerry, for his part, comes up...
with a list of reasons why he and Osgood cannot get married, ranging from a smoking habit to infertility. Osgood dismisses them all; he loves Daphne and is determined to go through with the marriage. Exasperated, Jerry removes his wig and shouts, "I'm a man!". Osgood, unfazed, simply responds, "Well, nobody's perfect."

Cast

- Marilyn Monroe as Sugar "Kane" Kowalczyk, a ukulele player and singer
- Tony Curtis as Joe/"Josephine"/"Shell Oil Junior", a saxophone player
- Jack Lemmon as Jerry (Gerald)/"Daphne", a double bass player
- George Raft as "Spats" Colombo, a mobster from Chicago
- Pat O'Brien as Detective Mulligan
- Joe E. Brown as Osgood Fielding III
- Nehemiah Persoff as "Little Bonaparte," a mobster
- Joan Shawlee as Sweet Sue, the bandleader of "Sweet Sue and Her Society Syncopators"
- Dave Barry as Mister Beinstock, the band manager for "Sweet Sue and Her Society Syncopators"
- Billy Gray as Sig Poliakoff, Joe and Jerry's agent in Chicago
- Barbara Drew as Nellie Weinmeyer, Poliakoff's secretary
- George E. Stone as "Toothpick" Charlie, a gangster who is killed by "Spats" Colombo
- Mike Mazurki as Spats's henchman
- Harry Wilson as Spats's henchman
- Edward G. Robinson Jr. as Johnny Paradise, a gangster who kills "Spats" Colombo
- Beverly Wills as Dolores, a trombone player, and Sugar's apartment friend
- Al Breneman as the fresh bellboy (uncredited)[4]
- Tito Vuolo as Mr. Mozzarella, funeral director (uncredited)
- Tom Kennedy as Mozzarella's bouncer (uncredited)
- Grace Lee Whitney as Rosella (uncredited)

Soundtrack

The soundtrack features 4 songs performed by Marilyn Monroe for the movie, 9 songs composed by Adolph Deutsch, as well as 2 songs performed by jazz artist Matty Malneck.[5]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>&quot;Runnin' Wild&quot; (Marilyn Monroe)</td>
<td>1:07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>&quot;Medley: Sugar Blues/Running Wild&quot; (Adolph Deutsch &amp; His Orchestra)</td>
<td>1:32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>&quot;Down Among the Sheltering Palms&quot; (Adolph Deutsch &amp; His Orchestra)</td>
<td>1:59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>&quot;Randolph Street Rag&quot; (Adolph Deutsch)</td>
<td>1:28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>&quot;I Wanna Be Loved By You&quot; (Marilyn Monroe)</td>
<td>2:58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>&quot;Park Avenue Fantasy&quot; (Adolph Deutsch &amp; His Orchestra)</td>
<td>3:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>&quot;Medley: Down Among the Sheltering Palms / La Cumparsita / I Wanna Be Loved By You&quot; (Adolph Deutsch &amp; His Orchestra)</td>
<td>2:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>&quot;I'm Thru With Love&quot; (Marilyn Monroe)</td>
<td>2:34</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Production

Pre-production

Billy Wilder wrote the script for the film *Some Like it Hot* with writer I.A.L. Diamond.[6] The plot is based on a screenplay by Robert Thoeren and Michael Logan from the 1935 French film *Fanfare of Love*. However, the original script for *Fanfare of Love* was untraceable, so Walter Mirisch found a copy of the 1951 German remake *Fanfares of Love*. He bought the rights to the script and Wilder worked with this to produce a new story.[7] Although *Some Like It Hot* has been seen as a remake of *Fanfare of Love*, as both films follow the story of two musicians in search of work,[6] Wilder was the creator of the gangster subplot that kept the musicians on the run.[8]

The studio hired Barbette, a famous female impersonator, to coach Lemmon and Curtis on gender illusion for the film.[7]

Marilyn Monroe worked for 10% of the gross in excess of $4 million, Tony Curtis for 5% of the gross over $2 million and Billy Wilder 17.5% of the first million after break-even and 20% thereafter.[9]

Casting

Tony Curtis was spotted by Billy Wilder while he was making the film *Houdini* (1953),[10] as he thought Tony would be perfect for the role of Joe. "I was sure Tony was right for it," explained Wilder, "because he was quite handsome, and when he tells Marilyn that he is one of the Shell Oil family, she has to be able to believe it".[11] Wilder's first idea for the role of Jerry was Frank Sinatra, but he never came to the audition.[12] Jerry Lewis and Danny Kaye were also considered for the role of Jerry. Finally, Wilder saw Jack Lemmon in the comedy *Operation Mad Ball*[13] and selected him for the role of Jerry. Billy Wilder and Jack Lemmon made numerous films together until 1981, among them *The Apartment* and several films with Walter Matthau.

