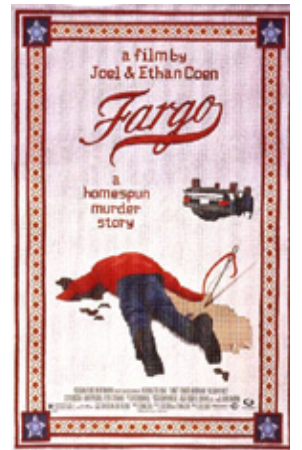


Movies & Languages 2018-2019

Fargo

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Joel Coen, Ethan Coen
YEAR/COUNTRY	1996 / USA
GENRE	Black Comedy, Crime
ACTORS	Frances McDormand, William H. Macy, Steve Buscemi, Peter Stormare, Harve Presnell, Larry Brandenburg, John Carroll Lynch



PLOT

Jerry Lundegaard works in his father-in-law's car dealership in Minneapolis, Minnesota and has gotten himself into some financial problems. He tries various schemes to come with money needed for a reason that is never really explained. It has to be assumed that his huge embezzlement of money from the dealership is about to be discovered by his father-in-law (who doesn't seem to hold Jerry in high esteem). When all else fails in his search for money, Jerry sets in motion plans to have two men kidnap his wife for ransom to be paid by her wealthy father. From the moment of the kidnapping things go wrong and what was supposed to be a non-violent affair turns bloody with more murders added by the minute.

At this point in the film Marge Gunderson, the Chief of Police of Brainerd gets involved in solving this very complicated case and things take off from there.

Fargo premiered at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival where Joel Coen won the Best Director award and the film was nominated for the Palme d'Or. A critical and commercial success, Fargo received seven Academy Award nominations including Best Picture. McDormand received the Best Actress Oscar, and the Coens won in the Best Original Screenplay category.

LANGUAGE

The language is Standard American English tweaked with regional accents and dialects, which required coaching of the actors by experts. The small town Minnesota accent is close to the sound of the Scandinavians who make up a lot of the immigrant population. This lends a slight musicality to the spoken English.

VOCABULARY

Oh geez: expression used when someone is surprised or frustrated	Be there in a jiff: I'm coming immediately
To shove off: to leave	Needs a jump: when a car's battery requires an electrical charge in order for the car to start
To barf: to vomit	Monkey with something: to play around with something

Night crawlers: fishing worms used for bait	You're darn tootin: you can be sure, enthusiastic agreement
Mucking this up: making a mess or confusion of the situation	Okey-dokey: all right, I agree
Pestering: to harass, to bother	Malfeasance: wrongdoing, misconduct
Yah: yes, yeah	A mix up: confused situation
Vouched for you: to give personal assurance	Ransom: money paid or demanded for the return of a captured person
It's real sound: safe, reasonable	No dice: not possible
Ciera: an automobile made by General Motors	We're ready to load in: we are interested in investing
Audit: a formal or official examination of an account book	Pretty sweet: seems successful
Hon: honey, term of endearment and affection	Out of the loop: not a participant in the situation
Brainerd: a city in Central Minnesota	Tags: license plates on cars
Snippy: unduly brief or impolite	Cos: because
Are we square?: are we settled in our accounts	Whistling Dixie: to have an unrealistic, overly optimistic view of something
Calling the shots: organizing and controlling the situation, giving orders	Gotta play ball: work out a deal under duress
Mallard: a type of duck	For Pete's sake: an expression of frustration or annoyance
Embezzlement: using money entrusted to you for your own benefit	Kidnap: to capture and detain a person or thing in order to obtain money or some other advantage (ransom)