

Dirty Dancing, (1987)

Directed by Emile Ardolino

Screenplay by Eleanor Bergstein

Running time: 97 minutes

Blue-ray chapters do not agree with the chapters listed here.

Cast

Frances 'Baby' Houseman	Jennifer Grey
Johnny Castle	Patrick Swayze
Dr. Jake Houseman	Jerry Orbach
Penny Johnson	Cynthia Rhodes
Max Kellerman	Jack Weston
Lisa Houseman	Jane Brucker
Marjorie Houseman	Kelly Bishop
Neil Kellerman	Lonny Price
Robbie Gould	Max Cantor
Tito Suarez	Charles 'Honi' Coles
Billy Kostecki	Neal Jones
Magician	'Cousin Brucie' Morrow
Stan	Wayne Knight
Mrs. Schumacher	Paula Trueman
Mr. Schumacher	Alvin Myerovich
Vivian Pressman	Miranda Garrison
Moe Pressman	Garry Goodrow

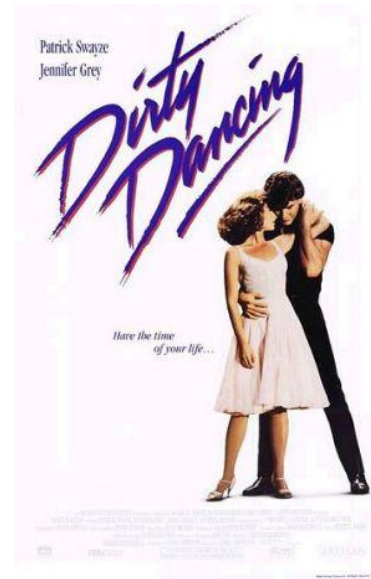
Credits

Directed	Emile Ardolino
Screenplay	Eleanor Bergstein
Associate Producer	Doro Bachrach
Co-producer	Eleanor Bergstein
Executive Producer	Mitchell Cannold, Steven Reuther
Producer	Linda Gottlieb
Original Music	John DeNicola, Donald Markowitz, John Morris, Frankie Previte
Non-original Music	Berry Gordy "Do you Love Me?"
Cinematography	Jeff Jur
Film Editing	Peter C. Frank
Casting	Bonnie Timmermann
Production Design	David Chapman
Art Direction	Mark Haack, Stephen J. Lineweaver
Set Decoration	Clay A. Griffith
Costume Design	Hilary Rosenfeld

Chapter 1: Main Title, 1987

Commentary by Eleanor Bergstein The idea of this film started by creating the soundtrack first and then the writer Eleanor Bergstein (writer and co-producer) working her way through the sound track came up with the story you are about to see. All of these musical numbers were part of her personal collection of 33's and 45's, a reference to vinyl recordings popular in the 1980's. This is not so much a non-traditional style of writing as many writers will immerse themselves in music of a period or story as they write. She sent the script off with a cassette tape of the soundtrack, and was turned down numerous times by producers and executives. Yet month's later producers and executives would call and ask for another copy of the tape as theirs had been ruined by use. The tapes have become valuable collector's item in Hollywood, which are simply labeled "EB's Dirty Dancing". It took ten years to get the film made.

Title credits done by Richard Greenberg.



Film Study Lecture on *Dirty Dancing*, (1987)

Compiled by Dr. Jay Seller

There are two types of music in this sound track; you have the (1) Clean Teen and (2) Dirty Dancing. The clean teen is what Baby listens to until she finds her rhythm in Dirty dancing.



0:03:08 Biography for Director by Emile Ardolino

Date of birth 9 May 1943, Maspeth, NY, Date of death 20 November 1993, Bel Air, CA. (AIDS)

Director - filmography

1. Gypsy (1993) (TV)
2. The Nutcracker (1993)
3. Sister Act (1992)
4. 3 Men and a Little Lady (1990)
5. Chances Are (1989)
6. Dirty Dancing (1987)
7. The Rise and Rise of Daniel Rocket (1986) (TV)
8. He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin' (1983)
9. "Faerie Tale Theatre" (1982) TV Series
10. Alice at the Palace (1982) (TV)
11. A Midsummer Night's Dream (1982) (TV)
12. When Hell Freezes Over, I'll Skate (1979) (TV)

13. Baryshnikov at the White House (1979) (TV)

14. "Great Performances: Dance in America" (1976) TV Series

Producer - filmography

1. Gypsy (1993) (TV) (producer)
2. He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin' (1983) (producer)
3. When Hell Freezes Over, I'll Skate (1979) (TV) (producer)
4. Baryshnikov at the White House (1979) (TV) (producer)
5. "Great Performances: Dance in America" (1976) TV Series

Miscellaneous Crew - filmography

1. Oh! Calcutta! (1972) (projected media)
2. The Wedding Party (1969) (special assistance)

Actor - filmography

1. Dirty Dancing (1987) Cameo

Chapter 2: A Summer at Kellerman's (0:02:15)

Big Girls Don't Cry this is our example of clean teen music. The book she is reading is *The Plight of the Pheasant*, nice touch of humor right from the start.

MD601 is the license plate, which is Eleanor Bergstein's parent's residence on Dehoe Drive, a plate they never could get in real life, but here they get it in their afterlife and in a movie.

Continuity: In the beginning when the family is in the car and Baby puts her hands around her father's neck, he has a T-shirt on under his shirt. When they arrive at Kellerman's and he gets out of the car there's no T-shirt.

