

The World to Come

The World to Come is a 2020 American drama film directed by Mona Fastvold, from a screenplay by Ron Hansen and Jim Shepard, based upon Shepard's story of the same name. It stars Katherine Waterston, Vanessa Kirby, Christopher Abbott and Casey Affleck, and follows two neighboring couples battling hardship and isolation in mid-19th century America.

It had its world premiere at the 77th Venice International Film Festival on September 6, 2020, where it won the Queer Lion award for best LGBTQ-themed film at the festival.^[4] It was released in a limited release on February 12, 2021, followed by video on demand on March 2, 2021, by Bleecker Street.

Plot

In 1856 in Schoharie County, Abigail and Dyer live an isolated life in the country working as farmers. They are both devastated by the recent loss of their young daughter Nellie.

A new similarly childless couple moves in beside them. Abigail is immediately entranced by Tallie, the wife, and the two women form a quick and deep friendship. Abigail confides to Tallie that her marriage with Dyer is based on practicality, not romance while Tallie reveals that her husband Finney can be quarrelsome and controlling.

For Abigail's birthday Tallie buys her an atlas that she had longed for. When Tallie is returning home from the birthday visit she is caught in a storm that nearly kills her. Her husband takes her away to recuperate, and when she returns it is spring and Tallie resumes her visits to Abigail.

Eventually Tallie reveals to Abigail that she only dreams of being with her. Abigail feels similarly and the two kiss. They begin a sexual affair. Dyer, who has become increasingly emotional since their child's death, is upset of the time that Abigail spends with Tallie. Tallie's husband becomes similarly jealous of the hours she is spending away from him. Abigail expresses concern about Finney telling Tallie of many husbands poisoning their wives in the county.

The World to Come



Official poster

Directed by	<u>Mona Fastvold</u>
Screenplay by	<u>Ron Hansen</u> <u>Jim Shepard</u>
Based on	"The World to Come" by Jim Shepard
Produced by	<u>Pamela Koffler</u> <u>David Hinojosa</u> <u>Casey Affleck</u> Whitaker Lader Margarethe Baillou
Starring	<u>Katherine Waterston</u> <u>Vanessa Kirby</u> <u>Christopher Abbott</u> Casey Affleck
Cinematography	<u>Andre Chemetoff</u>
Edited by	<u>Dávid Jancsó</u>
Music by	<u>Daniel Blumberg</u>
Production companies	<u>Killer Films</u>

Finney eventually asks Abigail and Dyer to dinner where he uncomfortably brings up their lost child and Abigail notices bruises on Tallie's neck. Finney tells a morbid story about holding his disobedient dog outside until it froze to death. Afterwards Tallie doesn't visit for a week. Abigail finally goes in search of her and finds her rented house empty with only a bloody kerchief left behind. Though she suspects foul play, she eventually receives a letter from Tallie informing her she has moved 85 miles away to the Skaneateles area of Onondaga County.

Abigail insists on going to see Tallie and Dyer reluctantly complies. However by the time they arrive Tallie is dead. Finney claims it is from diphtheria, a flashback reveals Tallie and Abigail having sex. Another flashback shows Finney holding and dancing with Tallie until she collapsed.

Abigail returns to her life on the farm. She and Dyer continue to work together but are still emotionally estranged. To comfort herself, Abigail imagines murdering Finney one day and tries to picture Nellie and Tallie comforting one another in the afterlife. When Dyer asks her to imagine anything she can do to ease their longing, Abigail begins to imagine Tallie in his place.

	<div>Sea Change Media</div> <div>M.Y.R.A.</div> <div>Entertainment</div> <div>Yellow Bear Films</div> <div>Hype Film</div> <div>Ingenious Media</div>
Distributed by	<div>Bleecker Street</div>
Release dates	<div>September 6, 2020</div> <div>(Venice)</div> <div>February 12, 2021</div> <div>(United States)</div>
Running time	<div>98 minutes^{[1][2][3]}</div>
Country	<div>United States</div>
Language	<div>English</div>
Box office	<div>\$205,878^{[2][3]}</div>

Cast

- Katherine Waterston as Abigail
- Vanessa Kirby as Tallie
- Christopher Abbott as Finney
- Casey Affleck as Dyer
- Karina Ziana Gherasim as Nellie

Production

It was announced in February 2019 that Casey Affleck would produce and star in the film, with Mona Fastvold directing. Katherine Waterston, Vanessa Kirby and Jesse Plemons were also cast in the film, although Plemons dropped out and was later replaced with Christopher Abbott.^[5]

Principal photography in Romania began on September 2019.^{[6][7]}

Music

British composer Daniel Blumberg was commissioned to compose music for the film.^[8] He collaborated with avant-garde musicians including Peter Brötzmann, Josephine Foster and Steve Noble on the score, and enlisted Scott Walker producer Peter Walsh to co-produce.^[9]

Release

The film had its world premiere in competition at the [Venice Film Festival](#) on September 6, 2020.^[10] Shortly after, [Bleecker Street](#) acquired U.S. distribution rights to the film.^[11] [Sony Pictures Worldwide Acquisitions](#) will distribute the film outside the United States.^[12] It was released in a [limited release](#) on February 12, 2021,^[2] followed by [video on demand](#) on March 2, 2021.^{[3][13]} On 6 March 2022, it began showing on [Sky Cinema Premiere](#) in the United Kingdom.^[14]

Critical reception


The World to Come holds a 75% approval rating on review aggregator [Rotten Tomatoes](#), based on 142 reviews, with an average of 6.7/10. The website's critics consensus reads: "*The World to Come* is made from ingredients that will be familiar to fans of period forbidden romance movies, but they're given fresh life thanks to an excellent cast."^[15] On [Metacritic](#), the film holds a rating of 73 out of 100, based on 26 critics, indicating "generally positive reviews".^[16]

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External links

- [Official website](https://bleeckerstreetmedia.com/the-world-to-come) (<https://bleeckerstreetmedia.com/the-world-to-come>) 
 - *The World to Come* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9738716/>) at *IMDb*
 - *The World to Come* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v725613>) at *AllMovie*
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