



Taylor Swift and legendary composer Andrew Lloyd Webber have collaborated on a new, original song written for Universal Pictures's film *Cats*.

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

The song, "Beautiful Ghosts," is performed by Francesca Hayward

in the film, and by Swift in the film's end credits.

OCTOBER 24, 2019, Los Angeles, CA — Today, Universal Pictures announced that global music icon Taylor Swift and legendary composer Andrew Lloyd Webber have collaborated on a new, original song written for Universal Pictures's film *Cats*, based on Lloyd Webber's record-shattering stage musical. The song, "Beautiful Ghosts," will feature in both the film and in the end credits.

Featuring Lloyd Webber's iconic music and a world-class cast of dancers under the guidance of Tony-winning choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler (*Hamilton*, *In the Heights*), the film re-imagines the musical for a new generation with spectacular production design, state-of-the-art technology, and dance styles ranging from classical ballet to contemporary, hip-hop to jazz, street dance to tap.

Cats, in theaters December 20, is directed by Oscar®-winning filmmaker Tom Hooper (*Les Misérables*, *The King's Speech*), and stars Swift, James Corden, Judi Dench, Jason Derulo, Idris Elba, Jennifer Hudson, Ian McKellen, Rebel Wilson and Royal Ballet principal dancer Francesca Hayward.

In the film, the song is performed by Hayward, who stars in the role of Victoria. The version of the song performed by Swift, who plays Bombalurina in the film, will play over the end titles.

As part of the announcement, Universal today also released an exclusive, behind-the-scenes video documenting the creation and recording of the song and including an interview with Swift, Lloyd Webber and Hooper.

One of the longest-running shows in West End and Broadway history, the stage musical *Cats* includes some of Lloyd Webber's most indelible songs, including *Memory*. Lloyd Webber, Swift and the filmmakers were excited at the idea of introducing a new song for the film adaptation.

Lloyd Webber saw an opportunity to create a new signature song for Victoria, whose character has been expanded for the film. "When I first read the screenplay, the first thing I said was, 'We have to have a song for Victoria,'" Lloyd Webber says. "Beautiful Ghosts," he says, is now, "an incredibly important and central part of the whole film."

For director Tom Hooper, the song exceeded even his high expectations. "What I couldn't believe was the extraordinary beauty of these lyrics that Taylor had written," Hooper says. "It was as if someone had come into the film I was in the middle of making and I had reflected back to me a profound understanding of what we are trying to do with the movie. It was utterly thrilling."

In Theaters December 20,2019

Genre:

Epic Musical

Cast:

James Corden, Judi Dench, Jason Derulo, Idris Elba, Jennifer Hudson, Ian McKellen, Taylor Swift, Rebel Wilson, and introducing Francesca Hayward

Director:

Tom Hooper

Screenplay by:

Lee Hall, Tom Hooper

Based on:

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by T.S. Eliot, the musical *Cats* by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Producers:

Debra Hayward, Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Tom Hooper

Executive Producers:

Andrew Lloyd Webber, Steven Spielberg, Angela Morrison, Jo Burn



(Source: Universal press release)

Category

1. Feature Film

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Author

hollywoodglee