

Mack & Rita

Mack & Rita is a 2022 American comedy film directed by Katie Aselton, from a screenplay by Madeline Walter and Paul Welsh. The plot follows a 30-year-old woman (Elizabeth Lail) who wakes up as her 70-year-old self (Diane Keaton) after a bachelorette party. Taylour Paige, Loretta Devine, Amy Hill, Lois Smith, Wendie Malick, Simon Rex, Martin Short and Dustin Milligan also star. The film was released on August 12, 2022, by Gravitas Premiere, to negative reviews from critics, including a worst actress nomination for Keaton,^[4] but the performances of Paige and Milligan were praised.

Premise

Thirty-year-old Mack Martin reluctantly joins a Palm Springs bachelorette trip for her best friend Carla, but then decides not to go to the event. Instead, the self-proclaimed homebody finds a pop-up tent and does a past life regression and winds up as her seventy-year-old self. Freed from the constraints of other people's expectations, Rita comes into her own, becoming an unlikely social media sensation, and sparks a tentative romance with Mack's dog-sitter, Jack.

Cast

- Diane Keaton as Older Mackenzie "Mack" Martin / "Rita"
 - Elizabeth Lail as Mackenzie "Mack" Martin
- Taylour Paige as Carla
 - Ayla Rae Nael as Young Carla
- Dustin Milligan as Jack
- Simon Rex as Luca
- Loretta Devine as Sharon
- Wendie Malick as Angela
- Lois Smith as Betty
- Amy Hill as Carol
- Martin Short as the voice of Cheese
- Nicole Byer as Urth
- Patti Harrison as Stephanie
- Aimee Carrero as Sunita
- Addie Weyrich as Ali
- Catherine Carlen as Grammie Martin

<i>Mack & Rita</i>	
	
Theatrical release poster	
Directed by	Katie Aselton
Written by	Paul Welsh <p>Madeline Walter</p>
Produced by	Alex Saks <p>Diane Keaton</p> Stephanie Heaton-Harris <p>Jina Panebianco</p> Dori Rath
Starring	Diane Keaton <p>Taylour Paige</p> Elizabeth Lail <p>Loretta Devine</p> Amy Hill <p>Lois Smith</p> Wendie Malick <p>Simon Rex</p> Martin Short

- Sara Amini as Michelle
- Lauren Beveridge as Molly

Production

The film initially began development in January 2020, but fell apart amid the start of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). That October, producer Alex Saks approached director [Katie Aselton](#) saying she had secured about \$500,000 of funding.^[1] In March 2021, it was announced [Diane Keaton](#), [Elizabeth Lail](#), [Taylour Paige](#), [Dustin Milligan](#), [Simon Rex](#), [Nicole Byer](#), [Patti Harrison](#), [Loretta Devine](#), [Wendie Malick](#), [Lois Smith](#) and [Amy Hill](#) had joined the cast of the film, with a screenplay by Madeline Walter and Paul Welsh.^[5] Shortly after, it was reported that [Elizabeth Lail](#) joined to the cast.^{[6][7]}

Principal photography began on March 25, 2021 and concluded on April 23, 2021 in [Los Angeles](#), California.^[8] Due to a limited production budget and the ongoing pandemic, several changes had to be made to the script during shooting, including the forced removal of a [Coachella](#) sequence due to the event's cancellation and combining days of shooting into one, as well as not being able to have chemistry tests between the actors prior to filming.^[1]

Release

In April 2022, [Gravitas Premiere](#) acquired distribution rights to the film, and set it for an August 12, 2022, release.^[9] The red carpet took place at the [NeueHouse](#) in [Los Angeles](#), California in August 10, 2022.^[10]

Reception

Box office

The film made \$310,000 from 1,930 theaters on its first day.^[11] It went on to debut to \$1.1 million.^[12]

Critical response

On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 23% of 64 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 4.3/10. The website's consensus reads: "Diane Keaton gives *Mack & Rita* her all, but this cloying comedy lets her down at nearly every turn."^[13] [Metacritic](#), which uses a [weighted average](#), assigned the film a score of 49 out of 100, based on 13 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[14] Audiences polled by [CinemaScore](#) gave the film an average grade of "D+" on an A+ to F scale, while [PostTrak](#) gave the film a 61% overall positive score, with 46% saying they would definitely recommend it.^{[11][12]}

	Dustin Milligan
Cinematography	Sean McElwee
Edited by	Michael A. Webber
Music by	Leo Birenberg
Production companies	Page Fifty-Four Pictures <div>Rhea Films</div> <div>Hercules Film Fund</div> <div>CaliWood Pictures</div>
Distributed by	Gravitas Premiere
Release dates	August 10, 2022 (NeueHouse) <div>August 12, 2022 (United States)</div>
Running time	95 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$500,000 ^[1]
Box office	\$2.7 million ^{[2][3]}

Lisa Kennedy of *The New York Times* commended Aselton's "unexpected beats" as a director for capturing the "esprit de girlfriends" quality of *Insecure*, despite borrowing from Nancy Meyers' "rom-com catalog of upscale homes."^[15] Nell Minow, writing for *RogerEbert.com*, gave credit to Paige and Milligan's performances but wrote that "[T]he film's promising setup and excellent cast are let down by a script so forgettable that even to try to summarize it is to feel it dissolve from memory."^[16] Katie Walsh of the *Los Angeles Times* was also critical of the film's script, saying it "ditches character establishment and clear conflict for fish-out-of-water physical comedy and some vaguely affirmative lessons about learning to be yourself, unapologetically."^[17] *The A.V. Club*'s Courtney Howard and *Entertainment Weekly*'s Leah Greenblatt both gave the movie an overall C+ grade, the former saying it followed the same "whimsical fantasy boilerplate" of the body-swap subgenre with similar themes of "confidence, regret and friendship" and the latter calling it "a body-swap comedy so daffy and weightless it nearly levitates."^{[18][19]} Amy Nicholson of *Variety* called it "a bewildering generational culture-war comedy", criticizing the mixed messages on *agism* and the "underwritten" roles given to the supporting cast.^[20]

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External links

- [Official website \(https://www.mackandritamovie.com/\)](https://www.mackandritamovie.com/)
 - *Mack & Rita* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14330236/>) at IMDb
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