According to York Film Notes, Billy Wilder and I.A.L. Diamond didn't expect such a big star as Marilyn Monroe to take the part of Sugar,[6] in fact, Wilder said, "Mitzi Gaynor was who we had in mind. The word came that Marilyn wanted the part and then we had to have Marilyn."[14] Wilder and Monroe had already made the film *The Seven Year Itch* together in 1955.

Filming
The film was made in California during the summer and autumn of 1958.[15] Many scenes were shot at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego which appeared as the "Seminole Ritz Hotel" in Miami in the film. The Hotel in San Diego fitted into the era of the 1920s and was near Hollywood, so Wilder chose it although it was not in Florida.

There were many problems with Marilyn Monroe, who lacked concentration and suffered from an addiction to pills. She could not memorize many of her lines and required 47 takes to get "It's me, Sugar" correct, instead saying either "Sugar, it's me" or "It's Sugar, me". Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon made bets during the filming on how many takes Marilyn would need to get it right.[16] Paradoxically, three days for shooting were scheduled for the scene with Shell Jr. and Sugar at the beach and although Marilyn had plenty of complicated lines, the whole scene between Shell Jr. and Sugar was completely finished in only 20 minutes.[17] Monroe's acting coach Paula Strasberg and Monroe's husband Arthur Miller both tried to influence the production, which Wilder and other crew members found annoying.[18][19]

Billy Wilder said in 1959 about filming another movie with Marilyn Monroe: "I have discussed this with my doctor and my psychiatrist and they tell me I'm too old and too rich to go through this again."[20] But Wilder also admitted: "My Aunt Minnie would always be punctual and never hold up production, but who would pay to see my Aunt Minnie?"[21] He also stated that Monroe played her part wonderfully.[22]

The film's iconic closing line, "Nobody's perfect"—now ranked 78th on The Hollywood Reporter list of Hollywood's 100 Favorite Movie Lines—was never supposed to be in the final cut. Diamond and Wilder put it in the script as a "placeholder" until they could come up with something better, but never did.[23]

Style
With regards to sound design, there is a 'strong musical element' in the film, with the soundtrack created by Adolph Deutsch. It has an authentic 1920s jazz feel using sharp, brassy strings to create tension in certain moments, for example whenever Spats' gangsters appear. In terms of cinematography and aesthetics, Billy Wilder chose to shoot the film in black and white as Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis in full drag costume and make-up looked 'unacceptably grotesque' in early color tests.[6]

Reception
Some Like It Hot received widespread acclaim from critics, and is considered among the best films of all time. It received six Academy Award nominations, including Best Actor for Lemmon and Best Director and Best Screenplay for Wilder, the latter along with I.A.L. Diamond.[24] It was voted as the top comedy film by the American Film Institute on their list on AFI's 100 Years... 100 Laughs poll in 2000.[25]

By 1962, the film had grossed $14 million in the US.[26]

Roger Ebert wrote about the movie, "Wilder's 1959 comedy is one of the enduring treasures of the movies, a film of inspiration and meticulous craft."[27] John McCarten of The New Yorker referred to the film as "a jolly, carefree enterprise". The Guardian's Richard Roud claims that Wilder comes "close to perfection" with the film.[28]

On Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an approval rating of 96% based on 53 reviews, and the average rating is 9 out of 10. The website's critical consensus reads, "Some Like It Hot: A spry, quick-witted farce that never drags.\"[30]
In 1989, this film became one of the first 25 inducted into the United States National Film Registry.[31]

Though sometimes said to have been "condemned" by the Roman Catholic Church's Legion of Decency, that body gave the film its less critical rating as "morally objectionable".[32]

In 2017, the BBC conducted an international survey for the best comedy in film history among 253 film critics from 50 countries, which ranked Some Like It Hot as number one.[33]

