# Jennifer Lopez says Kiss of the Spider Woman is a love letter to the gay community



Jennifer Lopez’s highly anticipated film Kiss of the Spider Woman is being hailed as a significant cultural moment and a heartfelt homage to both the queer and Latin communities. Directed by Bill Condon, the film is an adaptation of the 1992 musical by Terrence McNally, John Kander, and Fred Ebb, which itself is based on Manuel Puig’s 1976 novel. Lopez, who also serves as executive producer, described the project in a recent interview with CBS News’ Sunday Morning as 'a love letter' to these communities, emphasising that the film offers a message of love and unity amid contemporary societal challenges.

The storyline unfolds in a bleak Argentine prison circa 1981, during a military dictatorship, where political prisoner Valentín (Diego Luna) shares a cell with Molina (Tonatiuh Elizarraraz), a window dresser imprisoned for public indecency. Their unlikely bond grows through Molina’s retelling of a Hollywood musical featuring his favourite screen diva, Ingrid Luna—the ‘Spider Woman’—portrayed by Lopez. The character of Ingrid Luna is notable for resisting the erasure of her Latin identity in favour of Americanisation, a theme reflective of the film’s broader exploration of cultural identity and resistance. Murcia’s Molina is a central figure representing queer identity, poignantly expressing a sense of living beyond traditional gender binaries, which adds a nuanced layer to the film’s discourse on gender and tolerance.

The film, which premiered to acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2025, has been praised for its blend of fantasy, music, and political drama. Critics and audiences alike have applauded Lopez’s performance, particularly her musical numbers, which bring fierce vitality to the screen. Tonatiuh's emotionally rich portrayal of Luis Molina has been described as revelatory. The film’s themes resonate strongly in today’s socio-political climate, offering an artistic antidote to growing marginalisation and discrimination faced by Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities. Director Bill Condon noted the film’s timely counterpoint to regressive gender politics, describing it as both a spectacle and a deep examination of identity, love, and hope.

Kiss of the Spider Woman is slated for wide theatrical release on 10 October 2025. Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/09/30/jennifer-lopez-kiss-of-the-spider-woman-queer/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/09/30/jennifer-lopez-kiss-of-the-spider-woman-queer/> - Jennifer Lopez describes her upcoming film, 'Kiss of the Spider Woman', as a 'love letter to the queer community'. Directed by Bill Condon, the film is based on the 1992 stage musical by Terrence McNally, John Kander, and Fred Ebb, which was adapted from Manuel Puig's 1976 novel. The story follows political prisoner Valentín, played by Diego Luna, who shares a cell with Molina, portrayed by Tonatiuh. Molina recounts the plot of a Hollywood musical starring his favourite diva, Ingrid Luna/The Spider Woman, played by Lopez. Lopez emphasises the film's message of love and unity during challenging times, highlighting its significance for both the Latin and queer communities. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January and is set for theatrical release on 10 October.
3. <https://www.cinemablend.com/movies/jennifer-lopez-real-about-going-through-marital-issues-ben-affleck-filming-kiss-of-the-spider-woman> - Jennifer Lopez candidly discusses the personal challenges she faced during the filming of 'Kiss of the Spider Woman'. Amidst professional success, she was navigating marital issues with then-husband Ben Affleck. The production ran from March to June 2024, and Lopez reflects on how these personal struggles contributed to her artistic growth. She views the hardship as transformative, aiding her evolution both artistically and personally. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2025 and is set for a wide theatrical release on 10 October 2025.
4. <https://www.cinemablend.com/movies/jennifer-lopez-one-aspect-kiss-of-the-spider-woman-role-wasnt-feeling> - Jennifer Lopez reveals a creative disagreement she had while preparing for her role in 'Kiss of the Spider Woman'. Initially hesitant about adopting a platinum blonde look for the character of Aurora, she ultimately embraced the transformation, saying 'f--k it'. This decision led to a striking visual that has drawn comparisons to Gwen Stefani. The film, directed by Bill Condon, features Lopez alongside Diego Luna and Tonatiuh. It premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2025 and is scheduled for theatrical release on 10 October 2025.
5. <https://www.apnews.com/article/0dcc3d0640fd637f8732c94354501381> - At the Sundance Film Festival, Bill Condon presented his new adaptation of 'Kiss of the Spider Woman', featuring Jennifer Lopez, who received widespread acclaim. The musical, part of which was screened, is set in an Argentine prison and focuses on conversations between two cellmates: Valentin Arregui, a revolutionary played by Diego Luna, and Luis Molina, played by Tonatiuh, who loves movies and glamour. Gender identity is a central theme, with Molina expressing that they don't feel like either a man or a woman. The audience applauded Lopez's musical performance, and the film was celebrated for both its entertaining spectacle and its deeper exploration of bridging differences, gender identity, and tolerance. Condon emphasized that the movie's perspective differs from recent remarks by President Trump about gender. Lopez, emotional, shared that this role fulfilled her lifelong dreams.
6. <https://www.as.com/meristation/cine/diego-luna-y-jennifer-lopez-desatan-drama-fantasia-y-musica-en-el-primer-trailer-de-kiss-of-the-spider-woman-n-n/> - Diego Luna and Jennifer Lopez star in the anticipated musical 'Kiss of the Spider-Woman', directed by Bill Condon. Set in 1981 Argentina during the military dictatorship, the story follows Luis, a gay window dresser imprisoned for corrupting a minor, who finds solace in the films of Ingrid Luna, a diva portrayed by Lopez. This character embodies the 'Spider Woman', a lethal figure who seduces and eliminates her lovers with a kiss. The arrival of Marxist prisoner Valentín (Diego Luna) triggers an unexpected relationship marked by cinematic fantasy and music. Based on the 1992 musical by Terrence McNally, John Kander, and Fred Ebb, the film addresses themes of resistance, identity, and hope in dark times. The trailer highlights one of its 13 musical numbers, 'Where You Are', performed by Lopez, whose performance has been praised as 'fiery'. Tonatiuh Elizarraraz, as Luis, has been noted as a revelation for the emotional depth of his portrayal. After its successful run at Sundance, the film is set to premiere in cinemas on 10 October under Lionsgate distribution.