

The Craft: Legacy

The Craft: Legacy, also known as ***Blumhouse's The Craft: Legacy***,^[2] is a 2020 American supernatural horror film^[2] written and directed by Zoe Lister-Jones. A legacy sequel to *The Craft* (1996), the film stars Cailee Spaeny, Gideon Adlon, Lovie Simone, and Zoey Luna as four teenage girls who practice witchcraft as a coven. Additional cast include Nicholas Galitzine, Michelle Monaghan, and David Duchovny, with Fairuza Balk making a cameo appearance.

The Craft: Legacy was released in the United States through video on demand on October 28, 2020, by Sony Pictures Releasing under its Columbia Pictures label, with a theatrical release in select international markets beginning the same day. The film was a box-office bomb, earning \$2.3 million worldwide on an \$18 million budget, and received mixed reviews from critics. It was nominated for the 2021 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Film – Wide Theatrical Release.

Plot

Three girls, Frankie, Tabby, and Lourdes, are trying to freeze time with magic, but failing as they require a fourth member. Lily Schechner moves into the town with her therapist mother, Helen, to live with Helen's new boyfriend Adam Harrison and his three sons, Jacob, Isaiah, and Abe. The girls befriend Lily after she begins her period and bleeds through in class, then is mocked by her other classmates, particularly by the school bully Timmy Andrews. They are amazed when she telekinetically pushes Timmy into the lockers. When Lily responds to them using only her mind, the girls confirm her to be their fourth member and invite her to join their coven, to which she agrees. As a result, they succeed in freezing time.

To seek revenge on Timmy, the girls cast a spell on him. The next day, Timmy behaves sensitively, confirming the girls' success. They continue to experiment with their powers, including levitation. Adam learns of the incident in school and scolds Lily, but Helen defends her. Lily overhears them arguing and goes outside where Abe talks to her about his father's authoritarian beliefs. Timmy hosts a party, inviting the coven, and apologizes to Lily, eventually becoming friends with the coven. When Timmy is at Lily's home for a project with Jacob, he admits to the

The Craft: Legacy



VOD release poster

Directed by	Zoe Lister-Jones
Written by	Zoe Lister-Jones
Based on	Characters by Peter Filardi
Produced by	Douglas Wick <div>Lucy Fisher</div> <div>Jason Blum</div>
Starring	Cailee Spaeny <div>Gideon Adlon</div> <div>Lovie Simone</div> <div>Zoey Luna</div> <div>Nicholas Galitzine</div> <div>Michelle Monaghan</div> <div>David Duchovny</div>
Cinematography	Hillary Spera
Edited by	Libby Cuenin
Music by	Heather Christian

girls that he had sex with Isaiah, Jacob's elder brother and that he is bisexual. Later, Lily places a love spell on Timmy, using his sweatshirt, and the two kiss.

The next morning, during class, the coven is told by their teacher that Timmy allegedly committed suicide the night before. Lily opens up to her friends about her kiss and love spell. They sever ties with her and bind themselves from magic. Lily suspects Adam to be dangerous and asks her mother for them to move out, but she does not agree. In hopes of finding something against Adam, she searches his office only to find her own adoption papers, forcing Helen to admit to her that Lily is actually one of her psychotherapy patient's child. After Timmy's funeral, Helen tells Lily she agrees to move out. Helen also admits that she knows about her powers of telepathy, telekinesis, and magic. The conversation prompts Helen to ask Lily to give her powers to Helen. When Lily grows suspicious of her, Helen shapeshifts into Adam who had disguised himself with his own magic. Adam tells her he is a member of a pagan cult and that he has been after her powers since the beginning, before knocking her unconscious.

Lily awakens in a forest at night with Adam, who confesses that he murdered Timmy and threatens to kill her too. When Timmy's spirit contacts Lily's friends through a Ouija board and tells them about being murdered by Adam, they arrive to save Lily. They try to freeze time, but Adam subdues them quickly. The

Production companies	<u>Columbia Pictures</u> <u>Blumhouse Productions</u> <u>Red Wagon Entertainment</u>
Distributed by	<u>Sony Pictures Releasing</u>
Release date	October 28, 2020
Running time	97 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$18 million
Box office	\$2.3 million ^[1]

girls then work together and use their elemental powers to defeat Adam, burning him to death. Later, Lily continues her friendship with the girls and Helen takes her to a mental health hospital to meet her birth mother, who is revealed to be Nancy Downs.

