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What Films Has Cameron Diaz Been In

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Introduction: The Unforgettable Career of Cameron Diaz

Cameron Diaz is a name that instantly evokes images of radiant smiles, comedic genius, and a remarkable versatility that few Hollywood stars can claim. From her explosive debut alongside Jim Carrey in a rubber-faced comedy to her dramatic turns in thought-provoking dramas, Diaz carved a unique path in the film industry. For fans and movie buffs alike, the question "What films has Cameron Diaz been in?" opens the door to a treasure trove of cinematic gems spanning the late 1990s, the 2000s, and early 2010s. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore her filmography in detail, highlighting the most significant movies that defined her career, the characters she brought to life, and the lasting impact she left on popular culture.

The Breakout That Changed Everything: 1994–1997

The Mask (1994) – A Star is Born

At just 21 years old, Cameron Diaz walked into an audition for **The Mask**and walked out as a Hollywood sensation. Playing Tina Carlyle, the sultry nightclub singer opposite Jim Carrey's manic transformation, Diaz demonstrated a natural charisma and screen presence that was impossible to ignore. The film was a massive box office hit, grossing over $350 million worldwide, and it established Diaz as a star to watch. What made her performance remarkable was the confidence and poise she exuded despite having no prior acting experience. This role remains one of the most iconic answers to the question "What films has Cameron Diaz been in?"

She's the One (1996) and Feeling Minnesota (1996)

Following her debut, Diaz chose roles that showcased her range. In **She's the One**, an independent comedy-drama directed by Edward Burns, she played a free-spirited woman tangled in a complicated love triangle. This film proved she could hold her own in a smaller, character-driven ensemble. Later that year, she appeared in **Feeling Minnesota**, a dark romantic comedy starring alongside Keanu Reeves. Though the film received mixed reviews, it demonstrated Diaz's willingness to take risks early in her career.

Head Above Water (1996)

This little-known black comedy-mystery featured Diaz as the wife of a judge, entangled in a murder plot during a sailing trip. It allowed her to flex her dramatic muscles and show a darker side, hinting at the versatile actress she would become.

The Golden Era of Romantic Comedies: 1997–2000

My Best Friend's Wedding (1997) – The "Other Woman" Everyone Loved

In this classic romantic comedy, Diaz played Kimmy, the sweet and unsuspecting fiancée of Michael (Dermot Mulroney), whom Julia Roberts's character tries to steal back. Instead of playing the villain, Diaz infused Kimmy with such warmth and vulnerability that audiences couldn't help but root for her. The film was a critical and

commercial success, and Diaz's performance earned her widespread acclaim. This role cemented her place in the rom-com pantheon.

A Life Less Ordinary (1997)

Directed by Danny Boyle and written by John Hodge, this quirky romantic fantasy paired Diaz with Ewan McGregor. She played a spoiled heiress who gets kidnapped by a janitor, only for angels to intervene. While the film was a box office disappointment, it showed Diaz's appetite for unconventional projects.

There's Something About Mary (1998) – Comedy Gold

No retrospective of Diaz's career is complete without mentioning **There's Something About Mary**. In this laugh-out-loud comedy, she portrayed Mary Jensen, the titular object of affection for multiple men. Diaz's performance was pitch-perfect: she was beautiful, funny, and wonderfully relatable. The infamous hair gel scene is etched into comedy history. The film was a massive hit, grossing over $369 million on a modest budget, and it earned Diaz a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy.

Being John Malkovich (1999) – A Dramatic Leap

Spike Jonze's mind-bending masterpiece required Diaz to completely shed her glamorous image. She played Lotte Schwartz, a frumpy, neurotic animal handler who becomes part of a bizarre love triangle involving John Malkovich. Diaz gained weight, wore unflattering clothes, and delivered a performance that stunned critics. This role proved she was not just a pretty face; she was a serious actress capable of deep emotional work. The film earned her another Golden Globe nomination.

Any Given Sunday (1999)

Oliver Stone's gritty football drama featured Diaz as Christina Pagniacci, the tough-as-nails team owner who inherits the franchise from her father. Holding her own against Al Pacino, Jamie Foxx, and Dennis Quaid, Diaz displayed a commanding presence that added a new dimension to her filmography. The role demonstrated she could handle intense, male-dominated settings with ease.

Peak Stardom: 2000–2005

Charlie's Angels (2000) and Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (2003)

When **Charlie's Angels** was released, it redefined the action-comedy genre. Diaz starred as Natalie Cook, the bubbly and energetic angel who combined martial arts with an infectious smile. Alongside Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu, Diaz brought a sense of joy and empowerment to the role. The film was a box office blockbuster, earning over $264 million worldwide. The sequel, **Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle**, doubled down on the action and humor, and while it wasn't as critically acclaimed, it solidified Diaz's status as an action star. Both films are frequent answers to "What films has Cameron Diaz been in?" for fans of high-octane entertainment.