The reveal of Kellerman's is important, as they wanted to show the scope of this movie. The movie was shot in two locations Lake Lure, North Carolina and Mountain Lake Resort, Pembroke, Virginia. The front reveal is Virginia. You see these white fences to North Carolina and in the Virginia locations, as they traveled with the fences to make the shots appear seamless.

Kellerman's exists only in the movie, there is no real location called the Kellerman's Mountain Resort, it is based on Grossinger's Terrace Hill House in the Sullivan Country Catskills. At its peak, Grossinger's entertained 150,000 guests per year. Having opened in 1919, the resort closed in 1986 just as *Dirty Dancing* was about to begin production.

0:04:00 Actress Jennifer Grey in the back seat with the book, her father is legendary actor/dancer, choreographer Joel Grey, who won an Oscar in 1972 for *Cabaret*. Jennifer Grey is an American actress. She was born in 1960 at New York. She played Jeanie Bueller in the 1986 film *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* before starring as Baby Houseman in the 1987 film *Dirty Dancing*.



Biography for Jennifer Grey

Date of birth 26 March 1960, NY, NY, Height 5' 3"

Spouse Clark Gregg 2001-present, one child

Trivia

- Daughter of Broadway actor/dancer/choreographer Joel Grey and Jo Wilder.

Film Study Lecture on Dirty Dancing, (1987)

Compiled by Dr. Jay Seller

- Was engaged to Matthew Broderick and Johnny Depp.
- Studied acting at New York City's prestigious Neighborhood Playhouse under legendary acting coach, Sanford Meisner.
- In a recent interview for Channel 5 (UK) she said that having plastic surgery to her nose was the worst mistake she had ever made. This was because she was no longer recognizable as the girl from the film "Dirty Dancing", just somebody who looked a bit like her.

Biography from Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia: This pert, curlyhaired daughter of actor-singer-dancer Joel Grey opened moviegoers' eyes as the lovesick, ugly-duckling teenager who blossoms (under Patrick Swayze's able tu telage) in Dirty Dancing (1987), a box office sleeper. Following in the family footsteps, Grey started acting in the early 1980s, landing supporting roles in Reckless, The Cotton Club, Red Dawn (all 1984), and American Flyers (1985), before making her mark in the teen comedy Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) as the put-upon sister of Matthew Broderick (with whom she was once linked romantically). The following year, Dirty Dancing was a tremendous hit, and suddenly everyone knew who Jennifer Grey was. Inexplicably, she seemed unable to capitalize on that success in subsequent films; she has since appeared on the big screen infrequently, in such misguided efforts as the barely released Runyonesque travesty, Bloodhounds of Broadway (1989) and the sailing saga Wind (1992).

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Actress - filmography

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Keith (2006) Caroline | 14. Wind (1992) Kate Bass |
| 2. Ritual (2001/I) Dr. Alice Dodgson | 15. Eyes of a Witness (1991) (TV) Christine Baxter |
| 3. Bounce (2000) Janice Guerrero | 16. Criminal Justice (1990) (TV) Liz Carter |
| 4. "It's Like, You Know..." (1999) TV Series Jennifer Grey | 17. Murder in Mississippi (1990) (TV) Rita Schwerner |
| 5. Since You've Been Gone (1998) (TV) Patty Reed | 18. If the Shoe Fits (1990) (TV) Kelly Carter/Prudence |
| 6. The Secrets of My Heart (1998) Abby Friese | 19. Bloodhounds of Broadway (1989) Lovey Lou |
| 7. Outrage (1998) (TV) Sally Casey | 20. Gandahar (1988) (voice) Airelle |
| 8. The Player (1997) (TV) | 21. Dirty Dancing (1987) Frances 'Baby' Houseman |
| 9. Red Meat (1997) Candice | 22. Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) Jeanie Bueller |
| 10. Lover's Knot (1996) Megan Forrester | 23. Cindy Eller: A Modern Fairy Tale (1985) (TV) Laura Eller |
| 11. Portraits of a Killer (1996) Elaine Taylor | 24. American Flyers (1985) Leslie |
| 12. The West Side Waltz (1995) (TV) Robin Ouisseau | 25. The Cotton Club (1984) Patsy Dwyer |
| 13. A Case for Murder (1993) (TV) Kate Weldon | 26. Red Dawn (1984) Toni |
| | 27. Reckless (1984) Cathy Bennario |

Jack Weston, playing the owner of the resort Max Kellerman, veteran character appeared in *Wait Until Dark* & *The Incredible Mr. Limpet*.

Biography of Jack Weston (Kellerman)

Date of birth 21 August 1924, Cleveland, OH
Date of death 3 May 1996, NY, NY. (lymphoma)
Birth name Jack Weinstein

Biography from Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia: Chubby, perpetually perspiring character comedian who's invaluable as an affable stooge or goofy bad guy. A child actor in his hometown of Cleveland, and later a busy Broadway actor (with several Neil Simon plays to his credit), Weston broke into movies with 1958's Stage Struck and went on to enliven such popular comedies as Please Don't Eat the Daisies (1960), The Honeymoon Machine (1961), It's Only Money (1962), The Incredible Mr. Limpet (1964), Cactus Flower (1969), A New Leaf (1971), and Fuzz (1972). He tackled occasional serious roles along the way, in such films as Imitation of Life (1959), Mirage (1965), The Thomas Crown Affair (1968), and notably as one of the card players in The Cincinnati Kid (1965) and Alan Arkin's ill-fated henchman in Wait Until Dark (1967). Weston had his two best roles in 1976: In The Ritz he was a schlemiel hiding from his Mafia hitman brother-in-law in a gay bathhouse; in Gator he carried on a highly improbable romance with Alice Ghostley. He played Alan Alda's dentist pal in The Four Seasons (1981), and then continued the role in the subsequent TV series in 1984. He was seen to good effect as the owner of the Catskills resort in Dirty Dancing and as the hapless agent of Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman in the hapless Ishtar (both 1987). Weston is still active on stage and television, where he had the distinction of costarring with The Marquis Chimps in "The Hathaways" (1961-62).

