

1. Set to premiere at this year's Venice Film Festival, the official trailer for the much-anticipated Marilyn Monroe biopic *Blonde* has dropped, showing Ana de Armas platinum transformation into the lead role. Based on the bestselling novel by Joyce Carol Oates, the movie reimagines the life of the American singer, actress and model – from her volatile childhood through to her rise to stardom and romantic entanglements with notable figures including President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and the playwright Arthur Miller.

2. The long-awaited film adaptation of Oates' fictionalised Monroe has been in the works since 2014 and is set to be released globally on Netflix on 28 September. The acclaimed author has already given it her seal of approval and it features a stellar supporting cast, from Adrien Brody playing Miller to Bobby Cannavale taking on the role of the basketball player Joe DiMaggio and Casper Phillipson of *Lackie* – fame reprising the role of JFK.

3. Published in 2000, the thoroughly researched, yet mostly imagined novel, tells the story of Monroe from childhood to her meteoric success and through to her death that is shrouded in controversy. Oates structures the novel around three contrasting versions of Monroe, all of which explore different female personas in 20th century America.



Ana de Armas was criticized for maintaining her Cuban accent in the movie. She had previously said she spent nearly an entire year working on her Monroe accent for "Blonde".

The first is Norma Jeane Baker, the illegitimate and wholesome child who grew up in an orphanage and multiple foster homes after a mother is declared mad. The second is Marilyn Monroe, the woman who changed her name and became a pinup, sex symbol and movie star. Subject to misogyny and exploited by Hollywood Oates draws on pop culture myths and narrates a succession of ill-fated romances, from lovers to husbands. The third persona is the pure blonde woman, which Oates uses to explore the worshipped idea of money, class and beauty.

4. Many of the conspiracy theories surrounding Monroe are also touched on, including the myth that Robert F Kennedy and President JFK were involved in a death. With the movie dropping on 28th September, there is plenty of time to delve deeper into the story and read Joyce Carol Oates' novel before its big-screen release.



Adrien Brody plays Marilyn Monroe's famous husband Arthur Miller.

« Blonde » - the book behind the biopic

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by Daisy Lester



