

# Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar

*Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar* is a 2021 American comedy film directed by [Josh Greenbaum](#), from a screenplay by [Kristen Wiig](#) and [Annie Mumolo](#), who also star. Originally scheduled for a 2020 theatrical release, due to the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, the film was pushed back and released in the United States by [Lionsgate](#) via [VOD](#) on February 12, 2021. The film received generally positive reviews from critics.

## Plot

Middle-aged best friends Barb and Star leave their home of Soft Rock, Nebraska for the first time to go on vacation to Vista Del Mar, Florida. They are apprehensive about trying something new. The two friends construct a narrative about a woman named "Trish", who becomes a water spirit. Upon arrival, they find accommodations at the luxurious Vista Del Mar Hotel and resolve to try many excursions, particularly an inflatable banana inner tube ride.

Meanwhile, an eccentric villain, Sharon Fisherman is plotting against the denizens of Vista Del Mar. Sharon lived there as a child, and her pale white skin and sensitivity to the sun made her an outcast and a target of bullying. She plans to unleash lethal mosquitos, killing everyone. She sends her henchman, Edgar, to Vista Del Mar to plant a [homing beacon](#) that will attract the mosquitos once they are unleashed. She falsely promises Edgar that if he succeeds, she will finally make their relationship official.

Barb and Star encounter Edgar at the hotel bar and begin to bond and party with him. The next morning, Edgar realizes he lost the microchip for the beacon during the night, infuriating Sharon. She sends another agent, Darlie Bunkle, to give Edgar another microchip and to spy on him, Barb, and Star. Barb meets with Edgar, but feels conflicted about seeing him behind Star's back, and decides not to pursue him any further. Star also meets with Edgar, but despite feeling conflicted about Barb, continues to have a sexual relationship with him in secret that develops into romance.

Star's secret tryst leaves Barb alone at the resort, and Barb tries out all Vista Del Mar has to offer. On the day of the annual Seafood Jam, she decides to wait for Star before going on the

## Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar



Promotional poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<a href="#">Josh Greenbaum</a>
<b>Written by</b>	<a href="#">Kristen Wiig</a> <a href="#">Annie Mumolo</a>
<b>Produced by</b>	<a href="#">Jessica Elbaum</a> <a href="#">Annie Mumolo</a> <a href="#">Kristen Wiig</a> <a href="#">Adam McKay</a> <a href="#">Will Ferrell</a> <a href="#">Margot Hand</a>
<b>Starring</b>	<a href="#">Kristen Wiig</a> <a href="#">Annie Mumolo</a> <a href="#">Jamie Dornan</a> <a href="#">Damon Wayans Jr.</a>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<a href="#">Toby Oliver</a>
<b>Edited by</b>	<a href="#">Steve Welch</a>
<b>Music by</b>	<a href="#">Christopher Lennertz</a> <a href="#">Dara Taylor</a>

banana ride, but spots Star and Edgar having sex on Edgar's balcony. She goes to confront Edgar, but overhears his plans with Sharon. She informs Star, who accuses her of jealousy, while Barb accuses her of lying to her. Sharon uses photos from Darlie to convince Edgar that Barb and Star are spies and that Star was using him. She orders him to kill them. Edgar captures them but cannot bring himself to kill them, leaving them indoors where they will be safe and plants the beacon. They escape, but are kidnapped by Sharon, who brings them to an ocean cliff. She forces the women to jump, and leaves to go ensure her revenge succeeds. As they fall, Barb and Star's culottes act as parachutes that allow them to safely land on the ground. They reconcile and go to stop Sharon.

Edgar realizes that Sharon lied to him about Barb and Star, that she never loved him, and was setting him up to die. He spots Star and Barb and helps them locate the homing beacon. He confesses his love to Star, but they are held at gunpoint by Darlie. Edgar fights Darlie, while Star and Barb escape with the beacon, taking a jet ski out to sea to save the town. Sharon uses a human cannon to reach them, regaining the beacon. However, it is too late and the unleashed mosquitos converge on her. Barb and Star go underwater, avoiding the mosquitos. They are rescued and brought back to shore by Trish, the water spirit. Sharon arrives on shore, having survived the mosquitos by taking an antidote. Star recognizes that Sharon's hostility is born from her bullied childhood, and having never experienced true friendship (with the exception of a girl who befriended her only to be immediately eaten by an alligator). She offers to be Sharon's friend, as do the other residents, melting Sharon's icy facade. The town celebrates. Barb and Star ride the banana ride for hours. Yoyo arrives at the beach and initiates a celebration.