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0:04:48 The dance instructor Cynthia Rhodes, "Penny Johnson," is married to 80's pop star Richard Marx. She appeared in his 1987 music video "Don't Mean Nothing."



These opening shots are Virginia as they wanted to feature the lake in the background. Originally this scene was written for swimming pool, the reason why they wanted to show that is that this was one of the first places where blacks and whites were allowed to swim together in the same pool, and they really wanted to show that factual tidbit, but couldn't find a resort with a pool. This was one of the last summers of liberalism 1963.



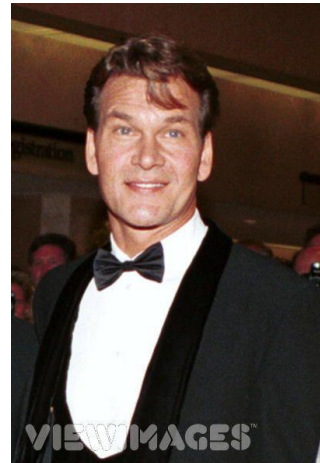
Although they barely dance during the movie, Jerry Orbach and Kelly Bishop (Baby's parents) were both well-known as Broadway singers and dancers. In fact, their most famous Broadway musicals – “A Chorus Line” for Bishop and “Chicago” for Orbach - had engaged in a famous rivalry for box office and awards when they opened within months of each other in 1975.

Chapter 3: Some Staff Rules (0:05:44)

Now we have filming during “magic hour”, which is a reference to the period after the sun has set and we have daylight still, it gives off this nice warm glowing light.

0:06:26 The voice over explains the two different types of staff working at this resort, so that the audience understands the class structure going on here.

0:07:02 Patrick Swayze received a Golden Globe Nomination for his role as “Johnny”. The Golden Globe is a registered trademark of Hollywood Foreign Press Association.



Val Kilmer was initially offered the headlining role but declined, he does have a back ground of dance and of course he is very athletic.



Chapter 4: One Cornell of a Grandson (0:07:51)

The waiter at the table is Max Cantor, playing the role of Robbie Gould, died of a heroin overdose in 1991 at the age of 32.

This is directed by Emile Ardolino, who had a huge ballet background, and thus the studio was unsure about him as a director of this film. The studio felt this film needed a director who understood life on the edge. Emile is able to make the audience know the feeling of dancing, which is an important understanding of the film.



0:08:18 Kelly Bishop who plays Baby's mother also played Howard Stern's mother in the 1997 film *Private Parts*.


Film Study Lecture on Dirty Dancing, (1987)

Compiled by Dr. Jay Seller

Mr. Kellerman mentions the Cornell School of Hotel Management which was founded in 1922.

0:09:45 Charles "Honi" Coles plays bandleader "Tito Suarez" born April 2, 1911 in Philadelphia, PA, Honi Coles formed the tap dance team of Coles & Atkins with dancer Cholly Atkins. Coles died on November 12, 1992 in New York City.

0:10:30 Patrick Swayze & Cynthia Rhodes had supporting roles in 1983's *Staying Alive* directed by Sylvester Stallone. It was the sequel to the 1977 classic *Saturday Night Fever*. It was Cynthia Rhodes' first role in a feature film.

	<p>This ad was featured in a 1974 issue of After Dark magazine. After Dark was the Magazine of Entertainment in the 1970's. The magazine was very popular with the gay male community.</p> <p>This is the original After Dark ad...not a reproduction! The ad has not been trimmed from the magazine page (so you can still see the date in the lower right corner). The full page measures about 11" x 8" and the ad itself measures about 4 3/4" x 5". The ad is for PJ Boutiques in New York City. On the left it says the photo was taken by Ron Schubert and under the photo it says, Model: Patrick Swayze. Swayze is shown in a revealing bathing suit.</p>
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Biography for Patrick Swayze

Date of birth 18 August 1952, Houston, Texas

Date of Death 14 September 2009, Los Angeles, California, USA (pancreatic cancer)

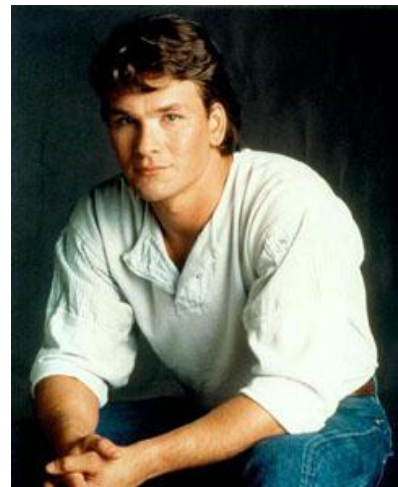
Birth name Patrick Wayne Swayze, Height 5' 10"

Mini biography His mother was choreographer Patsy Swayze. His education included the Harkness Ballet School, the Joffrey Ballet School, and San Jacinto College. He first performed as a dancer in Disney on Parade. After playing in the Broadway production of "Grease", he made his film debut as Ace in Skatetown, U.S.A. (1979). Eight years later, after considerable movie and television work, including choreography for Grandview, U.S.A. (1984), he received a Golden Globe nomination for his role as the dance instructor Johnny Castle in the steamy musical-drama Dirty Dancing (1987). He received a second nomination for his portrayal of the ghost Sam Wheat in the box office/video success Ghost (1990). He has been a solidly established box office star throughout the nineties.

