

Movies & Languages 2019-2020

Mamma Mia!

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Phyllida Lloyd
YEAR/COUNTRY	2008 / USA, UK
GENRE	Musical, comedy, romance
ACTORS	M. Streepp, P. Brosnan, A. Seyfried, C. Firth, S. Skarsgård, J. Walters



PLOT

On the Greek island of Kalokairi, 20-year-old-bride to-be Sophie Sheridan reveals to her bridesmaids, Ali and Lisa, that she has secretly invited three men to her wedding without telling her mother, Donna. They are the men that her mother's diary reveals having romantic affairs with during a 25 day period coincident with Sophie's conception. They are Irish-American architect Sam Carmichael, Swedish adventurer and writer Bill Anderson and British banker Harry Bright. Sophie hopes that her father will walk her down the aisle on her wedding day, and believes that after she spends some time with them she will know which one is her father. The three men arrive and are hidden by Sophie in a room in her Mother's villa-hotel. The story basically takes off from here with various guests arriving for the big day and Donna discovering her three ex-lovers with ensuing comic confusion and consequences, and much music.

Mamma Mia! was directed by Phyllida Lloyd and written by Catherine Johnson based on the 1999 staged musical of the same name, also written by Johnson, which itself is based on the songs of Swedish pop group ABBA, including the title song, with additional music by ABBA member Benny Anderson.

Most of the outdoor scenes and principal photography took place on location at the small Greek island Skopelos, Thessaly from August to September 2007. It had its world debut in June 2008 in London. Although receiving mixed reviews from critics, the film was highly popular with audiences and grossed \$615 million worldwide on a \$52 million budget, becoming the fifth highest-grossing film of 2008.

LANGUAGE

Standard English, Standard American English, some slang.

VOCABULARY

Knocked up: pregnant	Hang on: wait
Ahoy: shout used by seamen to call attention	Tide washed in: something that washed up on the beach during the high tide
Have a ball: enjoy yourself	Siren call: an alarm sound
Serendipitous: by chance, not planned	Run aground: stopped

Cool with it: it's okay, acceptable	Out of her hair: not an annoying problem anymore for her
To be cheated on: betrayed by someone	To fancy: to like someone or something
Flooding in: arriving in great numbers	Dollop: a small amount of something
Backup girls: support singers in a rock group for a lead singer	Feisty person: a person who is lively, determined and courageous
Quid: a British pound sterling	It's crap: it's stupid
Mortgage: payment owed on property usually paid in installments	Call off: cancel
Slipping through my fingers: losing control over a situation	Hush-hush: a secret
A spark: a beginning, an initiative	Ward off: defend against
Drew the line: established limits	Rise and shine: an expression used when you want to wake up a person
Letting go: giving up something	Sodding: pejorative adjective meaning damned