

## A beautiful mind (2001)

In 1947, [John Nash](#) ([Russell Crowe](#)) arrives at [Princeton University](#). He is co-recipient, with Martin Hansen ([Josh Lucas](#)), of the prestigious Carnegie Scholarship for [mathematics](#). At a reception he meets a group of other promising math and science graduate students, Richard Sol ([Adam Goldberg](#)), Ainsley ([Jason Gray-Stanford](#)), and Bender ([Anthony Rapp](#)). He also meets his roommate Charles Herman ([Paul Bettany](#)), a literature student, and an unlikely friendship begins.

Nash comes under increasing pressure to publish, both from the mathematics department chairman and in the form of rivalry with Hansen. But he refuses until he finds a truly original idea. His inspiration comes when he and his fellow graduate students discuss how to approach a group of women at a bar. Hansen quotes [Adam Smith](#) and advocates "every man for himself", but Nash argues that a cooperative approach would lead to better chances of success. This leads to a new concept of [governing dynamics](#) which Nash develops and publishes. On the strength of this he is offered an appointment at [MIT](#) where Sol and Bender join him.

Some years later, Nash is invited to [the Pentagon](#) to [crack encrypted](#) enemy telecommunication. Nash is able to decipher the code mentally, to the astonishment of other codebreakers. He considers his regular duties at MIT uninteresting and beneath his talents, so he is pleased to be given a new assignment by mysterious supervisor William Parcher ([Ed Harris](#)) of the [United States Department of Defense](#), to look for patterns in magazines and newspapers in order to thwart a [Soviet](#) plot. Nash becomes increasingly obsessive about searching for these hidden patterns and believes he is followed when he delivers his results to a secret mailbox.

Meanwhile a student, Alicia Larde ([Jennifer Connelly](#)), asks him to dinner, and the two fall in love. On a return visit to Princeton, Nash runs into his former roommate Charles and meets Charles' young niece Marcee ([Vivien Cardone](#)), whom he adores. With Charles' encouragement he proposes to Alicia and they marry.

Nash begins to fear for his life after witnessing a shootout between Parcher and Soviet agents. He tells Parcher that he wants to quit his special assignment but Parcher blackmails him into staying. While delivering a guest lecture at Harvard University (with Charles and Marcee present), Nash attempts to flee from what appear to be foreign agents, led by Dr. Rosen ([Christopher Plummer](#)). After punching Rosen in an attempt to flee, Nash is forcibly sedated and sent to a psychiatric facility. He believes the facility is run by the Soviets who are trying to extract information from him.

Dr. Rosen tells Alicia that Nash has [schizophrenia](#) and that Charles, Marcee and Parcher exist only in his imagination. Alicia investigates and finally confronts Nash with the unopened documents he had delivered to the secret mailbox. Nash is given a course of [insulin shock therapy](#) and eventually released. Frustrated with the [side-effects](#) of the [antipsychotic](#) medication he is taking, he secretly stops taking it. But this causes a relapse and he meets Parcher again.

After an incident where Nash endangers his infant son and accidentally knocks Alicia and the baby to the ground (thinking he's stopping Parcher from killing her), she flees the house in fear with their child. Nash steps in front of her car to prevent her from leaving. He tells Alicia, "She never gets old", referring to Marcee, who although years have passed since their first encounter, has remained exactly the same age and is still a little girl. With this, he finally accepts that although all three people seem real, they are in fact part of his hallucinations. Against Dr. Rosen's advice, Nash

decides not to restart his medication, believing that he can deal with his symptoms in another way. Alicia decides to stay and support him in this.

Nash approaches his old friend and rival, Martin Hansen, now head of the Princeton mathematics department, who grants him permission to work out of the library and audit classes. Years pass and as Nash grows older he learns to ignore his hallucinations. Eventually he earns the privilege of teaching again.

In 1994, Nash is honored by his fellow professors for his achievement in mathematics, and goes on to win the [Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics](#) for his revolutionary work on [game theory](#). The movie ends as Nash and Alicia leave the auditorium in Stockholm; Nash sees Charles, Marcee, and Parcher standing to one side and watching him.

## Cast

- Russell Crowe as John Nash, Jr.
- Ed Harris as William Parcher
- Jennifer Connelly as Alicia Nash
- Paul Bettany as Charles Herman
- Josh Lucas as Martin Hansen
- Adam Goldberg as Sol
- Anthony Rapp as Bender
- Vivien Cardone as Marcee
- Christopher Plummer as Dr. Rosen
- Judd Hirsch as Helinger
- Jason Gray-Stanford as Ainsley Neilson

## Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

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**Nash:** Classes will dull your mind, destroy the potential for authentic creativity.  
**classes** = (qui) lezioni, fare lezione

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**Charles:** That Isaac Newton fellow was right.