Spouse Lisa Niemi 1975-present

Trivia

- Former Roman Catholic, Baptist, Buddhist and Scientologist.
- Recovering alcoholic.
- Met wife when she was 15 and a student of his mother's.
- Began his career as a dancer appearing in Disney on Parade as Prince Charming.
- Studied acting at The Beverly Hills Playhouse with Milton Katselas.
- Was offered \$6,000,000 to reprise his role of Johnny Castle but turned it down.
- Attended F.M. Black Middle School and S.P. Waltrip High School in Houston.



Biography from Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia: If one movie can "make" a career, 1987's Dirty Dancing is a perfect example. Overnight, it turned journeyman beefcake actor Swayze into a star-and a female heartthrob. He'd been in movies since 1979 (Skatetown, U.S.A and had appeared in a variety of prominent TV and film projects (including Coppola's 1983 The Outsiders 1984's Red Dawn and Grandview, U.S.A the lead in the 1985 miniseries "North and South," and 1986's Youngblood but none had lifted him to stardom-until he "got physical" with Jennifer

Film Study Lecture on Dirty Dancing, (1987)

Compiled by Dr. Jay Seller

Grey in Dirty Dancing which also called on his solid terpsichorean background (he's trained in ballet and tap, and danced extensively on stage). After this runaway sleeper, Hollywood fashioned a number of "vehicles" built solely around his name and intensely physical presence-Tiger Warsaw (1988), Next of Kin and Road House (both 1989)-with middling results. Winning the lead in the enormously popular, romantically charged Ghost (1990) opposite Demi Moore gave his career a second boost of adrenaline. His limited acting range makes it difficult to predict where his career will go from here. Other films include Point Break (1991), the very ambitious City of Joy (1992), Father Hood (1993), Tall Tale (as Pecos Bill), and To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar (both 1995). Swayze is married to actress Lisa Niemi, with whom he was teamed in the mediocre actioner Steel Dawn (1987).

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Actor - filmography

1. Fox and the Hound II (2006) (V) Cash
2. Keeping Mum (2005) Lance
3. Icon (2005) (TV) Jason Monk
4. "King Solomon's Mines" (2004) (mini) TV Allan Quatermain
5. George and the Dragon (2004) Garth
6. Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights (2004) Dance Class
7. 11:14 (2003) Frank
8. One Last Dance (2003) Travis MacPhearson
9. Waking Up in Reno (2002) Roy Kirkendall
10. Donnie Darko (2001) Jim Cunningham
11. Green Dragon (2001) Gunnery Sergeant Jim Lance
12. Forever Lulu (2000) Ben Clifton
13. Letters from a Killer (1998) Race Darnell
14. Black Dog (1998) Jack Crews
15. Three Wishes (1995) Jack McCloud
16. To Wong Foo Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar (95)Boheme
17. Tall Tale (1995) Pecos Bill
18. Father Hood (1993) Jack Charles
19. City of Joy (1992) Max Lowe
20. Amazing Stories: Book Three (1992) (V) Eric David Pete
21. Point Break (1991) Bodhi
22. Ghost (1990) Sam Wheat
23. Next of Kin (1989) Truman Gates
24. Road House (1989) James Dalton, Head Bouncer Deuce Club
25. Tiger Warsaw (1988) Chuck 'Tiger' Warsaw
26. Steel Dawn (1987) Nomad
27. Dirty Dancing (1987) Johnny Castle
28. "North and South, Book II" (1986) (mini) TV Series Orry Main
29. Youngblood (1986) Derek Sutton
30. "North and South" (1985) (mini) TV Series Orry Main
31. Red Dawn (1984) Jed Eckert
32. Grandview, U.S.A. (1984) Ernie 'Slam' Webster
33. Pigs Vs. Freaks (1984) (TV) Doug Zimmer
34. "Renegades" (1983) TV Series Bandit (1983)
35. Uncommon Valor (1983/I) Kevin Scott
36. Staying Alive (1983) (uncredited) Dancer/extra
37. The Outsiders (1983) Darrel 'Darry' Curtis

38. The Renegades (1982) (TV) Bandit
39. Return of the Rebels (1981) (TV) K.C. Barnes
40. The Comeback Kid (1980) (TV) Chuck
41. Skatetown, U.S.A. (1979) Ace Johnson

Miscellaneous Crew - filmography

1. Dirty Dancing (1987) (singer: "She's Like the Wind")
2. Grandview, U.S.A. (1984) (choreographer) (singer: "Wind")

Producer - filmography

1. One Last Dance (2003) (producer)

Notable TV Guest Appearances

1. "Richard & Judy" playing "Himself" 29 November 2005
2. "Strictly Come Dancing: It Takes Two" playing "Himself" 28 November 2005
3. "Friday Night with Jonathan Ross" playing "Himself" 25 November 2005
4. "The View" 30 August 2005
5. "Dancing with the Stars" playing "Himself" in episode: "Finale" 6 July 2005
6. "The Tony Danza Show" playing "Himself" (episode # 1.159) 26 May 2005
7. "Whoopi" playing "Tony" in episode: "The Last Dance" 24 February 2004
8. "The Wayne Brady Show" playing "Himself" 6 January 2004
9. "Tinseltown TV" playing "Himself" 23 August 2003
10. "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" playing "Himself" 13 May 1999
11. "The Directors" playing "Himself" in "The Films of Zucker, & Zucker"
12. "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" playing "Himself" 2 May 1998
13. "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" playing "Himself" 30 April 1998
14. "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" playing "Himself" 14 August 1997
15. "Saturday Night Live" playing "Host" (episode # 16.4) 22 October 1990
16. "America's Top 10" playing "Himself" February 1988
17. "Amazing Stories" playing "Eric David Peterson" in 10 November 1986
18. "M*A*S*H" playing "Pvt. Gary Sturgis" in 6 April 1981

