**The Matrix**

Released March 1999 it was budgeted at $63 million and grossed over $170 million at the US domestic box office. Directed by the emerging filmmakers the Wachowskis, now named Lana and Lilly. The film is based on philosophical ideas, cominc-book storytelling style and included martial arts choreography. It’s known for it’s production design and groundbreaking visual effects. It was the 4th highest grossing film in 1999

**Other notable films that year:** American Beauty, Toy Story 2, Star Wars Episode 1, Sixth Sense, Blair Witch Project, 10 Things I Hate About You, Eyes Wide Shut,

**Awards for the film:** Academy Award for Editing, Visual Effects and Sound.

**Awards for that year:** Academy Award for Best Film went to American Beauty. American Beauty and Toy Story 2 (!!??) won the Golden Globes for Drama film and Comedy respectively.

**Notes**

* The teacher in this film, Morpheus, leaves breadcrumbs for an interested student to follow.
* Teacher shares his reflections to explore the students’ motivations. Explaining the students’s experience as if he could read minds, or has been there before.
* Lessons are led to automatically uploading book-learning and theory, whereas there is still a need for practical on-the-job training to perfect and master the art of those topics.

**Events**

**1999**

* January 7 – The Senate trial in the [impeachment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impeachment_of_Bill_Clinton) of U.S. President [Bill Clinton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton) begins. He had been impeached by the House of Representatives on December 19.
* March 4 – In a military court, [United States Marine Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Marine_Corps) Captain Richard J. Ashby is acquitted of the charge of reckless flying which resulted in the deaths of 20 skiers in the [Italian Alps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_Alps), when his low-flying jet [hit a gondola cable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cavalese_cable_car_disaster_(1998)).
* March 8 – The [Supreme Court of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States) upholds the murder convictions of [Timothy McVeigh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_McVeigh) for the [Oklahoma City bombing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City_bombing).
* March 27 – [Kosovo War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo_War): A U.S. [F-117 Nighthawk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F-117_Nighthawk) is shot down by Serbian forces.
* April 20 – [Columbine High School massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbine_High_School_massacre): Two [Littleton, Colorado](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Littleton,_Colorado) teenagers, [Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Harris_and_Dylan_Klebold), open fire on their teachers and classmates, killing 12 students and 1 teacher, and then themselves. It would be the deadliest shooting at a high school in U.S. history. The shooting sparks debate on school bullying, gun control and violence in the media.
* June 1 – [American Airlines Flight 1420](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Airlines_Flight_1420) overruns the runway in [Little Rock, Arkansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Rock,_Arkansas) killing 11 people.
* June 8 – The government of [Colombia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombia) announces it will include the estimated value of the country's [illegal drug](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_drug) crops, exceeding half a billion [US dollars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/US_dollar), in its [gross national product](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_national_product).
* June 19 – Horror author [Stephen King](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_King) is hit in a car accident on Route 5 in North [Lovell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lovell,_Maine), [Maine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine) by Bryan Smith.
* July 16 – Off the coast of [Martha's Vineyard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha%27s_Vineyard), a plane piloted by [John F. Kennedy, Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_F._Kennedy,_Jr.) crashes, killing him and his wife [Carolyn Bessette Kennedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolyn_Bessette_Kennedy) and her sister [Lauren Bessette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Bessette).
* July 22 – The first version of [MSN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MSN) Messenger is released by [Microsoft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft).
* November 30 – In [Seattle, Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seattle,_Washington), protests against the [WTO meeting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WTO_Ministerial_Conference_of_1999_protest_activity) by [anti-globalization protesters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-globalization_movement) catch police unprepared and force the cancellation of opening ceremonies.
* December 7 – The [Recording Industry Association of America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recording_Industry_Association_of_America) files a lawsuit against the [Napster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napster_(peer-to-peer)) file-sharing client alleging [copyright infringement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyright_infringement).

