

***Riddle of Fire*** is a 2023 fantasy film written and directed by Weston Razooli and starring Skyler Peters, Phoebe Ferro, and Charlie Stover.<sup>[3]</sup> Variety has described the film as a "faux-'70s children's fantasy adventure."<sup>[5]</sup>

## Synopsis

Brothers Jodie (Peters) and Hazel (Stover), along with their friend Alice (Phoebe Ferro), devise a scheme to steal a video game from a nearby warehouse. They manage to get away with the game but find themselves unable to play the game because they do not know the password to the television. Jodie and Hazel's mother (Hoetmer) agrees to tell the boys the password if they bring her a blueberry pie. Unable to secure a pie from the local pie-maker, they get her recipe and set out to find the ingredients. While trying to get eggs, the last carton is taken by John Redrye of the Enchanted Blade Gang.

They follow him to the home of the gang, led by Anna-Freya Hollyhock (Tipton), who may be a witch. They stowaway in the back of their truck and ultimately find themselves on an adventure where they team up with Anna-Freya's daughter, Petal, to find a speckled egg, make the blueberry pie, and play their video game.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Cast

- Phoebe Ferro as Alice
- Skyler Peters as Jodie A'Dale
- Charlie Stover as Hazel A'Dale
- Danielle Hoetmer as Julie A'Dale
- Lio Tipton as Anna-Freya Hollyhock
- Charles Halford as John Redrye
- Lorelei Mote as Petal Hollyhock
- Weston Razooli as Marty Hollyhock
- Rachel Browne as Suds Hollyhock
- Andrea Browne as Kels Hollyhock
- Austin Archer as Chip
- Abigail Sakari as Otomo Angel
- Chuck Marra as Otomo Pete
- Lonzo Liggins as Officer Neff
- Sorhab Mirmont as DJ März

<i><b>Riddle of Fire</b></i>	
<b>Directed by</b>	Weston Razooli
<b>Written by</b>	Weston Razooli
<b>Produced by</b>	ANAXIA FullDawa Films
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Lio Tipton</u> <u>Charles Halford</u> Lorelei Olivia Mote Charlie Stover Phoebe Ferro Skyler Peters
<b>Cinematography</b>	Jake Mitchell
<b>Distributed by</b>	Yellow Veil Pictures <u>Vinegar Syndrome</u>
<b>Release dates</b>	20 May 2023 ( <u>Cannes Film Festival</u> ) <sup>[1]</sup> 7 September 2023 ( <u>Toronto International Film Festival</u> ) <sup>[2]</sup> 22 March 2024 (United States) <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>Running time</b>	113 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Box office</b>	\$59,426 <sup>[4]</sup>

- Kent Richards as Officer Lucas

## Production

*Riddle of Fire* was shot on 16 mm film by cinematographer Jake L. Mitchell to emulate the aesthetic of 1970s Disney movies that served as the film's inspiration.<sup>[3]</sup> Filming took place in Park City, Utah, over a twenty-day period.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Release

*Riddle of Fire* premiered in the Directors' Fortnight portion of the Cannes Film Festival and later screened at that year's Toronto International Film Festival<sup>[2]</sup> and Fantastic Fest. In 2024, *Riddle of Fire* received a theatrical run in the United States, distributed by Yellow Veil Pictures and Vinegar Syndrome.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Reception

### Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 82% of 33 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.8/10. The website's consensus reads: "With its charmingly childlike perspective, *Riddle of Fire* channels the spirit of youthful adventure with enough exuberance to overcome an occasionally shaggy structure."<sup>[7]</sup> Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 52 out of 100, based on nine critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.<sup>[8]</sup>

