

**Fargo (1996)**

**FARGO**

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**iTunes Editors' Notes**

Joel and Ethan Coen crafted one of their most hilariously impactful masterpieces with this darkly comedic crime drama. William H. Macy is perfectly pathetic as Jerry Lundegaard, whose financial desperation leads to an ill-fated scheme to have his wife kidnapped for ransom. But when the plan quickly goes awry and develops a body count, an unflinchingly determined and pragmatic police chief named Marge Gunderson (Frances McDormand in an iconic Coen's winning performance) is called into evidence. Fargo is well known for its unique use of the long-sounding Minnesota accent ("You betcha"), although its portrayal of Minnesota life offers a universal resonance. Despite its outside-of-hollywood genre profile, Fargo is one of the most modern, thoughtful crime thrillers of its era. Add yet another noir-mystery party and performance exposition by two geniuses: Marge the Coen sibling. [View Details](#)

**Plot Summary**

In Fargo, filmmaking brothers Joel and Ethan Coen both establish and satirize their North Dakota reality. A con artist and his ambitious partner are dispatched to kidnap and hold a lady on a snowy North Dakota highway, leading very pregnant policewoman Marge Gunderson (Frances McDormand) on an investigation. The Coens' a tapestry of greed and stupidity. Marge's husband, father and car salesman Jerry Lundegaard (William H. Macy), who has long shined under the thumb of his wealthy boss and father-in-law, is the