The Sweetest Thing (2002)

This raunchy romantic comedy starred Diaz as Christina, a woman who pursues a man she met at a club. The film pushed boundaries with its bawdy humor and featured a memorable soundtrack. Though not a critical darling, it has since gained cult status, and Diaz's fearless comedic timing shone through.

Gangs of New York (2002)

Martin Scorsese's epic historical drama required Diaz to step into the gritty, violent world of 19th-century New York. She played Jenny Everdeane, a pickpocket and love interest to Leonardo DiCaprio's Amsterdam Vallon. The role was a departure from her comedic roots, and she held her own opposite Daniel Day-Lewis's towering performance. Critics praised her for adding a touch of humanity to the grim narrative, and the film itself was nominated for ten Academy Awards.

In Her Shoes (2005)

Based on Jennifer Weiner's Best Selling Novel, Inseparable Diaz with Toni Collette, and Shirley MacLaine. Diaz played Maggie, a irresponsible, party-loving younger sister who struggles with her place in the world. This was one of her most nuanced dramatic performances, revealing a vulnerability that resonated deeply with audiences. The film was a box office success and remains a beloved entry in her filmography.

Experimenting with Genre: 2006–2010

The Holiday (2006)

This Nancy Meyers romantic comedy has become a holiday staple. Diaz played Amanda Woods, a high-powered Los Angeles workaholic who swaps homes with an Englishwoman (Kate Winslet). In England, she meets Graham (Jude Law), a widowed father, and the chemistry is undeniable. The film was a warm, charming hit, and Diaz's performance was relatable and heartfelt. It frequently appears in discussions about what films has Cameron Diaz been in that define Christmas cinema.

Shrek Series (2001, 2004, 2007, 2010) – The Voice of Princess Fiona

While we typically think of live-action films, Diaz's voice work as Princess Fiona in the **Shrek**franchise deserves special mention. Over the course of four main films and a spin-off, she brought the feisty, layered ogre princess to life with humor and heart. The franchise grossed billions and won an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature for the first film. Her vocal performance is inseparable from the character's enduring popularity.

Knight and Day (2010)

In this action-comedy, Diaz played June Havens, a car restorer who gets caught up in a global chase with a secret agent (Tom Cruise). The film was a fun, popcorn-munching ride that capitalized on the chemistry between its two leads. While not a major critical success, it demonstrated Diaz's ability to anchor big-budget summer fare.

Later Career Highlights: 2011–2014

Bad Teacher (2011)

Diaz embraced her most unapologetically crass character in **Bad Teacher**. She played Elizabeth Halsey, a foul-mouthed, lazy teacher who just wants to marry a rich man and quit her job. The role was a departure from the "nice girl" roles that had defined much of her career, and Diaz reveled in the wicked humor. The film was a box office hit, grossing over $216 million worldwide.

What to Expect When You're Expecting (2012)

This ensemble comedy adapted the popular pregnancy guide into a series of interwoven stories. Diaz played Jules, a reality-TV fitness guru who unexpectedly gets pregnant after years of trying. The film had its funny moments, and Diaz's performance was energetic, though the film received mixed reviews.

Gambit (2012)

Reuniting with **There's Something About Mary**directors the Coen brothers? Not exactly – the Coens wrote the script, but the film was directed by Michael Hoffman. Diaz played PJ Puznowski, a Texas rodeo queen who helps an art curator (Colin Firth) pull off an elaborate heist. The film unfortunately flopped, but it showcased Diaz's comedic timing and willingness to collaborate with top-tier talent.

The Counselor (2013)

Ridley Scott directed this dark crime thriller featuring a star-studded cast including Michael Fassbender, Javier Bardem, Brad Pitt, and Penélope Cruz. Diaz played Malkina, a wild-eyed, sexually aggressive woman who keeps a pet cheetah. It was one of her most polarizing roles, but critics acknowledged her fearless commitment. The film was a commercial disappointment, but it stands as a testament to Diaz's range.

Sex Tape (2014)

In her final film role to date, Diaz reunited with her **Bad Teacher** co-star Jason Segel. **Sex Tape** is a raunchy comedy about a couple whose private video goes viral. The film was met with poor reviews, though Diaz's natural charm still managed to shine through. Shortly after its release, Diaz stepped away from acting, effectively ending her cinematic journey on a lighter note.

Conclusion: A Legacy That Endures

So, what films has Cameron Diaz been in? The answer spans more than two decades of versatile, memorable performances across nearly every genre. From her electric debut in **The Mask** to her voice work in the **Shrek** franchise, from iconic romantic comedies like **My Best Friend's Wedding** and **There's Something About Mary** to dramatic turns in **Being John Malkovich** and **Gangs of New York**, Diaz built a filmography that is as diverse as it is beloved. Though she has not appeared in a film since 2014, her impact on Hollywood remains undeniable. She proved that a star could be both a leading lady and a comedic powerhouse, and her work continues to entertain new generations of viewers. Whether revisiting old favorites or discovering her films for the first time, audiences will always find joy in asking – and answering – the question of what films has Cameron Diaz been in.

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