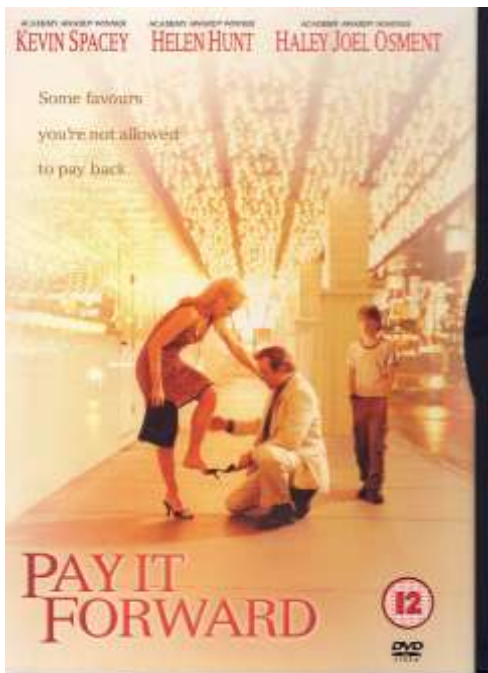


# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

## Title: Pay It Forward



Library Image

ISBN: 7321900188777  
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## Information

Release **Title:** Pay It Forward - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2001 (United Kingdom)

From:

AKA:

Release date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2000

Origin: United States

Genre: Drama

Disc Nos. - 1

Certification: 12

Duration: 2h 3m

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

Filming locations: Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

Sound mix: DTS, Dolby Digital, SDDS,

Colour: PAL

Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

*Pay It Forward*

When someone does you a big favor, don't pay it back...

**PAY IT FORWARD**

OCTOBER 6, 2000

Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Mimi Leder
Screenplay by	Leslie Dixon
Based on	<i>Pay It Forward</i> by Catherine Ryan Hyde
Produced by	Peter Abrams Robert L. Levy Steven Reuther
Starring	Kevin Spacey Helen Hunt Haley Joel Osment Jay Mohr James Caviezel Jon Bon Jovi Angie Dickinson
Cinematography	Oliver Stapleton
Edited by	David Rosenbloom
Music by	Thomas Newman
Production companies	Bel-Air Entertainment Tapestry Films Pathé
Distributed by	Warner Bros. Pictures
Release date	October 20, 2000
Running time	123 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$40 million <sup>[1]</sup>
Box office	\$55.7 million <sup>[1]</sup>

## Storyline

Trevor McKinney begins the seventh grade in Las Vegas. His social studies teacher, Eugene Simonet, assigns the class to put into action a plan that will change the world for the better. Trevor calls his plan "pay it forward", which means the recipient of a favour does a favour for three others rather than paying it back. However, it needs to be a favour that the recipient cannot complete themselves. Trevor implements the plan himself, forming a branch of good deeds. His first deed is to let a homeless man named Jerry live in his garage, and Jerry pays the favour forward by doing car repairs for Trevor's mother, Arlene, though Jerry later disappoints Trevor by moving out and returning to drug use.

Meanwhile, Arlene confronts Eugene about Trevor's project after discovering Jerry in their house. Trevor then selects Eugene as his next "pay it forward" target and tricks Eugene and Arlene into a romantic dinner date. This also appears to fail, and Trevor and Arlene argue about her love for Ricky, her alcoholic ex-husband, and Arlene slaps Trevor in a fit of anger. Eugene and Arlene are brought together again when Trevor runs away from home, and Arlene asks Eugene to help her find him. After finding Trevor, Arlene begins to pursue Eugene sexually. Eugene has deep burn marks visible on his neck and face, and he initially resists Arlene's overtures out of insecurity. When they finally sleep together, he is seen to have extensive scarring all over his torso. Arlene accepts this and forms an emotional bond with him, but abandons their relationship when Ricky returns, claiming to have quit drinking. Her accepting him angers Eugene, whose mother had a habit of taking his abusive, alcoholic father back. Eugene explains that his scars are the result of his father setting him on fire in a drunken rage. He berates Arlene for being like his mother and warns her of Ricky's potential to abuse Trevor. When Ricky starts drinking again and resumes his abusive behaviour, Arlene realizes her mistake and forces Ricky to leave.

Trevor's school assignment marks the beginning of the story's chronology, but the opening scene in the film shows one of the later favours in the "pay it forward" tree, in which a man gives a car to Los Angeles journalist Chris Chandler. As the film proceeds, Chris traces the chain of favours back to its origin as Trevor's school project. After her date with Eugene, Arlene paid Jerry's favour forward by forgiving her own mother, Grace, for her mistakes in raising Arlene, and Grace, who is homeless, helps a gang member escape from the police. The gang member then saves an asthmatic girl's life in a hospital, and the girl's father gives Chris his new car.

Chris finally identifies Trevor as the originator of "pay it forward" and conducts a recorded interview in which Trevor describes his hopes and concerns for the project. Eugene, hearing Trevor, realizes that he and Arlene should be together. As Eugene and Arlene reconcile with an embrace, Trevor notices his friend Adam being bullied. He pays forward to Adam by rushing into the scene and fighting the bullies while Eugene and Arlene rush to stop him. One of the bullies pulls out a switchblade as another one pushes Trevor against him, fatally stabbing Trevor in the stomach. Trevor later dies at the hospital. This, and the spread of the movement across the country, is being reported in the news; Arlene and Eugene are soon visited by thousands of people, including students from Trevor's school, who have participated in or heard of the "pay it forward" movement by gathering in a vigil to honour him. In the final scene, Jerry talks a suicide jumper off a bridge.