**Nash:** He was on to something.

**Charles:** Clever boy.

**He was on to something** = (qui) aveva subodorato qualcosa.

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**Nash:** What truly is logic? Who decides reason? My quest has taken me to the physical, the metaphysical, the delusional, and back. I have made the most important discovery of my career - the most important discovery of my life. It is only in the mysterious equations of love that any logic or reasons can be found. I am only here tonight because of you

*[looking at and speaking to Alicia]*

**Nash:** You are the only reason I am. You are all my reasons. Thank you.

*[applause from audience]*

**delusional** = illusorio

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**Nash:** [*to Charles*] The prodigal roommate revealed. "Saw my name on the lecture slate." YOU LYING SON OF A BITCH!

**Dr. Rosen:** Who are you talking to? Tell me who you see.

**Nash:** How do you say "Charles Herman" in Russian?

**lecture slate** = programma delle lezioni (universitarie)

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**Alicia:** I need to believe, that something extraordinary is possible.

Share this quote

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**Dr. Rosen:** You can't reason your way out of this!

**Nash:** Why not? Why can't I?

**Dr. Rosen:** Because your mind is where the problem is in the first place!

**You can't reason your way out of this!** = non può uscire da questo guaio/risolvere questo problema con la ragione

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**Nash:** If we all go for the blonde and block each other, not a single one of us is going to get her. So then we go for her friends, but they will all give us the cold shoulder because no one likes to be second choice. But what if none of us goes for the blonde? We won't get in each other's way and we won't insult the other girls. It's the only way to win. It's the only way we all get laid.

**to get laid** = finire a letto (con qc)

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[*showing Charles one of his window equations*]

**Nash:** This is a group playing touch football. This is a flock of pigeons fighting over bread crumbs. And this is a woman chasing a man who stole her purse.

**Charles:** John, you watched a mugging. That's weird.

**mugging** = scippo

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**Nash:** You wanted to see if I was crazy and would screw everything up if I actually won.

**screw everything up** = rovinare tutto

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**Charles:** [*offering Nash a flask of whiskey*] Listen. If we can't break the ice, how 'bout we drown it?

**If we can't break the ice, how 'bout we drown it?** = se non riusciamo a rompere il ghiaccio, cosa ne dici se lo affoghiamo?

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**Nash:** I've gotten used to ignoring them and I think, as a result, they've kind of given up on me. I think that's what it's like with all our dreams and our nightmares, Martin, we've got to keep feeding them for them to stay alive.

**to get used to doing sth** = abituarsi a fare qc; **to give up on sb** = rinunciare a qualcuno

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**Nash:** [*to Thomas King*] I still see things that are not here. I just choose not to acknowledge them. Like a diet of the mind, I just choose not to indulge certain appetites; like my appetite for patterns; perhaps my appetite to imagine and to dream.

**I just choose not to acknowledge them** = scelgo semplicemente di ignorarle; **appetite for patterns** = (qui) brama/passione per gli schemi/per ricondurre tutto a degli schemi

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**Charles:** Is my roommate a dick?  
**dick** = cretino

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**Charles:** I arrived last night. Right in time for English Department cocktails. The cock was mine. The tail belonged to a lovely young thing with a passion for D.H. Lawrence.  
**The cock was mine. The tail...** = gioco di parole tra 'cocktail' e le due componenti della parola: **cock** che significa gallo (ma è anche slang per organo genitale maschile) e **tail**, coda.

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**Nash:** Well, Martin Hansen. It is Martin, isn't it?

**Hansen:** Why yes, John, it is.

**Nash:** I assume you've gotten quite used to miscalculation. I read your pre-prints. Both of 'em. One on Nazi scientists and the other one on, uh... non-linear equations, and I'm extremely confident that there's not one seminal or innovative idea in either one of them... Enjoy your punch.

**Enjoy you punch** = (qui) goditi (di aver sferrato) il colpo vincente.

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**Nash:** There's no point in being nuts if you can't have a little fun.  
**to be nuts** = essere pazzo

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**Bender:** What did the doctor say?

**Sol:** Is he sick?

**Alicia:** I don't know. I want to see what John's been working on.

**Sol:** Alicia, you know you can't go in his office.

**Bender:** You know it's classified, Alicia.

*[Alicia keeps going]*

**Bender:** Stop!

*[as Bender tries to stop her, she turns around and slaps him]*

**it's classified** = è segreto

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*[first lines]*

**Helinger:** Mathematicians won the war. Mathematicians broke the Japanese codes... and built the A-bomb. Mathematicians... like you. The stated goal of the Soviets is global Communism. In medicine or economics, in technology or space, battle lines are being drawn. To triumph, we need results. Publishable, applicable results. Now who among you will be the next Morse? The next Einstein? Who among you will be the vanguard of democracy, freedom, and discovery? Today, we bequeath America's future into your able hands. Welcome to Princeton, gentlemen.

**to bequeath** = lasciare (in eredità)

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**Charles:** Officer, I saw the driver who hit me His name was Johnny Walker.

**Johnny Walker** = gioco di parole tra il possibile nome di un guidatore e il marchio di un famoso whisky

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Source:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Beautiful\\_Mind\\_%28film%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Beautiful_Mind_%28film%29)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0268978/>