**Awards and honors**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of ceremony</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Recipients and nominees</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 23 – September 6, 1959[^34]</td>
<td>Venice Film Festival</td>
<td>Golden Lion</td>
<td>Some Like It Hot</td>
<td>Nominated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1959[^35][^36]</td>
<td>National Board of Review Awards</td>
<td>Top Ten Films</td>
<td>Some Like It Hot</td>
<td>Won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6, 1960[^37][^38]</td>
<td>Directors Guild of America Award</td>
<td>OutStanding Achievement in Feature Film</td>
<td>Billy Wilder</td>
<td>Nominated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960[^39]</td>
<td>British Academy Film Awards</td>
<td>Best Film from any Source</td>
<td>Some Like It Hot</td>
<td>Nominated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960[^40][^41]</td>
<td>Golden Globe Awards</td>
<td>Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Comedy or Musical</td>
<td>Jack Lemmon</td>
<td>Won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960[^42]</td>
<td>Academy Awards</td>
<td>Best Director</td>
<td>Billy Wilder</td>
<td>Nominated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960[^43][^44]</td>
<td>Writers Guild of America Awards</td>
<td>Best Written Comedy</td>
<td>Billy Wilder, I.A.L. Diamond</td>
<td>Won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 28, 1960[^45]</td>
<td>Laurel Awards</td>
<td>Top Female Comedy Performance</td>
<td>Marilyn Monroe (2nd place)</td>
<td>Won</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The film is recognized by American Film Institute in these lists:

- 1998: AFI's 100 Years...100 Movies – #14[^47]
- 2000: AFI's 100 Years...100 Laughs – #1[^48]
- 2005: AFI's 100 Years...100 Movie Quotes:
  - Osgood Fielding III: "Well, nobody's perfect." – #48[^49]
Adaptations

An unsold television pilot was filmed by Mirisch Productions in 1961 featuring Vic Damone and Tina Louise. As a favor to the production company, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis agreed to film cameo appearances, returning as their original characters, Daphne and Josephine, at the beginning of the pilot. Their appearance sees them in a hospital where Jerry (Lemmon) is being treated for his impacted back tooth and Joe (Curtis) is the same O blood type.[51]

In 1972, a musical play based on the screenplay of the film, entitled Sugar, opened on Broadway, and starred Elaine Joyce, Robert Morse, Tony Roberts and Cyril Ritchard, with book by Peter Stone, lyrics by Bob Merrill, and (all-new) music by Jule Styne. A 1991 stage production of this show in London featured Tommy Steele and retained the film’s title. In 2002, the aging Tony Curtis performed in a stage production of the film, cast as the character originally played by Joe E. Brown (Osgood Fielding III).

See also

- List of American films of 1959
- Cross-dressing in film and television
- Bollywood remake Rafoo Chakkar
- List of films considered the best

References

5. Some Like It Hot [Original Motion Picture Soundtrack] - Original Soundtrack _ Songs, Reviews, Credits _ AllMusic (http://www.allmusic.com/album/some-like-it-hot-original-motion-picture-soundtrack-mw0000652193)
19. Tony Curtis in: Billy Wilder’s Some Like It Hot, Taschen 2001 (2010), S. 286
21. "Great Funny Quotes: Sweeten Your Life with Laughter" (https://books.google.de/books?id=2rL9yp-6UwYC&pg=PA194&lpg=PA194&dq=My+Aunt+Minnie+would+always+be+punctual+and+never+hold+up+production,+but+who+would+pay+for+it+to+see+my+Aunt+Minnie?&source=bl&ots=rh9UR0Wmh&sig=zQ3XBAcmuDNpfv9mvf9Ykm4M&hl=de&sa=X&ved=0CEQQ6AEwBWoVmhVCh1Tg3M#v=onepage&q=My%20Aunt%20Minnie%20would%20always%20be%20punctual%20and%20never%20hold%20up%20production%2C%20but%20who%20would%20pay%20for%20it%20to%20see%20my%20Aunt%20Minnie%3F&f=false). google.de. Retrieved 14 March 2016.
33. The 100 greatest comedies of all time (http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20170821-the-100-greatest-comedies-of-all-time). BBC Culture, 2017-08-22
Further reading


External links

- *Some Like It Hot* (https://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/686766) at *Encyclopædia Britannica*
- *Some Like It Hot* (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0053291/) on IMDb
- *Some Like It Hot* (https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v45555) at AllMovie
- *Some Like It Hot* (http://tcmdb.com/title/title.jsp?stid=16637) at the TCM Movie Database
- *Some Like It Hot* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/some_like_it_hot/) at Rotten Tomatoes