



- Starry-Night Purple
- Optimistic Yellow
- Emerald Green
- Deep Desaturated Blue

# THE INTERSECTING PATHS OF TWO DREAMERS

**The Struggling Actress:**  
Mia serves coffee on a studio lot, facing endless rejections at auditions, hoping for her big break.

Path A



**The Jazz Purist:**  
Sebastian plays simple holiday tunes in restaurants, dreaming of opening a club dedicated to classic jazz.

Path B



**The Intersection:**  
They meet by chance in Los Angeles traffic, fall in love, and push each other to pursue their true passions.



**The Divergence:**  
As they finally achieve professional success, their careers pull them in opposite directions.



# Two Artists, Two Different Struggles



Mia



**The Passion:**  
Acting and storytelling.



**The Struggle:**  
Constantly facing rejection;  
performing a one-woman play  
to an empty theater.



**The Compromise:**  
Leaving her home and  
relationship behind to shoot  
a major film in Paris.



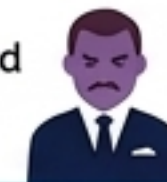
Sebastian



**The Passion:**  
Preserving traditional,  
classic jazz (like his hero,  
Thelonious Monk).



**The Struggle:**  
Fired for playing improvised  
jazz instead of popular  
background music.



**The Compromise:**  
Joining a modern, electronic  
pop-jazz band to earn a  
steady paycheck.



# The Magic of Los Angeles



**The Freeway (105-110 Interchange):**  
The movie opens with a massive traffic jam that transforms into an energetic, joyful dance number about chasing the sun.

**The Freeway (105-110 Interchange):**  
The movie opens with a massive traffic jam that transforms into an energetic, joyful dance number about chasing the sun.



**Griffith Observatory:**  
The historic planetarium where Mia and Sebastian share a magical date, literally floating among the stars in a dreamlike waltz.



**The Lighthouse Café:**  
A real, old-school jazz club in Hermosa Beach where Sebastian introduces Mia to the chaotic, exciting world of pure jazz.

**The Lighthouse Café:**  
A real, old-school jazz club in Hermosa Beach where Sebastian introduces Mia to the chaotic, exciting world of pure jazz.

# A Technicolor Palette of Emotions



**Yellow (Joy & Classic Hollywood):** Used in Mia's iconic dancing dress to show bright optimism and pay tribute to vintage 1950s musicals.



**Green (Envy & Change):** Appears when characters face uncomfortable shifts, such as when Sebastian joins a pop band he doesn't truly love.



**Blue (Reality & Melancholy):** As the story moves from fantasy into the harsh realities of adulthood, the bright colors fade into soft, serious blues.

# ★ The Magic Behind the Camera ★



## Real Celluloid Film:

Shot on 35mm and 16mm film to capture deep, rich, authentic colors that digital cameras often miss.

## Widescreen Canvas:

Filmed in a wide 2.55:1 aspect ratio, giving the movie a grand, sweeping, theatrical feel.

## The Magic Hour:

Outdoor romantic scenes were filmed in real-time during the few brief minutes of natural twilight, avoiding artificial computer graphics (CGI).

# The Sound of the City: Saving Jazz



## Classic Tradition

Sebastian believes true jazz is acoustic, complex, and deeply tied to the past. He argues that the music is dying on the vine and needs strict preservation.

# The Sound of the City: Saving Jazz



## Modern Evolution

His bandmate, Keith, argues that jazz is about the future. He blends the music with pop synthesizers, backup singers, and flashy light shows to attract a younger audience.

# Reinventing the Hollywood Musical



## Classic 1950s Musicals

- Filmed entirely on artificial studio sets.
- Actors' voices were often perfectly dubbed over by professional singers.
- Clean, simple storylines with guaranteed happily ever after endings.



## La La Land

- Filmed on location in the real streets and traffic of Los Angeles.
- Actors sang live on camera, keeping the raw, natural imperfections in their voices.
- A grounded, bittersweet ending where dreams come at a heavy personal cost.



## The Core Theme: Dreams vs. Reality

The ultimate question of the story: Can you have it all? To achieve their greatest artistic dreams, both characters must dedicate all their time and energy to their craft. The movie suggests that extreme ambition requires an equal sacrifice. For Mia and Sebastian, the price of their professional success is their romantic relationship.

# The Epilogue: A Fork in the Road

The Fantasy

In a final, wordless piano solo, the film shows us a colorful What If? dream. We see an alternate universe where they stayed together, sacrificing their huge careers for a simple, happy life with each other.

Five years later, Mia is a famous actress married to someone else. Sebastian owns a successful, classic jazz club named Seb's. They are both successful, but they are apart.

The Reality

## Why We Love the Bittersweet

The magic of the film lies in its contrast. The bright, primary colors and the energetic, joyful jazz music act as a beautiful disguise. They make the ending feel even more powerful.

The movie uses the fantasy of a Hollywood musical to teach a very realistic lesson: True love sometimes means letting someone go so they can achieve their destiny.

## Comprehension Check: True or False?

1. Sebastian's ultimate dream is to play synthesizer in a famous electronic pop band.



2. The movie was filmed using real Los Angeles locations, rather than just artificial studio sets.



3. Mia and Sebastian get married and open a jazz club together at the end of the movie.



4. The costume designer used specific primary colors, like yellow and blue, to represent different emotions.



## Comprehension Check: Short Answer

**Question 1:** What does the word bittersweet mean when used to describe the ending of this movie?

---

---

---

---

---

**Question 2:** Name two ways that this film is different from classic 1950s Hollywood musicals (like *Singin' in the Rain*).

---

---

---

---

---

**Question 3:** Why does Sebastian decide to join Keith's modern pop-jazz band, even though he doesn't truly love the music?

---

---

---

---

---

# Vocabulary Review

## Aspiring

Hoping and trying to be successful at a particular career (e.g., an aspiring actress).



## Bittersweet

A complex feeling that is a mixture of both happy and sad emotions.



## Compromise

Accepting something less than what you originally wanted in order to reach an agreement or survive.



## Nostalgia

A warm, sentimental feeling of affection for the past.