**Trailers**

**Cast and Crew**

**Actors** William H. Macy  
Frances McDormand  
Steve Buscemi  
Peter Krause  
John Goodman

**Director** Joel Coen

**Screenwriters** Joel Coen  
Ethan Coen

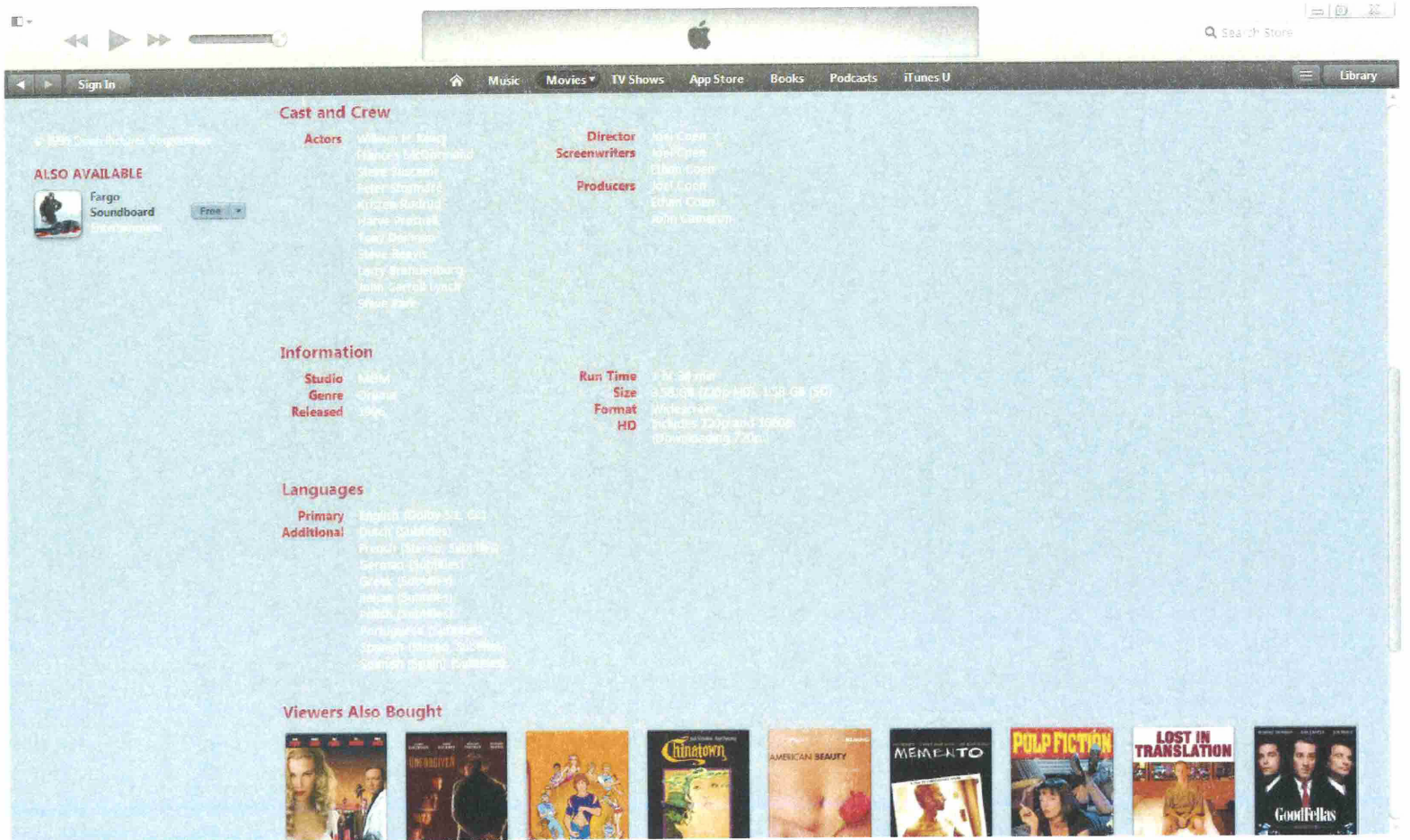
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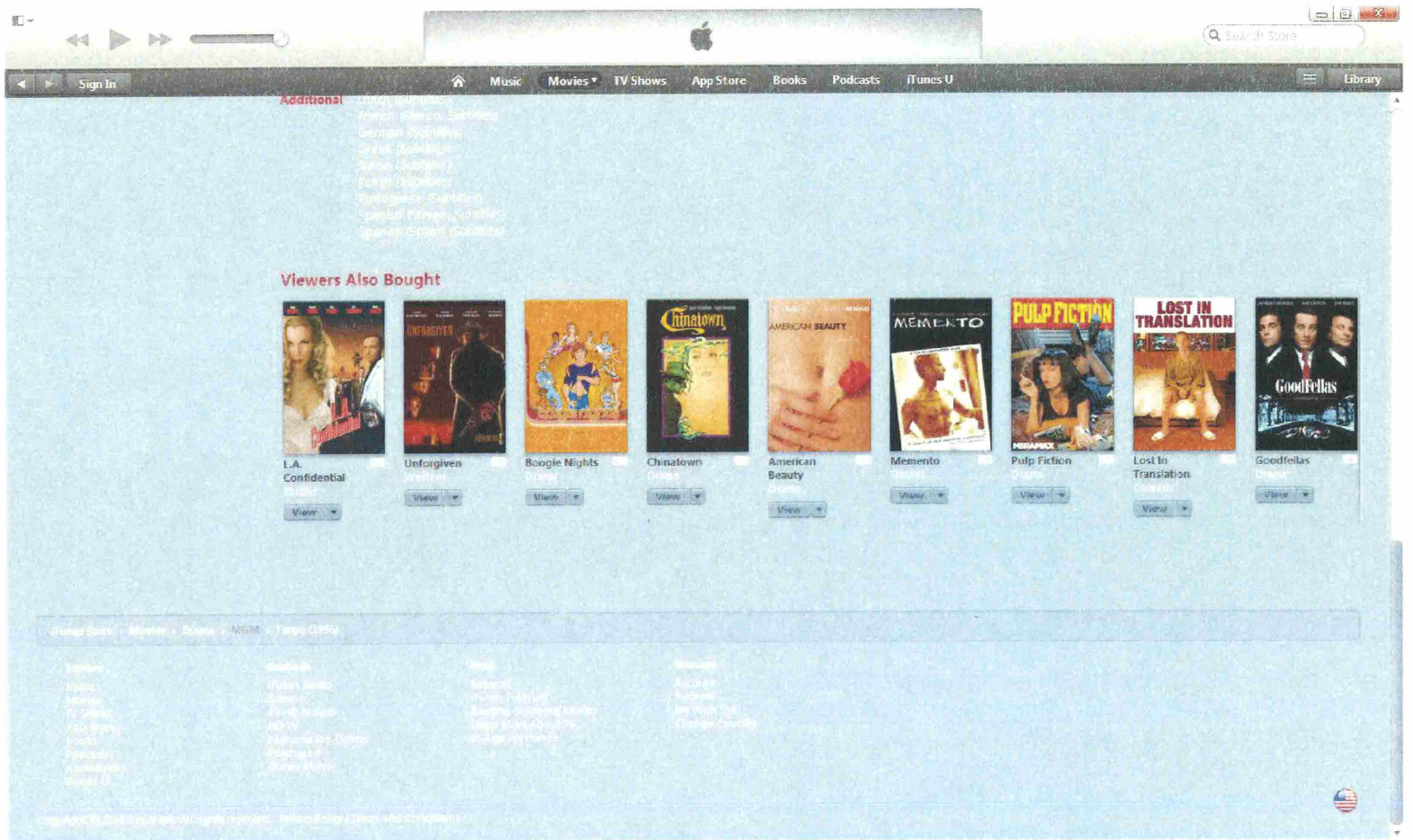
★★★★★ (12)

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**Review**

Primetime siblings Joel Coen and Ethan Coen both entertained and poked satirical fun at their Minnesota roots with this comedy-drama thriller that earned seven Oscar nominations, including best actress and Best Original screenplay. Frances McDormand stars as Marge Gunderson, a pregnant police officer whose affable, folksy demeanor masks a whip-smart mind. When a pair of mobsters are found slain not far from the corpse of a state trooper, Marge begins putting together a case involving a pair of dogeys: would-be kidnappers Carl (Steve Buscemi) and Gabba (Bergman's side player Peter Sarsgaard). They've been hired by Jerry Lundhefer (William H. Macy), a car salesman under the thumb of his wealthy, overbearing boss and father-in-law, Wade Halverson (Steve Buscemi), to make some money. Heeds the cash-a-penny scam IRS hit on General Motors and he's about to get caught. When Wade turns a business deal...