<b>Production companies</b>	<u>Lionsgate</u> <u>Gloria Sanchez Productions</u> Stellie
<b>Distributed by</b>	Lionsgate
<b>Release date</b>	February 12, 2021 (United States)
<b>Running time</b>	107 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Box office</b>	\$32,825 <sup>[1]</sup> (secondary window)

## Cast

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- Kristen Wiig as Star and as Sharon Fisherman
  - Elizabeth Kelly as young Sharon Fisherman
  - Nevada Renee Arnold as three year old Fisherman
- Annie Mumolo as Barb Quicksilver
- Jamie Dornan as Edgar Paget
- Damon Wayans Jr. as Darlie Bunkle
- Michael Hitchcock as Gary
- Kwame Patterson as George the Bartender
- Reyn Doi as Yoyo
- Wendi McLendon-Covey as Mickey Revelet
- Vanessa Bayer as Debbie
- Fortune Feimster as Pinky
- Rose Abdoo as Bev
- Phyllis Smith as Delores
- Mark Jonathan Davis as Richard Cheese
- Karen Maruyama as the Caricaturist
- Jayde Martinez as Maria Margolis

- [Tom Lenk](#) as Arnie
- [Hank Rogerson](#) as Foster Dad
- [Josh Robert Thompson](#) as Morgan Freemond
- [Andy García](#) (credited as Tommy Bahama) as [Tommy Bahama](#)<sup>[2]</sup>
- [Reba McEntire](#) as Trish
- [Ian Gomez](#) as Retail Store Manager

## Production

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The film was officially announced in April 2019, having been in production for a number of years, with [Annie Mumolo](#) and [Kristen Wiig](#), the co-writers of the screenplay, set to play the titular characters, and [Josh Greenbaum](#) directing. Wiig and Mumolo also produced, alongside [Jessica Elbaum](#), [Will Ferrell](#), and [Adam McKay](#), under the [Gloria Sanchez Productions](#) banner, with [Lionsgate](#) distributing.<sup>[3]</sup> In June 2019, [Jamie Dornan](#) joined the cast of the film,<sup>[4]</sup> and in July 2019, it was announced that [Wendi McLendon-Covey](#) and [Damon Wayans Jr.](#) had joined as well.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Filming

[Principal photography](#) began in July 2019.<sup>[6]</sup> Production was initially supposed to take place in [Atlanta, Georgia](#), but was moved to [Cancun, Mexico](#),<sup>[7]</sup> [Puerto Vallarta, Mexico](#), and [Albuquerque, New Mexico](#),<sup>[8]</sup> in response to [Georgia House Bill 481](#).<sup>[9]</sup> Filming wrapped in September 2019.

## Release

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*Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar* was scheduled to be released theatrically on July 31, 2020, but was pushed back to July 16, 2021, due to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).<sup>[10][11]</sup> On January 11, 2021, Lionsgate announced that it was cancelling the film's theatrical release, and instead opened the film via premium VOD on February 12, 2021.<sup>[12]</sup> In August 2021, it was announced that the film would receive a theatrical release at [Alamo Drafthouse Cinema](#), beginning September 12, 2021 at its Los Angeles location and nationwide on September 19.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Reception

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### VOD sales

In its first weekend of release, the film was the third-most rented title on [Apple TV](#), fourth on [FandangoNow](#), and fifth on [Google Play](#).<sup>[14]</sup> In its second weekend, the film finished fourth on [Spectrum](#), fifth on [FandangoNow](#), sixth on [Apple TV](#), and seventh on [Google Play](#).<sup>[15]</sup>

### Critical response

Review aggregator website [Rotten Tomatoes](#) reports that 80% of 178 critic reviews were positive, with an average rating of 6.4/10. The website's critics consensus reads, "Bright, colorful, and unabashedly silly, *Barb & Star Go to Vista Del Mar* reaffirms that Annie Mumolo and Kristen Wiig are still as fun—and funny—as ever."<sup>[16]</sup> According to [Metacritic](#), which sampled 30 critics and calculated a [weighted average score](#) of 64 out of 100, the film received "generally favorable reviews".<sup>[17]</sup>

Some critics praised Jamie Dornan's comedic performance and singing, with several saying he was a highlight of the film.<sup>[18][19]</sup>

*The Hollywood Reporter* included the film among the best films of 2021 as of July 2021.<sup>[20]</sup>

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## External links

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- Official website (<https://barbandstar.movie>)
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