0:11:28 Jennifer Grey, at 27, was 10 years older than the character of Baby 17. During her audition, she had 5 minutes to prove she could play younger, and that she had the moves for the role.

Eleanor Bergstein, the screenwriter was called *Baby* until she reached the age of 19, she went to the Catskills with her parents when she was a little girl. She worked her way through college as an Arthur Murray dance teacher. She went to dirty dancing contests all through high school. She has won numerous dance trophies in her life time. Thus this is her story and it is not her story, at the same time.



0:13:13 Wayne Knight played Newman on the hit NBC TV comedy *Seinfeld* from 1992-1998

Chapter 5: No Guests Allowed (0:13:20)

Now we are in the North Carolina location, and the crew has done a great job to echo the lighting effects, so that the two locations appear seamless.

0:14:48 They cast eight dirty dancers from New York City, and then a crew of dancers in North Carolina, it took three days to film the dirty dancing sequences. The group of dancers that you see here, also played the pool boys in the background, chamber maids, you see them all throughout the movie in numerous character parts. In this shot you are basically watching only eight couples dancing, with a extras moving around them.

“Do You Love Me” was written by Motown founder Berry Gordy, Jr. & performed by *The Contours*.

0:15:17 Talk about the 80’s. They had a rule with the actors filling the dancing roles that they were not allowed to contact their dancing partners until at least six months after the filming. No way to enforce the rule, but the heads thought that it would stop “in the moment” sexual encounters among the cast, as they were dancing rather provocative with other dancers that they had just meet.

Cynthia Rhodes was the first person to be cast in *Dirty Dancing*. Budget \$6,000,000

Chapter 6: “I Carried a Watermelon” (0:18:13)

Everyone who auditioned had to perform a dance.

“Love Man” was recorded by Otis Redding, the biggest star of the influential Stax/Volt label, Redding died in a 1967 plane crash.

0:18:49 Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze were both featured in the 1984 action flick *Red Dawn*. It was the first film to be rated PG-13, after they reorganized the rating system. Jennifer Grey starred in the 1986 film *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*.



0:19:33 *Dirty Dancing* choreographer Kenny Ortega also worked on the John Hughes hit 1986 film *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*. He also directed and choreographed *Newsies*, *High School Musical*, and *This is It* (2009) Michael Jacksons final tour and movie.

Patrick Swayze & Kenny Ortega both worked on *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*. He also did Michael Jackson’s last three tours including the film *This is It*, after Michael Jackson died.

Chapter 7: Wigs and Other False Impressions (0:20:51)

The 1989 comedy *Bloodhounds of Broadway* featured Jennifer Grey performing a duet with Madonna. Jane Brucker who plays Baby’s sister also appears in *Bloodhounds of Broadway*.

The studio felt that Penny was so great looking that no one would believe Johnny selecting Jennifer over Penny.

0:21:41 Jennifer reveals that as a teenager she had a double life, she was always sneaking away to go to *Studio 54* with her friends, while her parents were not aware. It is a part of growing up, when we discover ourselves and our own origins.

This film started out as an Independent movie, they didn't think anyone would really see it.

Jennifer reveals that she was unaware of what the final cut of the film was going to be like. Two weeks of rehearsal for this film. Jennifer Grey's agent said that the movie was awful and that no one would see it and those that did see it, wouldn't blame her for taking the part. This really hurt Jennifer Grey feelings; she wasn't sure what to do.

Chapter 8: The Catch of the Day (0:22:46)



Miranda Garrison, (Dancer with the white mink, that she drops to the floor) Vivian in the film, is an accomplished choreographer for film & TV. She was also the assistant choreographer on this film. Her credits include Alan Parker's *Evita*, *Go*, *Selena*, *Salsa* and *Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights*. Miranda Garrison & Kenny Ortega first worked together on the 1981 film *Xandadu*.

Events of 1963:

- Blacks allowed to swim in the same pool with whites
- Sylvia Plath Commits Suicide, 2/11/63
- Betty Friedan's *Feminine Mystique* is first published
- John F. Kennedy is assassinated, 11/22/63
- Martin Luther King gives his "I have A Dream Speech," 8/23/63
- Valium is developed

Filming Locations for *Dirty Dancing*

- Grove Park Inn - 290 Macon Avenue, Asheville, & Lure Woods, Lake Lure, North Carolina, USA
- Mountain Lake Resort - 115 Hotel Circle, Pembroke, Virginia, USA

Chapter 9: Penny's Problems (0:25:41)

0:25:50 Coming up on Eleanor Bergstein's cameo appearance in the film, the woman dancing with Patrick Swayze is the author of the story you are watching. Part of their dance sequence was cut out in the interest of time, but Emile the director at numerous screenings of the movie, when she came on screen, he would shout, "Who is that woman, we need to see more of her!"