### Accolades

Award	Date	Category	Recipient	Result	Ref.
<u>Cannes Film Festival</u>	March 25, 2023	<u>Camera d'Or</u>	<i>Riddle of Fire</i>	Nominated	<sup>[9]</sup>
		<u>Cannes' Directors' Fortnight</u>		Nominated	
<u>Ghent Film Festival</u>	October 21, 2023	Official Competition	<i>Riddle of Fire</i>	Nominated	<sup>[10]</sup>
<u>Lisbon &amp; Estoril Film Festival</u>	November 17, 2023	Official Competition	<i>Riddle of Fire</i>	Nominated	<sup>[11]</sup>
<u>Molodist International Film Festival</u>	October 21, 2023	Teen Screen Competition	<i>Riddle of Fire</i>	Nominated	<sup>[12]</sup>
Mon Premier Festival	October 31, 2023	Audience Award for Best Film	<i>Riddle of Fire</i>	Nominated	<sup>[13]</sup>
Piccolo Grande Cinema	November 12, 2023	International Competition	<i>Riddle of Fire</i>	Nominated	<sup>[13]</sup>
<u>Saskatoon Fantastic Film Festival</u>	November 25, 2023	Audience Choice Award	<i>Riddle of Fire</i>	Won	<sup>[14]</sup>
<u>Sitges Film Festival</u>	<u>October 15, 2023</u>	Special Mention	<i>Riddle of Fire</i>	Won	<sup>[13]</sup>
<u>Warsaw International Film Festival</u>	October 15, 2023	Free Spirit Award	Weston Razooli	Won	<sup>[13]</sup>

## References

---

1. Gyarke, Lovia. "'Riddle of Fire' Review: A Sentimental Debut Buckles Under the Weight of Its Fancy" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-reviews/riddle-of-fire-review-1235499947/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved 18 March 2024.
2. Kuplowsky, Peter (2023). "Riddle of Fire" (<https://tiff.net/events/riddle-of-fire>). *Toronto International Film Festival*. Retrieved 19 May 2024.
3. Zilko, Christian (12 February 2024). "'Riddle of Fire' Trailer: Blueberry Pie Seekers Battle Witches and Huntsmen in 16mm Adventure Saga" (<https://www.indiewire.com/news/trailers/riddle-of-fire-trailer-1234953151/>). *Indiewire*. Retrieved 18 March 2024.
4. "Riddle of Fire" (<https://www.boxofficemojo.com/title/tt7575046/>). *Box Office Mojo*. *IMDb*. n.d. Retrieved 19 May 2024.
5. Goldstein, Gregg (2023-05-19). "'Riddle of Fire' Director Weston Razooli Takes Flight Into Fantasy With Directors' Fortnight Feature Debut" (<https://variety.com/2023/film/news/riddle-of-fire-weston-razooli-1235610638/>). *Variety*. Retrieved 2023-05-25.
6. "DP Jake Mitchell gives a playful touch to Weston Razooli's 'Riddle of Fire' using 16mm Kodak film" (<https://www.kodak.com/en/motion/blog-post/riddle-of-fire/>). *Kodak*. Eastman Kodak Company. 21 November 2023. Retrieved 11 March 2024.
7. "Riddle of Fire" ([https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/riddle\\_of\\_fire](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/riddle_of_fire)). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved March 22, 2024.
8. "Riddle of Fire" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/riddle-of-fire>). *Metacritic*. Fandom, Inc. Retrieved March 22, 2024.
9. "The 2023 Caméra D'or: Who are the contenders?" (<https://cinemadedemain.festival-cannes.com/en/2023/camera-d-or-2023-qui-sont-les-pretendants/>). *Cinema de Demain*. 5 December 2023. Retrieved 18 March 2024.
10. "Riddle of Fire" (<https://www.filmfestival.be/en/film/riddle-of-fire>). *Film Fest Gent*. Retrieved 18 March 2024.
11. "Official Selection – In Competition" (<https://leffest.com/en/sections/seleccao-oficial-em-competicacao>). *Lisboa Film Festival*. Retrieved 18 March 2024.
12. "Riddle of Fire" (<https://molodist.com/en/film/zagadka-pro-vogon>). *Molodist International Film Festival*. Retrieved 18 March 2024.
13. "Riddle of Fire: Awards" ([https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7575046/awards/?ref\\_=tt\\_awd](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7575046/awards/?ref_=tt_awd)). *IMDb*. Retrieved 18 March 2024.
14. "Riddle of Fire" (<https://www.skfilmfest.com/festival/feature-films/riddle-of-fire/>). *Saskatoon Fantastic Film Festival*. Retrieved 18 March 2024.

## External links

---

- *Riddle of Fire* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7575046/>) at *IMDb*

---

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Riddle\\_of\\_Fire&oldid=1224733810](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Riddle_of_Fire&oldid=1224733810)"

■