**Reviews from Rotten Tomatoes**

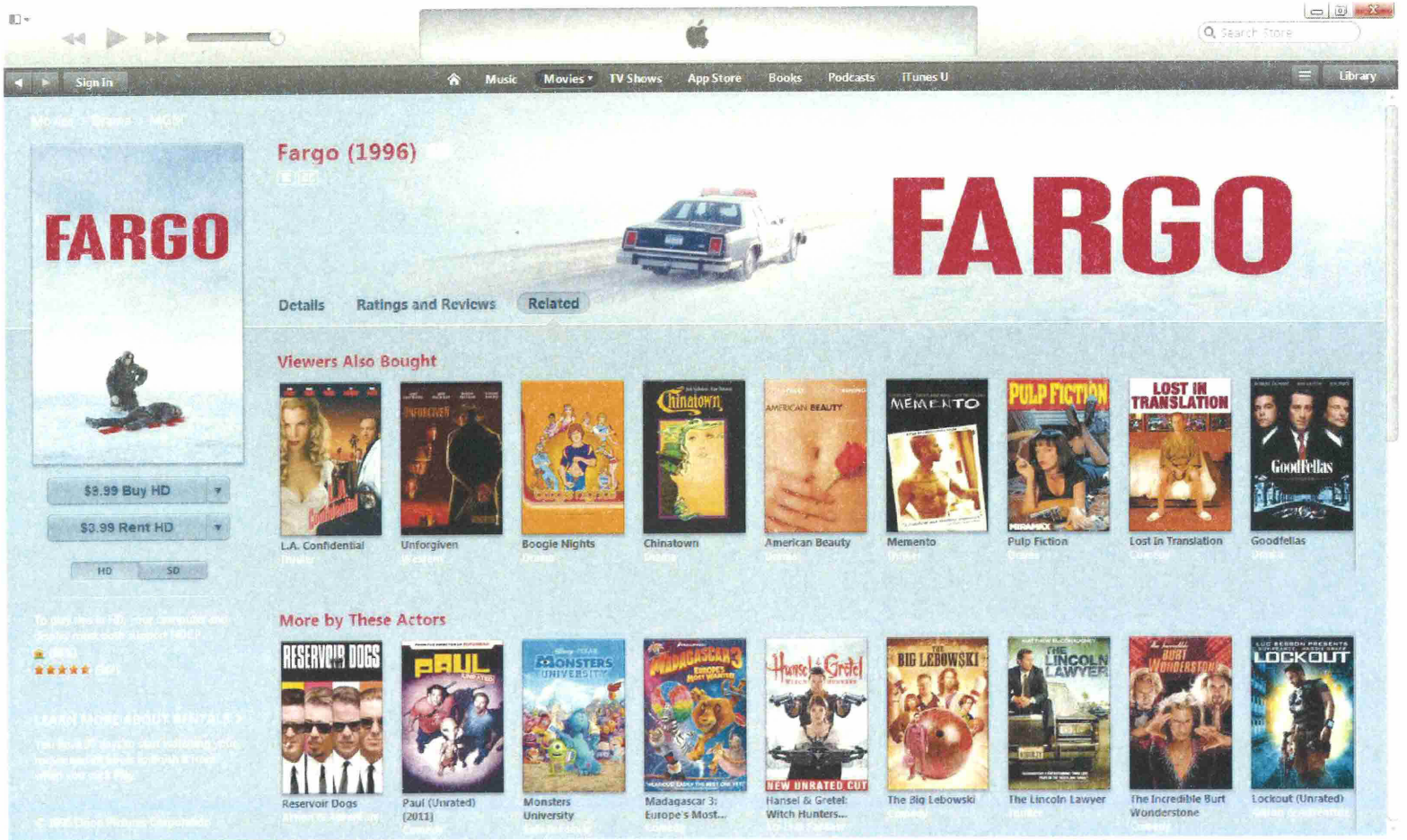
**94%**

Reviews: Critic: 67  
 Users: 1  
 Average Rating: 4.0/5.0

**TOP CRITICS' REVIEWS**

- Fargo: The Coen brothers' best work with McDormand's film noir... *Time Magazine*, New York Times, Feb. 16, 2007
- Fargo is a snappy, clever, intelligent film that plays on many levels... *Generalist*, Variety, 2011, 2010
- Fargo's Coen brothers' best, created by the Coens, producer, for Steven Spielberg... and they've been awarded by a book and magazine... *Knowledge*, Texas Eye magazine, Times, Jan. 29, 2006
- Fargo is a masterpiece, a dark comedy that when it's done... *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles Times, 2010

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