**School of Rock**

Released September 2003 it was budgeted at $35 million and grossed over $81 million at the US domestic box office, and it spent 6 weeks in the Top 10 flilms of that year. It was considered the most successful “musical comedy” film until Pitch Perfect 2.

**Other notable films that year:** Lord of the RingsL Return of the King, Bruce Almighty, Finding Nemo, X2, Lost in Translation, Monster, Love Actually, Daredevil, Kill Bill Vol. 1,

**Awards for the film:** Jack Black nominated for a Golden Globe for acting, he won MTV Movie Award, The film won the British Comedy Award for Best Film.

**Awards for that year:** Academy Awards Best Film and Golden Globes (drama): Lord of the Rings Return of the King; Golden Globes (comedy): Lost in Translation (*comedy???)*

**Thoughts**

Screenwriter [Mike White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_White_%28filmmaker%29)'s concept for the film was inspired by the [Langley Schools Music Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langley_Schools_Music_Project). <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Langley_Schools_Music_Project>

 Schoolkids making a film about schoolkids : They're polished craftsmen all, yet each, in a different ways, on intimate terms with his inner child—especially his naughty inner child, the kind who'd make a movie with a montage of frolicking kids set to the Ramones' "Bonzo Goes to Bitburg."

The movie takes music seriously. There's a job for everyone. Of course, there is a school principal. She is Rosalie Mullins ([Joan Cusack](http://www.rogerebert.com/cast-and-crew/joan-cusack)), and, miraculously, she is not the standard old prune.

Drugs and band-life: the movie is clean as a whistle and as Dewey states music isn’t baout geting loaded, its about putting a legendary show.

Not a fan of Sarah Silverman’s character, you gotta try extremely hard to make someone that unlikeable, even in a kids movie.

Leadership and respect in order to engage and teach kids seems to make the class and the band successful.

**Events**

**2002**

 [January 8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_8) – The [No Child Left Behind Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_Child_Left_Behind_Act) is signed into law by U.S. President [George W. Bush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush).

 [January 9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_9) – The [United States Department of Justice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Justice) announces it will pursue a criminal investigation of [Enron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enron).

 [March 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_1) - [U.S. invasion of Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Afghanistan_%282001%E2%80%93present%29): In eastern [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan), [Operation Anaconda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Anaconda) begins.

 [June 29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_29) – Vice President [Dick Cheney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Cheney) served as [Acting President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acting_President_of_the_United_States) for a few hours, while President [George W. Bush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush) underwent a colonoscopy

**2003**

 [January 30](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_30) – [Iraq disarmament crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_disarmament_crisis): The leaders of the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom), [Czech Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic), [Denmark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark), [Hungary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary), [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy), [Poland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland), [Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal), [Romania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romania) and [Spain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain) release a statement (*The Letter of the Eight*) demonstrating support for the United States' plans to invade [Iraq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq).

 [February 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/February_1) – [STS-107](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-107): [Space Shuttle *Columbia* disintegrates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_Columbia_disaster) over [Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas) upon re-entry, killing all 7 [astronauts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astronaut) on board.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_in_the_United_States#cite_note-Cassell.27s_Chronology-2)

 [March 20](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_20) – The US-led [Iraq War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War) begins.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_in_the_United_States#cite_note-Cassell.27s_Chronology-2)

 [June 4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_4) – [Martha Stewart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha_Stewart) and her broker are [indicted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indictment) for using privileged investment information and then obstructing a federal investigation. Stewart also resigns as chairperson and chief executive officer of [*Martha Stewart Living*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha_Stewart_Living).

 [July 14](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/July_14) – [CIA leak scandal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CIA_leak_scandal): [*Washington Post*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Post) columnist [Robert Novak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Novak) publishes the name of [Valerie Plame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerie_Plame), blowing her cover as a [CIA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CIA) operative.

**IMDb**

The rock band [Led Zeppelin](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0496389) are notoriously hesitant to allow their music to be licensed for commercial purposes. Knowing this, [Richard Linklater](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000500) filmed a plea by actor [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) in front of 1,000 screaming fans, imploring the band to let the production use the "Immigrant Song" in the movie. The plea worked and the filmed request is included on the DVD.

Early in filming, an insecure [Robert Tsai](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1440138) approached director [Richard Linklater](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000500) and tried to talk him out of letting him be in the film because he felt he wasn't right for the part. Linklater responded that it was his very insecurity that made him exactly right for the part, and kept him in.