Notice the blue sweater on Baby is missing, the studio hated the sweater and told them to lose it, so they did, but it is a glaring continuity mistake. Now watch it return again shortly.

Cynthia Rhodes filled in as lead singer for the 80's pop-group Animotion. They scored a hit with the song "Room to Move." Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* was first published in 1943.

Chapter 10: Miss Fix-It Fills In (0:29:45)

Jerry Orbach created the role of "El Gallo" in the New York stage production of *The Fantasticks*. Kelly Bishop won a Tony for the original production of *A Chorus Line*. Originally in the script the mother was a championship golfer and the father was awful, but after Jerry made that shot and begged to have it kept in the movie, they had to change the storyline.



Eleanor Bergstein's mother was a great golfer and her family didn't agree with that change in the storyline.

0:30:49 "Stay" was recorded by Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs. It was number one the weeks of October 17 and 24, 1960. They over smoked this room and the extras and dancers were having trouble breathing, a couple of them even passed out due to the smoke.

0:32:07 In the background you see them practicing the "Cuban Rhythm" which will pay off at the end, but you must get an introduction to it, in order to believe it at the end of the movie. It cannot just come out of nowhere.

Chapter 11: Mambo 101 (0:33:28)

The script included 50 pages of dance descriptions, which was one of the hardest things to describe to studios as they looked at the script and turned it down repeatedly, with the comment, "Well, it is hard to tell what the movie is about." Eleanor Bergstein tells a story that she even got up in a pitch (Pitch- is a short meeting with studio heads or casting agents where the parties involved explain and try to sell their movie, that they wish to get made.) meeting and gave an example of a dirty dance for the studio heads.

"Wipeout" went all the way to number 2 on the music charts in June of 1963. The "ga-gunk" is a dance idea from Miranda, the assistant choreographer. "Hungry Eyes" singer Eric Carmen also wrote the hit song "Almost Paradise" for the hit 1984 dance flick *Footloose*. Patrick Swayze was up against Billy Zane for the role of Johnny. Swayze's dance skills won out.

0:38:57 Jennifer Grey would get the giggles a lot during the filming of the dance sequences, as she was very ticklish, thus this scene was added as their night rehearsal and she giggles.

Chapter 12: Lifts and Balance (0:39:31)

Rain machine being used here in the background, they rented the machine for only one day, thus every scene you see in the rain is done on the same day.

"Overload" was sung by Canadian Alfie Zappacosta.

Continuity: When Johnny locks his keys in his car during a torrential rain, you can see the sun reflected shining brightly in the rear window of the car. You can also see that the ground beside the post he picks up is dry and sunlit and you can see shadows cast by the sunlight as Johnny picks up the post.

0:41:50 In the car they are using video tap's to catch the shots. A video tap's are an accessory for a motion picture camera used to provide a video feed from the camera lens. Video tap's are used to allow the crew to see what is in the camera's frame without having to look through the viewfinder, as well as allowing video to be captured that can be used to create an immediate rough cut, if needed. Since a video tap's normally attaches to a camera's existing viewfinder using a beam splitter, the video appears dark and frame rate flicker is visible. Sometimes the tap will include frame lines and burned in time code.

Patrick Swayze doing his own stunts here, this made everyone nervous. Patrick Swayze's dance education included stints at *The Harkness* and *Joffre Ballet Schools*. His mother patsy is a dance instructor. In 1988 they released an instructional video *Swayze Dancing* which also starred his wife Lisa & sister Bambi. Patrick's wife and mother were choreographers on *Urban Cowboy* starring John Travolta and Debra Winger.



0:43:20 When you watch this movie you (1) learn what it is like to learn how to dance and you (2) learn what it is like to teach another person to dance, both are a little bit erotic.

0:43:50 The film was set in the summer, yet the lake scene where they were practicing the lift was filmed in October. Since the leaves were already turning, they had to paint the leaves in the background. If you look closely you can see where they missed a few in one spot. The lake practice scene was filmed at Lake Lure in the mountains of North Carolina in October. There are no close-ups because the actors were so cold that their

lips were blue.

Chapter 13: "I'm So Scared, Baby" (0:44:47)

The old woman exiting from this building who drops her purse, was originally offered the role of Mrs. Schumacher to Dr. Ruth Westheimer. She didn't want to play a wallet snatching old woman. Cynthia Rhodes has a supporting role in the 1983 Adrian Lyne hit *Flashdance*. She also starred in the 1984 sci-fi thriller *Runaway* with Tom Selleck and directed by Michael Crichton.

Chapter 14: The Show at the Sheldrake (0:47:06)

Patrick Swayze and real-life partner Lisa Niemi have been married since 1975. The location here of the Sheldrake is actually the Kellerman's Playhouse, they just redressed the set, but they are the same filming locations.

0:47:30 In dramatic terms this is where Johnny recognizes that he is starting to fall in love with her. That is why you get the reaction shots of Johnny watching her and admiring her spunk. This is our Pivotal point for one of our central characters in the story, Johnny.

Chapter 15: A Job Well Done (0:49:32)

0:50:18 Revealing mistakes: When Johnny and Baby are driving home from the Sheldrake, Johnny is driving the car but the gearshift (on the column of the steering wheel) is in park. Revealing mistakes: also in the side windows in the car you can notice that trees outside are going in the opposite direction the car is moving. The car is heading towards the viewer, but the trees are moving as though the car should be heading away from the screen.

You get them balancing the ratio of inside to outside shots, a film can feel very airy if too many shots are used of exterior locations, and then it can feel claustrophobic if too many interior shots are utilized. This ratio can really make a difference on how a film feels.

