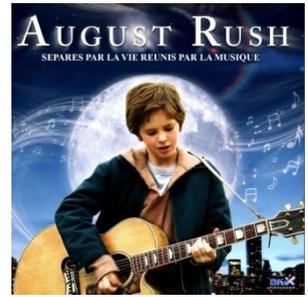




Friday 25 January 2013 - ČAK, Birkirkara

# August Rush



114 minutes - Drama/Music - 21 November 2007 (USA)

*A drama with fairy tale elements, where an orphaned musical prodigy uses his gift as a clue to finding his birth parents.*

**Director:** Kirsten Sheridan

**Writers:** Nick Castle (story & screenplay), Paul Castro (story), James V. Hart (screenplay)

**Original Music:** Mark Mancina

## Actors

Freddie Highmore	...	<i>Evan Taylor - 'August Rush'</i>
Keri Russell	...	<i>Lyla Novacek</i>
Jonathan Rhys Meyers	...	<i>Louis Connelly</i>
Terrence Howard	...	<i>Richard Jeffries</i>
Robin Williams	...	<i>Maxwell 'Wizard' Wallace</i>
William Sadler	...	<i>Thomas Novacek</i>
Marian Seldes	...	<i>The Dean</i>
Leon Thomas III	...	<i>Arthur</i>
Aaron Staton	...	<i>Nick</i>
Alex O'Loughlin	...	<i>Marshall</i>
Jamia Simone Nash	...	<i>Hope</i>

## The story

It is the story of a boy named **Evan Taylor** (Freddie Highmore) grows up an outcast in a home for boys, all the while believing that his parents are alive. He can hear music in everything: the light, the wind, the air. He believes that he can hear the music from his parents. He meets a social service worker, **Richard Jeffries** (Terrence Howard), of the New York Child Services Department. Evan tells him he does not want to be adopted. Mr. Jeffries likes Evan and gives him his card. He wants Evan to confide in him if the need should



ever arise. Through a series of flashbacks, his parents are revealed to be named **Lyla Novacek**, (Keri Russell), a famous concert cellist, and **Louis Connelly** (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), an Irish guitarist and lead singer of a rock band. His parents met at the same party and spent the romantic night together. Due to Lyla's strict father, Lyla was unable to meet Louis where she'd agreed to and they parted, apparently never to see each other again. From that one night together Lyla became pregnant with their child. Her father did not approve of this, he wanted Lyla to have a successful career without the obstacle of a child. After an argument with her father, Lyla ran out of a restaurant and was hit by a car. While in the hospital, she gave birth to a son. The last thing she was aware of was the nurses telling her that the baby's heartbeat was falling. She wakes. Her father tells her that her son died. Little did she know, her father forged her signature on the adoption papers. Her baby was fine. Both Louis and Lyla gave up their musical careers after losing each other, and neither was aware of their son's existence.

Lyla discovers that her son is alive when her father, knowing that he is dying, confesses what actually happened. Lyla immediately sets out to New York to look for her now 12-year-old son. Meanwhile, she begins playing the cello again, having been called back to the New York Philharmonic. At about the same time, Louis reconciles with his band mates. Meanwhile, Lyla has discovered her son's name and has decided to stay in New York while searching for him. While there, she decides to resume her cello career. She is then chosen to play in the same concert, which features Evan's piece (under the name "August Rush"). Louis, being mistakenly told that Lyla has left on her honeymoon, also returns to New York to resume playing with his former band. He has a chance meeting with Evan in Washington Square Park and they play music together, although neither knows who the other is. The night of the concert, Evan finally chooses to run from Wizard in favor of performing at his concert. In the meantime, Louis races to the

park when he sees Evan's pseudonym along with Lyla's name on a sign billing the concert. Evan conducts his piece, and at its conclusion, when he turns around to see Lyla and Louis standing hand in hand, he knows that he is at last reunited with his mother and father.

**Director: Kirsten Sheridan**

Is an Irish film director and screenwriter Born July 14, 1976). The director of *August Rush* (2007) and *Disco Pigs* (2001), Sheridan was nominated for an Academy Award for co-writing the semi-autobiographical film *In America* with her father, director Jim Sheridan,

and her sister, Naomi Sheridan. Born in Dublin, Sheridan moved to New York City in 1981, spending her early childhood there while her father struggled to make it as an actor and theatre director. Her family moved back to Ireland eight years later, whereupon her father found success as the director of *My Left Foot*, in which Sheridan plays the younger sister of lead actor Daniel Day-Lewis. She studied script writing at New York University in 1993 and went to film school at University College Dublin, ultimately earning her film degree from Dun Laoghaire College of Art and Design in 1998. Her thesis short film *Patterns* won several international film festival awards, including Clermont-Ferrand, Cork, Galway, Dresden, Aspen, and Chicago, and her next short, *The Case of Majella McGinty*, about a little girl who escapes her stressful life by crawling into a suitcase, received festival awards at Foyle, Cork, San Francisco, Cologne, and Worldfest Houston.



**Composer: Mark Mancina**

Born on 9 March 1957 in Santa Monica California, USA, Mancina spent his childhood in Culver City, then Huntington Beach, California. Commencing his musical training at a very early age, he has performed all his life as a singer, guitarist and pianist. His film and television scores frequently feature Mancina's own performances on piano, guitar, bass, percussion, and drums, highlighting unique sounds harvested from a personal collection of traditional, exotic, and custom instruments from all over the world.



Known for his wide-ranging talents, Mark Mancina's film scores traverse almost every genre: drama, action, comedy, suspense, and period epic. His dark, edgy music for the Oscar-winning *Training Day* (2001), is a benchmark score that expanded the boundaries of scoring street-wise drama, and is widely used as a temp track, while his breakout score for *Speed* (1994), another innovative work, influenced the sound of subsequent action movies. Mancina's orchestral originality on *Return to Paradise* (1998), reflecting the haunting gloom of its subject, and his score for the period epic *Moll Flanders* (1996), which appeared on Billboard's Classical Crossover Chart, further point to Mancina's considerable compositional range. Other films include *Twister* (1996), *Bad Boys* (1995), *Con Air* (1997), *Domestic Disturbance* (2001), *Tarzan* (1999), *Brother Bear* (2003), *The Haunted Mansion* (2003), and Sony's 3-D animated short, *Early Bloomer* (2003).

Composer, producer, songwriter and three-time Grammy winner, he has also added *Broadway* to his list of accomplishments by writing, producing and arranging the score for Disney's Tony-winning stage production of *The Lion King*. The foundation for this expansion into theatre was set in the early 1990s when Oscar winning composer Hans Zimmer, recognizing Mancina's varied gifts, asked him to arrange and produce three Elton John songs for what would become the enormously successful original film version of *The Lion King*. Mancina's efforts on "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," "I Just Can't Wait To Be King," and "Hakuna Matata" were rewarded with a multi-platinum record that has sold over ten million copies worldwide, and earned him a Grammy for Best Musical Album for Children and two American Music Awards for Best Pop Album.

## Awards

**Saturn Award 2008:** Won Best Performance by a Younger Actor (Freddie Highmore).

**Oscar 2008:** Nominated Best Achievement in Music Written for Motion Pictures, Original Song Jamal Joseph Charles Mack Thomas, Tevin For the song "Raise It Up".

**Capri Exploit Award 2007:** Won Freddie Highmore.

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*Next appointment!*

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013

*The film...*

**The Rabbit Hole**

ÇAK Conference Hall, S. Sommier Street, Birkirkara @ 7.30pm

**Entrance Donation €2**

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