All the kids really play their instruments, and the backup singers are real vocalists. [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) also played a bit of guitar in the movie (for example, when he is teaching "Smoke on the water", "Iron man" and other songs to Zach), but he didn't do the guitar solos.

[Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) thought of all the nicknames for the kids.

The idea for the movie came when writer [Mike White](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0925234) moved into an apartment next to [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312). White would often find [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) running naked through the halls or blasting much of the music featured in the movie at full volume.

[Miranda Cosgrove](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1388927), who plays Summer in the movie, can sing. She took about a 45-minute "bad singing" lesson to sing horrible for the song "Memory" when [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312)'s character was looking for backup singers.

Writer [Mike White](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0925234) is actually not a fan of classic rock. The basis of the movie is actually used so [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) could perform his own favorite music.

Although the children in the film are supposed to all be the same age, the child actors ranged in age from [Kevin Alexander Clark](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1333511), who was nearly 15 by the time of the film's release, to [Miranda Cosgrove](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1388927), who has just turned 10 by the time of the film's release.

Stunt men were used to catch [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) at the end for the stage dive (just in case).

A DVD bonus feature reveals that the movie was originally going to be a musical.

When the class are at the tryouts for the Battle of the Bands contest, Summer and Dewey are on the stage talking to the director. In this scene, when [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312)'s character gets frustrated, he throws a chair. According to the commentary on the DVD, this wasn't part of the script and [Miranda Cosgrove](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1388927) didn't know this was going to happen. You can see her react by jumping when the chair is thrown. This is a completely real reaction.

In the photo that Dewey holds up of his and Ned's old band, the other person is [Richard Linklater](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000500), the director.

The finger point and nod that [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) teaches Zack is actually a move that [Angus Young](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0949264) of [AC/DC](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0009540) performs in concerts. Black also imitates Young's schoolboy attire during the Battle.

[Richard Linklater](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000500) taught [Miranda Cosgrove](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1388927) how to do the screwed mouth face after she finds out what a groupie is and confronts Dewey about it.

During the band practice montage, Summer is seen reading "This Business of Music," a guide to legal and financial issues in the music industry that has been published since 1964.

The script originally called for [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) and [Joan Cusack](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000349)'s characters to fall in love following their outing to the bar.

When asked for his opinion about testing from the other teachers, Dewey dodges the question with song lyrics including the line "Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be". One of the teachers asks if it is from a song, but he denies it. They are in fact from the song, "Greatest Love of All".

After the first band rehearsal, Dewey gives the kids some musical albums to listen to at home for inspiration and influences. The albums are: "Led Zeppelin" by [Led Zeppelin](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0496389), "Parallel Lines" by [Blondie](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1341522), "Fragile" by [Yes](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3058634), "2112" by [Rush](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2000037), Axis: Bold as Love by Jimi Hendrix and "Dark Side Of The Moon" by [Pink Floyd](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0969139).

Originally in the script, Dewey was supposed to have run the teacher over before she came to school which stopped her from teaching the class for 3 weeks. After, they changed it to her falling in the shower instead.

The big posters in Dewey's bedroom are of the [The Sex Pistols](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1797465), [The Who](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1277963), and New York City rock band Evil Jake. They were included because set designers photographed lead singer Mike Jacobs' apartment as research on how struggling musicians actually live, and Dewey's apartment is partially modeled on Mike's.

The school's name, Horace Green, is a reference to the highly prestigious school, Horace Mann.

During the class lectures, Dewey shows a slide-show that features a picture of the Ramones. In the end credits scene, Zack is wearing a Ramones t-shirt, showing how thoroughly he has changed from the beginning.

When Dewey Finn is teaching bass to Katie in the classroom during the Ramones teaching montage his bass guitar has no strings.

In Spain, [Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) was dubbed by singer-actor [Dani Martín](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1012635). Martin had no dubbing experience but it was chosen because in the time of the movie his rock band "El Canto de Loco" was a big hit in Spain. This dubbing is considered one of the worst dubbing ever made in Spain due to Martin's casting choice.

In 2014, it was announced that Andrew Lloyd Webber was working on a musical adaptation of the film. It is set to head to Broadway in November 2015 at the Winter Garden Theater, starring Alex Brightman as Dewey Finn.

Freddy Jones' name is the same as the character from Scooby Doo.

Jack Black is a musician in real life. He is also a member of the rock band Tenacious D.

[Jack Black](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0085312) and [Joan Cusack](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000349) previously worked together in [High Fidelity](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0146882) (2000) that also starred Joan's brother [John Cusack](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000131).