

BEFORE SUNSET

Directed by: **Richard Linklater**.

Produced by: **Richard Linklater, Anne Walker-McBay**.

Written by: **Richard Linklater, Kim Krizan, Julie Delpy, Ethan Hawke**.

Cast: **Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy, Vernon Dobtcheff, Louise Lemoine Torres, Rodolphe Pauly, Mariane Plasteig, Diabolo, Albert Delpy, Marie Pilet**.

Cinematography: **Lee Daniel**.

Edited by: **Sandra Adair**.

Maybe everybody has a story like this.

It was the summer of 1992. I'd spent the day by myself in Florence — where the roads seem to be paved with romance, making it a little bit extra-lonely if you're there on your own — and I was just sitting down to dinner at an outdoor restaurant when an attractive young Swedish woman sat down across from me. She had gotten the wrong train from Vienna, costing her the whole day's travel and all her money, so I bought her a nice dinner. We talked, watched fireworks over the Arno, saw Michelangelo's David (the replica), had gelato, and then I took her to the train station. I slipped a few thousand lire into her ticket envelope when she wasn't looking, she kissed me on the cheek, and by midnight she was gone forever. It was the most romantic night of my life and I haven't forgotten a minute of it.

In 1995, Richard Linklater made a perfect movie, "Before Sunrise," about one of those perfect nights. Fresh-faced young twentysomethings Jesse (Ethan Hawke) and Céline (Julie Delpy) meet on a train, spend a magical night walking through Vienna, and part at the train station with the agreement to meet six months later in the same spot. Poof — the night and the movie are over.

What happens six months later is left to the imagination — which is the perfect ending, because if you answer the question of what happens next, the magic instantly evaporates. But now Linklater, Hawke and Delpy have made a sequel, "Before Sunset," which brings the two would-be lovers together nine years later in Paris to talk about what might have been.

And "talk" is the operative word. Like "Before Sunrise" and many of Linklater's other films (including "Slackers" and "[Waking Life](#)"), "Before Sunset" is all about walking and talking. The film is an extended conversation dressed up with an occasional change of scenery. "Before Sunrise" was like a quasi-intellectual midnight dorm-room rap about ideas and life, equal parts brilliance and bullshit, bursting with hope and the intoxicating thrill of encountering a kindred spirit in a complicated world. It's packed with hope and excitement. By contrast, the conversation in "Before Sunset" is all about the past, laden with melancholy and regret.

That's not to say it's bad conversation. The film does start awkwardly, as the older, somewhat brittle-looking characters catch up on each other's rather abstract, distant lives. But it warms up halfway through and becomes watchable, even a little bit intimate. Both Jesse and Céline confess that the night they met in 1995 took the shine off of love and romance in the anticlimax that was the rest of their lives. "Every one of the guys I've ever dated got married. They broke up with me," Céline says, adding ruefully: "They call me afterward to thank me for showing them what love is." There's enough here that a thirty-something audience, mindful of the complexity of their lives and their own missed opportunities, might respond to. But there isn't much magic.

"Before Sunset" is a pretty good movie that didn't need to be made. The story that we see here was always a possible ending to the tantalizing limbo in which we once left these characters — but only one of the

possible endings. And by making this film now, Linklater and friends have stifled the imagination of nine years ago rather than stimulated the imagination of today.

If "Before Sunrise" is the idealized romance everybody should have, "Before Sunset" is, more or less, the mundane reality that everybody does have. In my own version of this story, I made the mistake of sending my Swedish angel a card the following year to say hello and give her my address. She ended the fairy tale the right way — she never answered

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"Before Sunset" is a remarkable achievement in several ways, most obviously in its technical skill. It is not easy to shoot a take that is six or seven minutes long, not easy for actors to walk through a real city while dealing with dialogue that has been scripted but must sound natural and spontaneous. They no longer have a quick instinctive trust. They are wary of revealing too much. They are grown-ups, although at least for this afternoon in Paris they are in touch with the... Before Sunset is a 2004 American romantic drama film directed by Richard Linklater, who co-wrote the screenplay with Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy, from a story by Linklater and Kim Krizan. The sequel to Before Sunrise (1995) and the second installment in the Before trilogy, Before Sunset follows Jesse (Hawke) and Celine (Delpy) as they reunite nine years later in Paris. Before Sunset is a 2004 sequel to the 1995 romantic drama film Before Sunrise. Directed by Richard Linklater. Written by Richard Linklater, Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy, and Kim Krizan. What if you had a second chance with the one that got away? (taglines). Maybe what I'm saying is the world might be evolving the way a person evolves. Right? Like, me for example. Am I getting worse? Am I improving? I don't know. When I was younger, I was healthier, but I was whacked with insecurity. Now I'm older and my... Before Sunset : The film takes place nine years later as Jesse (Ethan Hawke) travels across Europe, encounters Celine on the French leg of Jesse's book tour. They are both in relationships now, and Jesse has a son, but as their strong feelings for each other start to return, both confess a longing for more. The film takes place nine years later as Jesse (Ethan Hawke) travels across Europe, encounters Celine on the French leg of Jesse's book tour. "Before Sunset" (2004) is an American film, the sequel to the film "Before Sunrise" (1995). Like its predecessor, the film was directed by Richard Linklater. However, this time he shares credit with both Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy on the screenplay. The script was based on an original story by "Before Sunrise" screenwriter Kim Krizan and Richard Linklater, who received story credit on this film. Delpy also wrote two songs featured in the film. A third was included in the closing credits and movie soundtrack.