Patrick Swayze starred as Orry main in 1985 ABC miniseries *North and South* & its 1986 sequel *North and South II*.

Chapter 16: The Responsible Party (0:50:40)

In 1992, Jerry Orbach began his stint on the critically acclaimed *Law and Order*. There was a doctor on hand as a technical advisor.

Chapter 17: Everything and Nothing (0:53:48)

Everyone in the cast and crew had a copy of the *Wallace Stevens* quote, “The greatest poverty is not to live in a physical world, to feel that one’s desire is too difficult to tell from despair.” Underlying theme to the movie, this is the story of people moving from outside to inside the physical world and this of course was the center of it, this is very interesting from a filming making point of view.

Jennifer Grey made her film debut opposite Aidan Quinn and Daryl Hannah in 1984’s *Reckless*. Patrick Swayze made his film debut in *Skatetown, U.S.A.* also starring Scott Baio and Mark Hamill.

0:56:00 In 1997 Conan O’Brien launched a one man crusade to get *Dirty Dancing* re-released for its 10th Anniversary. Live Entertainment re-released the film in August of 1997.

0:56:33 There is also a lot of use of “source” sound verses “surround” sound which sounds like you have the introduction of a heavenly choir. Source sound is sound that originates from a source in the story, such as a car stereo or phonograph player.

The dancing that Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey do during the love scene was actually the same dance that they did for the screen tests. It was never originally supposed to be in the film.

Interesting cutting here with the nudity, in screenings they found out that the audience didn’t want too much nudity involving Jennifer, as she was too much like somebody’s daughter, so they cut the nudity back quite a bit. Sometimes preview are not so helpful in what the audience says about a picture, as to what you can feel around you as you watch the film with them.

Chapter 18: Mixed Up with the Guests (1:00:37)

The script also included long sub-text for the actors, explaining what was really going on in their minds as they were saying things.

1:02:24 On the porch of the staff quarters, in the background you can see the practicing of the “Cuban rhythm” that will be utilized at the end of the movie.

1:02:50 What the hell does that look mean? When Baby calls after Johnny on the porch.

1:04:00 Oh is that how you play charades.

1:04:20 Girls back home must smell awful.

Chapter 19: Use or Be Used (1:03:01)

1:05:04 Revealing mistakes: You can see Jennifer Grey’s body stocking during the second sex scene. Visible in the bed embrace, lower backside, normally worn by actors in a sex scene, it can be deleted in editing.

Jane Brucker (playing the sister) made her acting debut in the 80’s NBC hit TV show *Miami Vice*. She was also a stand-up comedian. During the filming of this scene there were wasp in the room, and the cast was being very brave to continue with the filming.

Chapter 20: Lover boy in Hiding (1:06:36)

Here in the dance room we are filming with a Steadicam shot, and the producers are watching on a video tap’s, as mentioned earlier. The video tap’s allows for others to watch the immediate filming of a scene, when they cannot fit in the room or vehicle or location of the actual filming. “Love is Strange” was written and recorded by Mickey and Sylvia in 1956. It was also featured in the 1973 Terrence Malick film *Badlands*.

1:07:34 The very famous scene where Johnny and Baby are practicing their dancing and they are crawling towards each other on the floor, they were actually just messing around and were warming up to do the real scene, but the director liked it so much he kept in the film. All shot with a Steadicam and a video tap’s.

1:09:00 In 1988, a TV spin-off of *Dirty Dancing* aired on CBS. It starred Shirley Jones’ son Patrick Cassidy as Johnny. It also starred Melora Hardin as Baby, and McLean Stevenson as her father. Premiering October 29, 1988, the show was cancelled after 10 episodes.

Chapter 21: Slumming with Robbie (1:11:25)

Continuity: When Johnny jumps off the porch to fight the guy who’s been taunting him, his belt buckle is open. Then, when he lands on the ground and starts fighting, his belt is buckled again. Patrick Swayze played Dalton, the head bouncer of the Double Deuce Club in the 1989 action flick *Road House*.

Chapter 22: Lining Up the Entertainment (1:12:40)

Jane Brucker was a standup comedian at the time *Dirty Dancing* was being cast. She also

appeared on *One Life to Live*. Premier audiences will watch a movie and then after the movie they will fill out forms that state, what was the best scene, what was the worst scene? After the premier when they got their notes back the studio said cut the “hula scene” as some portions of the audience didn’t like it. Luckily Eleanor was in the audience and she knew the group of kids that didn’t like the song, but it is hilarious, so she was able to defend it.



Revealing mistakes: When Baby is painting the “end of the season” show’s set, there is no paint on her brush which looks clean and unused.

Dirty Dancing producer Linda Gottlieb was executive producer on *One Life to Live* from 1991-1994. (Referring back to how you get a job in Hollywood, it is all in who you know.)

Chapter 23: Johnny’s Alibi (1:15:09)

Continuity: When Lisa goes to Robbie’s cabin to surprise him, there is a towel hanging on the door. But when she opens the door and sees Robbie in bed with Vivian, she closes the door and the towel is gone.

1:16:30 After Johnny says, “you want to hear something crazy,” say, I think I won this round of charades.

Magic hour shot here as she walks to the staff quarters of Robbie.

1:16:03 The hit “In the Still of the Night” was recorded in 1956 by the Five Satins. The New Haven, Connecticut doo-wop group formed in 1953 while the lead singer was still in high school.

