

A Good Person

A Good Person is a 2023 American drama film written, directed, and produced by Zach Braff. The film stars Florence Pugh, Morgan Freeman, Celeste O'Connor, Molly Shannon, and Chinaza Uche.

A Good Person was released in the United States on a limited theatrical release on March 24, 2023, before a wide expansion on March 31, 2023, by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. The film received mixed response from critics.

Plot

Allison Johnson is an aspiring musician, engaged to her high school boyfriend, Nathan Adams. The day following their engagement party, Allison gets in a car accident while driving with her eyes off the road, killing her future brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jesse and Molly, and sustaining critical injuries.

One year later, dealing with severe depression and unable to deal with her guilt, Allison lives with her mother, Diane, who attempts to curb her daughter's addiction to pain pills. Meanwhile, Nathan and Molly's ex-cop father, Daniel, is taking care of his granddaughter, Ryan, who is still processing the loss of her parents.

After failing to get drugs illicitly from her friend, Becka, and after a humiliating encounter with two high school acquaintances leads her into a downward spiral, Allison joins an AA group. There, she unexpectedly encounters Daniel, who reveals in a meeting that his drinking resulted in repeated blackouts where he wouldn't remember his violent behavior, and that, on one such occasion, he destroyed the hearing in Nathan's ear. Ryan, in her turn, is bullied for her status as an orphan and in trouble for her behavior.

Allison meets Daniel at his house, and while leaving, she is confronted by Ryan for Allison's direct responsibility in her parents' deaths. Allison eventually relapses. Ryan invites her to a concert and invites her ex- Nathan and his new paralegal girlfriend. Allison is devastated at what she perceives as a cruel act by Ryan, and accompanies her to an after-party where she relapses again. Allison is unable to protect Ryan being taken advantage of in a back room, but Daniel arrives drunk and puts an end to it, threatening Ryan's rapist with a handgun. During the altercation,

A Good Person



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Zach Braff</u>
Written by	Zach Braff
Produced by	Zach Braff Pamela Koffler <u>Florence Pugh</u> <u>Christine Vachon</u> <u>Christina Piovesan</u> Noah Segal
Starring	Florence Pugh <u>Morgan Freeman</u> <u>Celeste O'Connor</u> <u>Molly Shannon</u> <u>Chinaza Uche</u> <u>Zoe Lister-Jones</u>
Cinematography	<u>Mauro Fiore</u>

Nathan steps in front of the gun and talks his father down from his relapsed state. Outside, Daniel confesses that he considered Allison a test from God, but now realizes she's a waste and insults her before hailing a cab.

After accepting her role in the accident, Allison is able to move toward recovery. A year later, Allison is writing songs again, and she and Nathan reacquaint themselves. Daniel passes away suddenly, leaving Ryan in Nathan's care until she leaves for college, and Allison attends the funeral where she discovers Daniel's letter to her explaining his thoughts and that the Latin translation of his tattoo "amor fati" is "to love one's fate". After the wake, Ryan and Allison embrace on the front stoop.

Cast

- Florence Pugh as Allison
- Morgan Freeman as Daniel
- Celeste O'Connor as Ryan
- Molly Shannon as Diane
- Chinaza Uche as Nathan
- Zoe Lister-Jones as Simone
- Nichelle Hines as Molly
- Toby Onwumere as Jesse
- Ignacio Diaz-Silverio as Quinn
- Oli Green as Thomas
- Alex Wolff as Mark
- Brian Rojas as Diego
- Ryann Redmond as Becka
- Sydney Morton as Joelle

Other appearances include Drew Gehling as Max, Jessie Mueller as Sandra Keen, Shirley Rumierk as Dr. Gonzalez, Cary Brothers as himself, Charlene Kaye as bassist, and Jackie Hoffman as Belinda.

Production

On February 26, 2021, it was reported Zach Braff would write and direct *A Good Person*, a drama starring Florence Pugh and Morgan Freeman.^[4] By March 2021, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) was in negotiations to acquire the rights to the film in a multimillion-dollar deal.^[5] In September 2021, it was confirmed MGM would be producing and distributing the film, with Molly Shannon joining the cast, and Braff and Pugh set to produce.^[6]

In July 2021, when asked if he would go back to directing feature films, Braff said "I'd like to do more. I just kind of, for better, for worse, I just go where the wind takes me ... and then the pandemic happened and I wrote this screenplay. And then that came together with Florence [Pugh] and Morgan Freeman".^[7]

Edited by	Dan Schalk
Music by	<u>Bryce Dessner</u>
Production companies	<u>Killer Films</u> <u>Elevation Pictures</u>
Distributed by	<u>Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer</u>
Release dates	March 8, 2023 (The Ham Yard Hotel, London) March 24, 2023 (United States)
Running time	129 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States ^[1]
Language	English
Box office	\$3.1 million ^{[2][3]}

Principal photography began in October 2021, with Celeste O'Connor,^[8] Zoe Lister-Jones,^[9] and Chinaza Uche joining the cast.^[10] In November 2021, filming took place at Columbia High School, Braff's alma mater, in Maplewood, New Jersey.^[11]



Writer, director, and producer
Zach Braff

Music

Release

It was released on limited release on March 24, 2023, with wide expansion from March 31, 2023.^[12] The film had its red carpet premiere at the Ham Yard Hotel in London on March 8, 2023.^[13] The film was released on Blu-ray on May 30.^[14]

Reception

Box office

A Good Person made \$2.2 million in the United States and Canada, and \$890,791 around rest of the world, grossing a worldwide total of \$3.1 million.^{[2][3]}

In limited release, the film grossed \$832,007 at the box office from 530 theatres, finishing in 12th place.^[15] The film had a wide expansion on March 31 alongside *Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves*, *A Thousand and One* and *His Only Son*, and grossed \$510,210 at the box office, expanding 687 theatres and finishing 14th place beaten up by *Champions* (2023) (in a record of \$700,000).^{[16][17]}

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 58% of 118 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.9/10. The website's consensus reads: "Busy, baggy, and schmaltsy, *A Good Person* proves that the best of intentions and terrific performances can sometimes add up to a movie that's merely fine."^[18] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 50 out of 100, based on 32 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[19]

Recognition

Cary Brothers and Scott Effman received a nomination for Best Original Song in an Independent Film at the 14th Hollywood Music in Media Awards.^[20] Chinaza Uche was nominated for a BAFTA Scotland Award for Best Actor in a Film.^[21]


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External links

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 - *A Good Person* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14153080/>) at IMDb
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