**IMDb**

The Wachowskis approached Warner Brothers with the idea of the Matrix, and Warner balked at the budget they had submitted, which was over eighty million dollars. Warner instead agreed to give them ten million dollars. The Wachowskis took the money, and filmed the first ten minutes of the movie (the opening scene with [Carrie-Anne Moss](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005251)) using the entire ten million dollars. They then showed the executives at Warner Brothers the opening scene. They were impressed, and green-lit the original asking budget.

The opening action scene took six months of training and four days to shoot.

[Woo-Ping Yuen](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0950759) initially refused to work on the film, and hoped that by asking for an exorbitant fee, it would turn off the Wachowskis. It didn't. He next formulated what he considered an impossible request. He said that he'd agree only if he had complete control of the fights, and that he trained the actors for four months before they shoot. The Wachowskis complied with his request.

For the cell phone conversation scene between Neo and Morpheus in the MetaCortex office, [Keanu Reeves](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000206) actually climbed up the window without a stuntman, which was 34 floors up.

After the lobby shoot-out, the camera pans back, showing the aftermath of the gunfight in the lobby. During this, a piece of one of the pillars falls off. This happened by coincidence during the filming, and was not planned, but was left, since it seemed appropriate.

In Greek Mythology, Morpheus is the god of dreams. Somewhat ironic, considering Morpheus' role here is to awaken people from their dream states to reality.

According to Costume Designer [Kym Barrett](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0057199), Trinity's costume was made with cheap PVC, because of the much tighter budget. Similarly, Neo's coat wasn't actually a very expensive fabric. It was a wool blend purchased for three dollars a yard.

The filming of the helicopter scene nearly caused the film to be shut down, because they flew the helicopter through restricted Sydney airspace. Laws in New South Wales, Australia were changed to allow filming to proceed.

The name of Morpheus' ship, the Nebuchadnezzar, is a Biblical reference to King Nebuchadrezzar II of Babylon, from the biblical Book of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar ("the Great") was famous for his conquests of Israel in Biblical times (specifically Judah and Jerusalem). He also built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon (one of the lost Seven Wonders of the Ancient World) for his wife. He has a dream he can't remember, but keeps searching for an answer, in Daniel 2:1-49.

By the middle of 2002, the famous "Bullet Time" sequence had been spoofed in over twenty different movies.

The climactic subway fight scene between Neo and Agent Smith went ten days over schedule.

Sets from the film [Dark City](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0118929) (1998), including rooftops, buildings, and other exterior sets, were used in this film. The rooftops that Trinity runs across at the beginning of the film, are the same ones that John Murdoch runs across in Dark City.

In an online interview when the film was first released, the Wachowskis revealed that they'd both take the Blue Pill when given Neo's choice.

The film pays a huge homage to [Lewis Carroll](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0140902)'s "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland", although there are also references to [Karl Marx](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0555631), [Franz Kafka](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0434525), Zen, and [Homer](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0392955)'s Odyssey. One of the main featured works of literature is "Simulcra and Simulation" by the French philosopher Jean Baudrillaud. The book can be seen lying open in Neo's apartment, and was required reading for all the principal cast and crew.

The windows, into which Trinity crashes the helicopter, are those of the Columbia Pictures screening room in Sydney, Australia.

[Sandra Bullock](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000113) turned down the role of Trinity, because she couldn't see herself acting alongside the actor the studio intended to play the role as Neo. This was before [Keanu Reeves](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000206) was cast. She later regretted this decision.

As of April, 2016 a research team at DARPA was working on a project which focuses on Targeted Neuroplasticity Training (abbreviated TNT) which involves the use of electrodes put at the base of the neck and the use of electrical impulses to influence a person's neurotransmitters. The purpose is to allow Agents to learn languages and other complex subjects in a fraction of the time. It is similar to Neo being plugged into the training program to learn complex skills faster, except not as medically invasive.

"Tastee Wheat", which is mentioned when Mouse is trying to describe the food in the real world, was replaced by "Sex Crispies" in the German version of the movie.

Principal photography wrapped at 1:01 a.m., with the scene where the characters are inside the wall, climbing down. Principal photography took 25 weeks, or 118 days.

[Michael Hutchence](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0404191) was cast in a major role, but committed suicide only three days after learning he had got the role.