Cast

- [Cailee Spaeny](#) as Lilith "Lily" Schechner, the central character
- [Gideon Adlon](#) as Frankie, one of the members of the coven and Lily's friend.
- [Lovie Simone](#) as Tabby, one of the members of the coven and Lily's friend.
- [Zoey Luna](#) as Lourdes, one of the members of the coven and Lily's friend.
- [Nicholas Galitzine](#) as Timmy Andrews, Lily's schoolmate
- [Michelle Monaghan](#) as Helen Schechner, Lily's mother
- [David Duchovny](#) as Adam Harrison, Lily's stepfather
- [Julian Grey](#) as Abe Harrison, Lily's stepbrother
- [Charles Vandervart](#) as Jacob Harrison, Lily's stepbrother
- [Donald MacLean Jr.](#) as Isaiah Harrison, Lily's stepbrother
- [Hannah Gordon](#) as Ashley
- [Chris Tomassetti](#) as Jeremy
- [James Madge](#) as Mr. Bly
- [Fairuza Balk](#) as [Nancy Downs](#), a witch and Lily's biological mother.

Production

Development

A straight-to-DVD sequel to *The Craft* was in the works circa 2010, but was terminated.^{[3][4]} In May 2016, [Sony Pictures](#) announced that a sequel to *The Craft* was in development and would be written and directed by [Leigh Janiak](#). The announcement of the sequel spawned negative reactions from fans of the original.^{[5][6][7]}

In March 2019, [Zoe Lister-Jones](#) was named as writer and director of the [soft reboot](#), with [Jason Blum](#) as producer under his [Blumhouse Productions](#) banner, with [Andrew Fleming](#) (director of the 1996 film) as executive producer, and [Columbia Pictures](#) distributing.^[8]

Casting

In June 2019, [Cailee Spaeny](#) was set to star in the film.^[9] In September 2019, [Gideon Adlon](#), [Lovie Simone](#), and [Zoey Luna](#) joined the cast as the other witches.^[10] In October 2019, [Nicholas Galitzine](#), [David Duchovny](#), [Julian Grey](#), and [Michelle Monaghan](#) were also added,^{[11][12][13][14]} and in November 2019, [Donald MacLean Jr.](#) was cast.^[15]

Filming

Principal photography began in October 2019.^[16] During filming in [Toronto](#), director Zoe Lister-Jones explained in an on-set interview that *The Craft* sequel "... centers on young people, and young women specifically coming into their power in today's current climate..."^[17]

Music

The film's original music, composed by [Heather Christian](#), was released [digitally](#) by [Madison Gate Records](#) on October 28, 2020.^[18]

Release

The Craft: Legacy was released on video on demand by [Sony Pictures Releasing](#) on October 28, 2020, followed by a theatrical release internationally.^{[19][20]} The film was released on Blu-ray and DVD on December 22, 2020, by [Sony Pictures Home Entertainment](#).^[21]

Reception

Box office

In its first weekend the film earned \$680,000 while in the following weekend it earned \$390,000 and in its third \$242,000.

Critical response

On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 48% of 113 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.5/10. The website's consensus reads: "Although director Zoe Lister-Jones has forged a new path for the weirdos of today, *The Craft: Legacy*'s spells may only enchant fans of the original."^[22] On [Metacritic](#), the film has a score of 54 out of 100 based on reviews from 24 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews".^[23]

Kate Erbland, writing for [Indiewire](#), said the film is "an entertaining and insightful mashup of tropes, both respectful of what came before and willing to try new tricks."^[24] Sheila O'Malley of [RogerEbert.com](#) gave the film two stars, saying, "*The Craft: Legacy* gets sidetracked with the Timmy sub-plot, and the film morphs into a teenage [soap opera](#) and/or *ABC Afterschool Special*."^[25]

Accolades

The Craft: Legacy was nominated for the 2021 [GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Film \(Wide Release\)](#).^[26]

Future

In October 2020, when interviewed about Fairuza Balk's cameo, Zoe Lister-Jones explained that she wrote the script with a continuation in mind.^[27] Lister-Jones also revealed that she had met with the original film's actresses during the preparation for *Legacy* and that she would be interested in making a third installment with an intergenerational storyline.^[28]

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