1:18:29 Economy and Condensation, demonstrated here by Jennifer Grey as she addresses everyone at the table. What could take three scenes to reveal to the audience, it is done in one scene, with very few camera set-ups. Thus it is filmed economically and the filming is condensed.

1:19:30 Jerry Orbach was the voice of Lumiere the Candlestick in Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast*.

One of the studio heads that viewed this film in a preview said that they “should burn the negative and take the insurance.” There was no faith that this picture would have any mass appeal to audiences.

Jennifer Grey is married to writer-actor Clark Gregg.

Chapter 24: Never Sorry (1:22:25)

What Johnny likes in Baby, is her belief that the world can be a better place. A belief that he wants desperately to hang on to, and thus he hangs on to her in the hopes that it will be true.

You have a lot of different themes you could explore here with this film, such as; a coming of age story, child seeking parental approval, going against the status quo or the replacement of a father figure by a boyfriend.

Throughout the film, Johnny and Baby always wear contrasting colors, Baby in very light colors, and Johnny in black or something very dark, reminding us that these two are from opposite sides of the tracks.

The hit song “She’s Like the Wind” was co-written and performed by Patrick Swayze. He and Stacey Wideltz originally wrote it for the 1984 *Grandview U.S.A.*

Chapter 25: “It’s All Slipping Away” (1:25:42)

Continuity: Baby and Lisa are shown getting ready for the last party, and Baby is putting on stockings that would need garters to stay up. In the dance scenes she has no stockings or garters visible.

Jerry Orbach’s father was a popular vaudevillian actor in New York.

1:27:01 When Robbie is revealed to be the father of Penny’s aborted child: It is always a great moment in film history when the supposed good guy turns out to be the bad guy and the supposed bad guy turns out to be the good guy.

1:29:12 This is a film about a summer romance and coming of age, and then suddenly he comes back into the picture and we can believe once again that life can be like that.



Chapter 26: The Time of Their Life (1:30:15)
Billy Medley and Jennifer Warnes sang “I’ve had the Time of My Life,” 1987 Academy Award® Winner for best song. Academy Award® is the registered trademark and service mark of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. It was written by Franke Previte and John Denicola.

Now they repeat every dance move that you have seen them practice throughout the movie, only now she does it perfectly, as this is the time of her life.

Jennifer revealed in an interview that the floor was recently painted; as a result it was sticky to make the turns. Then when it dried it became too smooth and slippery, thus they had to pour coke on the floor to make it a little sticky for the dancers. This same trick was done in *Moulin Rouge*, as the floors were too slippery for the dancers.

Here as they are now coming down the aisle is the Cuban rhythm step that you saw them practicing throughout the movie. Patrick Swayze had injured his knee just previous to filming the finale dance number, and he was a lot of pain during the filming of this scene.

Continuity: In the last dance scene, when Johnny jumps off the stage and goes to the back of the auditorium to get the other dirty dancers his hair is alternately wet/dry between shots.

Continuity: Johnny takes his jacket off twice just before the last dance of the season.

The two elderly ladies that begin to dance here are the same two ladies that Patrick and Cynthia almost collide with in the beginning of the movie.

Dirty Dancing premiered on August 16, 1987. It grossed \$3.9 million in 975 screens on its first weekend. The film went on to gross more than \$63 million dollars throughout the rest of 1987.

Voted #2 Must See Movie of all time by listeners of Capital FM in London.

The *Entertainment Tonight* exit polls at the theatres revealed that 9 out of ten people said that they would see the movie again and bring their friends.

Continuity mistake, the room was filled with chairs.

Chapter 27: End Credits (1:37:01)

Other films that debut in 1987: *The Lost Boys*, *Fatal Attraction*, *Raising Arizona*, *The Princess Bride*, *Moonstruck*, and *Lethal Weapon*.

Newly remastered 16 x 9 feature 6.1 DTS-ES digital discrete surround 5.1 Dolby-EX Digital surround audio 2.0 Dolby Digital audio

DVD Extras on Disc Two

Interview

Jennifer Grey, Actress/Baby Houseman (11:13 minutes)

Kenny Ortega, Choreographer (15:22 minutes)

Eleanor Bergstein, Screenwriter/Co-producer (18:36 minutes)

Miranda Garrison, Actress/Assistant Choreographer (13:14 minutes)

Jennifer Grey Screen test (3:12 minutes), Interesting example of a screen test, the dance screen test really shows how much she improved in the movie.

Emile Ardolino Tribute, Do not show the class, not very interesting for high school students. (13:29 minutes)

Live in Concert (90 minutes) Not worth showing the class.

Theatrical Trailer (2 minutes) Not worth showing the class.

Music Videos

Hungry Eyes (3:48 minutes)

I've Had the Time of My Life (4:44 minutes)

She's Like the Wind, sung by Patrick Swayze (3:52 minutes)

Trailer Gallery

Exclusive Sneak Peek of the Upcoming *Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights*

DVD Credits

Film Study Lecture on Dirty Dancing, (1987)

Compiled by Dr. Jay Seller

Awards for *Dirty Dancing*

1989 ASCAP Award, Most Performed Songs from Motion Pictures, *Time of my Life*

1988 Academy Awards, Best Music, *Time of My Life*

1988 Amanda Awards, Best Foreign Feature Film, Emile Ardolino

1989 BMI Film & TV Awards, Most Performed Song, *She's Like the Wind*

1988 Golden Globe Awards, Best Original Song, *Time of My Life*

1988 Golden Screen Award, Germany

1988 Independent Spirit Award, Best First Feature