## Cast

Kevin Spacey as Eugene Simonet, Trevor's social studies teacher, and an emotionally and physically scarred man. As a teenager, he suffered abuse from his father (including lighting him on fire) and still has burns visible on his face and torso. He begins the film as a shy recluse, self-conscious about his deformities, but eventually, he enters a relationship with Trevor's mother Arlene and overcomes his fears. He sets an assignment for Trevor's class, asking them to change the world for the better. He is changed significantly from the novel, where there was an African-American man named Reuben St. Clair who had been injured in the Vietnam War.

Helen Hunt as Arlene McKinney, Trevor's alcoholic, single mother who works at both a casino and a strip club. She has a past history of abusive relationships, especially with her mostly absent husband Ricky. She eventually

enters a relationship with Eugene, and with his and Trevor's help manages to overcome her alcoholism and abuse.

Haley Joel Osment as Trevor McKinney, an 11 to 12-year-old boy who is troubled by his mother's alcoholism and his father's abuse and absence. He starts the "pay it forward" movement. He initially believes that the movement was not successful, and does not feel much pride toward it, stating that he was acting to improve the world, not to receive recognition. He is stabbed and killed while trying to pay it forward to his bullied friend Adam.

Jay Mohr as Chris Chandler, a reporter who traces the "pay it forward" movement from Los Angeles back to Trevor. He interviews Trevor and writes a magazine column about the movement after Trevor's death.

James Caviezel as Jerry, a homeless drug addict whom Trevor attempts to help as part of the "pay it forward" movement. Although Trevor believes his attempts have failed once Jerry relapses into drug use, Jerry eventually pays it forward by saving a woman who was about to kill herself by jumping off a bridge.

Angie Dickinson as Grace, Arlene's mother and Trevor's maternal grandmother. Although she was a negligent parent to Arlene, almost forcing them to live on the street, Arlene eventually forgives her as part of the "pay it forward" movement.

Jon Bon Jovi as Ricky McKinney, Trevor's abusive and alcoholic father who has left the family. Arlene often allows him to return to the family despite the abuse; however, she learns throughout the film to reject him and protect Trevor and herself from violence.

Marc Donato as Adam, Trevor's friend who has been bullied his whole life at school. Trevor pays it forward to him by preventing him from being bullied; however, Trevor is fatally stabbed in the process.

David Ramsey also stars as Sidney Parker, also involved in the "pay it forward" movement, as does Gary Wertz (director Mimi Leder's real-life husband) as Mr. Thorsen. Kathleen Wilhoite also stars as Bonnie, Arlene's sponsor and mentor.

### **Soundtrack**

The film's soundtrack was composed by Thomas Newman and was released by Varèse Sarabande on October 31, 2000. The soundtrack generally was praised by critics, and is considered to be fitting with the theme of the film.

The track listing of the soundtrack is:

"Possibility" (2:34)  
"Car Trouble" (1:08)  
"Washer Vodka" (1:53)  
"Cereal Bum" (1:04)  
"Come Out Jerry" (1:10)  
"Fixture Vodka" (1:37)  
"Rat Bastard" (0:57)  
"One Kiss" (1:47)  
"Tardiness" (2:11)  
"In Recovery" (1:03)  
"Jaguar" (1:04)  
"Dumpster" (1:11)  
"Sleepover" (4:33)  
"Cosmic Aristotle" (1:56)  
"Euphemism" (1:06)  
"Pay It Forward" (1:06)  
"Night and Day and Night" (1:09)  
"Asthma" (0:59)  
"Powers of Three" (1:03)  
"Desert Drive" (1:35)  
"Wasted Air" (1:42)  
"The Bad Thing" (0:51)  
"Gasoline" (1:40)  
"Velocity Organ" (1:27)  
"I Forgive You" (2:26)

In addition, the song "Calling All Angels" by Jane Siberry is played in the film and is included on the soundtrack.

### **Parents Guide**

Argentina:13 Australia:M Canada:PG (Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario) Canada:14A (Manitoba) Canada:14 (Nova Scotia) Canada:G (Quebec) Denmark:11 Finland:K-11 France:Tous publics Germany:12 (w) Hong Kong:IIA Iceland:10 India:UA Ireland:15 Israel:16 (self-applied) Italy:T Japan:G Malaysia:U Mexico:B Netherlands:12 New

Zealand:PG Norway:11 Peru:14 Philippines:PG-13 Portugal:M/12 Singapore:PG Singapore:PG13 (TV rating) South Africa:10 South Korea:12 South Korea:15 (DVD) Spain:A Sweden:11 Switzerland:12 (canton of Geneva) Switzerland:12 (canton of Vaud) Turkey:13+ United Kingdom:12 United States:PG-13 (certificate #37733) United Arab Emirates:Not Rated

Sex & Nudity

Mild

Violence & Gore

Moderate

Profanity

Moderate

Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking

Moderate

Frightening & Intense Scenes

Moderate

Parent Supervision – psychological and disturbing

