

Boy Kills World is a 2023 dystopian action comedy film directed by Moritz Mohr, in his directorial debut, from a screenplay by Tyler Burton Smith and Arend Remmers, based on a story by Arend Remmers and Morithz Mohr. The film stars Bill Skarsgård, Jessica Rothe, Michelle Dockery, Brett Gelman, Isaiah Mustafa, Yayan Ruhian, Andrew Koji, Sharlto Copley, Famke Janssen and features the voice of H. Jon Benjamin. The plot revolves around a campaign of vengeance enacted by a martial arts expert, rendered deaf-mute by an attack that killed his entire family, whose thoughts are presented as an inner voice derived from a childhood video game.

Boy Kills World was premiered at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival, and was released in the United States by Lionsgate and Roadside Attractions on April 26, 2024. A spin-off video game *Super Dragon Punch Force 3* was released on April 24, 2024, with an animated series in development.

Plot

Boy, a young child, lives in a dystopian city with his mother and younger sister Mina. Boy and Mina often play arcade games and draw illustrations of their future. The city is ruled by the Van Der Koy family: Gideon, Melanie, Melanie's husband Glen and the head of the family - Hilda. Once a year, Hilda gathers 12 people from the city to participate in *The Culling*, where all twelve are killed on live television. Hilda gathers Boy, Mina and their mother and shoots Mina and their mother, killing them, but leaves Boy for dead, having made him deaf and mute. An unnamed Shaman finds Boy and nurses him back to health.

Years later, a fully grown Boy continues training with the Shaman in the hopes of exacting revenge and constantly hallucinates Mina. In the city, Boy sees Glen and Gideon arrive to round up the victims for that year's Culling. After being heckled by a woman in the crowd, Glen accidentally shoots a civilian, triggering a massacre at the hands of June 27, the Van Der Koy's enforcer. Boy follows them in the trunk of Gideon's car to a warehouse, where he is attacked by Glen and several of his men. Boy kills the men and befriends a captive named

Boy Kills World



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Moritz Mohr
Screenplay by	Tyler Burton Smith Arend Remmers
Story by	Arend Remmers Moritz Mohr
Based on	<i>Boy Kills World</i> ^[1] by Armend Remmers Moritz Mohr
Produced by	<u>Sam Raimi</u> Zainab Azizi <u>Roy Lee</u> Wayne Fitzjohn Simon Swart Stuart Manashil Dan Kagan Alex Lebovici
Starring	<u>Bill Skarsgård</u> <u>Jessica Rothe</u>

In the post-credits scene, Boy and Mina are revealed to have survived and are shown eating cereal together.

Cast

- [Bill Skarsgård](#) as Boy, a deaf-mute man seeking revenge against the Van Der Koys. Mohr, the director, occasionally questioned his decision to make the character a deaf-mute amidst other challenges but ultimately had no regrets and was grateful for the outcome.^[5]
 - [H. Jon Benjamin](#) as Boy's "inner voice"
- [Jessica Rothe](#) as June 27, an enforcer working for the Van Der Koys
- [Michelle Dockery](#) as Melanie Van Der Koy, Hilda and Gideon's sister
- [Brett Gelman](#) as Gideon Van Der Koy, Hilda and Melanie's brother
- [Isaiah Mustafa](#) as Benny, a resistance member
- [Andrew Koji](#) as Basho, a resistance member
- [Famke Janssen](#) as Hilda Van Der Koy, the matriarch of the Van Der Koy family
- [Sharlto Copley](#) as Glen Van Der Koy, Melanie's husband
- [Yayan Ruhian](#) as [Shaman](#), Boy's mentor
 - [François Chau](#) as Shaman's voice

Production

Director and story writer Moritz Mohr pitched *Boy Kills World* with a short and previsualization reel to [Sam Raimi](#) and [Roy Lee](#), of Raimi Productions and [Vertigo Entertainment](#) respectively, who were impressed and subsequently agreed to produce alongside Nthibah Pictures and Hammerstone Studios.^{[6][7]} [Orion Pictures](#) was initially involved at one point, but dropped out following the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).^[7]

The film was announced on October 7, 2021, with [Bill Skarsgård](#), [Samara Weaving](#), and [Yayan Ruhian](#) joining the cast. In a statement, Nthibah CEO Simon Swart said the film would combine "real-world themes with a stylized look that is fresh, cool, and original, borrowing from the best of graphic novels."^[8] On October 28, 2021, [Isaiah Mustafa](#) joined the cast.^[9] In January 2022, [Andrew Koji](#) was added to the cast,^[10] and [Jessica Rothe](#) replaced Samara Weaving, who dropped out of project due to scheduling conflicts.^[11] Filming began in [Cape Town](#), South Africa, on February 14, 2022.^{[11][12]} In March 2022, [Famke Janssen](#), [Brett Gelman](#), [Sharlto Copley](#), [Quinn Copeland](#), twins Cameron and Nicholas Crovetti, and [Michelle Dockery](#) were confirmed to star.^{[13][14]}

In August 2023, Swedish composer Ludvig Forssell was announced to compose the film's soundtrack.^[15]

Release

The world premiere for *Boy Kills World* was held at the [2023 Toronto International Film Festival](#) on September 9, 2023.^[16]

In January 2024, [Lionsgate Films](#) and [Roadside Attractions](#) acquired U.S. distribution rights to the film and set it for an April 26, 2024 theatrical release.^[17]

A spin-off video game, *Super Dragon Punch Force 3*, based on the in-universe arcade game of the same name from the film, was released on April 24, 2024. A spin-off animated television series of the film, written by Mario Carvalho and Judd Fitzjohn, is in development as of April 2024.^[18]

Reception

Box office

In the United States and Canada, *Boy Kills World* was released alongside *Unsung Hero* and *Challengers*, and is projected to gross \$2–3 million from 1,993 theatres in its opening weekend.^{[19][20]} The film made \$819,000 on its first day, including \$500,000 from preview screenings. It went on to debut to \$1.6 million.^[21]

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 58% of 145 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.5/10. The website's consensus reads: "Bolstered by Bill Skarsgård's all-in performance, *Boy Kills World* may offer just enough action thrills to offset its thinly written characters and predictable plot."^[22] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 47 out of 100, based on 26 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[23] Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "B−" on an A+ to F scale, while those polled by PostTrak gave it a 71% overall positive score, with 50% saying they would definitely recommend it.^[21]

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External links

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