

# Brahms: The Boy II

***Brahms: The Boy II*** is a 2020 American supernatural horror film starring Katie Holmes, Ralph Ineson, Christopher Convery and Owain Yeoman. A sequel to the 2016 film *The Boy*, it is directed by William Brent Bell and written by Stacey Menear, the respective director and writer of the original film.

*Brahms: The Boy II* follows a young boy who, after moving into a mansion with his parents following a traumatizing incident at his previous home, finds a lifelike doll that he becomes attached to. It was released in the United States by STX Entertainment on February 21, 2020, and was panned by critics, many of whom deemed it inferior to its predecessor. The film was also a financial disappointment, grossing \$20 million worldwide against a budget of \$10 million plus advertising costs, less than a third of the first film's gross. It was also Lakeshore Entertainment's last film before they were shut down.

## Plot

Liza and her son Jude are attacked in their home late at night, after Liza hears noises downstairs which she investigates. She is then grabbed by two masked men and suffers a head wound. Liza and Jude are left traumatized by the event. She is plagued by nightmares while Jude remains traumatized even after therapy, and is left communicating through a notepad. Liza's husband suggests they relocate to the countryside to recuperate. The family move to a manor.

They explore the property, and Jude finds a porcelain doll buried in the ground. Liza and Sean explore a nearby mansion. Liza searches for him and finds him in possession of the doll. Liza cleans off "Brahms".

Liza and Jude take a walk around the property at Jude's request. They meet Joseph and his dog. Tensions fray when Sean urges Liza to talk about the events of the burglary, and she will not. Liza and Sean overhear Jude talking in his room. They ask if he is talking to Brahms and Jude writes 'yes' in his notepad. Weird events occur around the house, and Sean and Liza discuss a change in Jude's behavior with their therapist.

### *Brahms: The Boy II*



Theatrical release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<u>William Brent Bell</u>
<b>Written by</b>	<u>Stacey Menear</u>
<b>Based on</b>	Characters by <u>Stacey Menear</u>
<b>Produced by</b>	<u>Matt Berenson</u> <u>Gary Lucchesi</u> <u>Tom Rosenberg</u> <u>Jim Wedaa</u> <u>Eric Reid</u> <u>Roy Lee</u> <u>Richard S. Wright</u>
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Katie Holmes</u> <u>Ralph Ineson</u> <u>Owain Yeoman</u> <u>Christopher Convery</u> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<u>Karl Walter Lindenlaub</u>
<b>Edited by</b>	<u>Brian Berdan</u>
<b>Music by</b>	<u>Brett Detar</u>

Joseph talks to Jude about his dog being missing, but no one appears to have seen the dog. Liza finds disturbing pictures, and assumes they have been drawn by Jude. The family has dinner and Jude writes in his notepad that Brahms' plate is missing. Liza says that Brahms does not eat because he is a doll. She and Sean argue in the kitchen and Sean leaves the room. She goes to sit with Jude at the table and tells him that he needs to stay at the table until he eats. He writes on his notepad that she is making Brahms mad. She leaves the dining room and hears a loud noise. She and Sean run into the room. Jude writes that he told Liza not to make Brahms mad. Sean and Liza disagree about the mysterious things that are happening.

Jude leaves for the nearby mansion with Brahms in hand. Joseph finds Sean and Liza in the mansion and tells them briefly about a family that had lived there prior. He says that a boy named Brahms had lived there.

Sean's brother and his family come to visit. Will gets mysteriously injured during the visit. Liza becomes even more upset, and later hits Joseph on the head, then begs to know where Jude is. Joseph tells her that it will be over soon and that "Brahms and Jude are gonna be one." She goes to look for Jude in the mansion.

Sean finds Liza and Jude in the basement and hits Brahms with a croquet mallet. Joseph then starts to get scared and says that "It will never be over" and that Brahms will take out the family's failure to "follow the rules" on him. A furnace then explodes. Jude grabs Brahms, and throws him into the fire.

Liza and Jude are soon back at their home in the city, and everything seems normal. Jude walks over to his dresser and puts on a porcelain mask. He wishes Brahms a good night, and says that everything will be fine if his family follows the rules.

<b>Production companies</b>	<u>Lakeshore Entertainment</u> <u>STXfilms</u>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>STX Entertainment</u>
<b>Release date</b>	February 21, 2020
<b>Running time</b>	86 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$10 million <sup>[2]</sup> <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>Box office</b>	\$20.3 million <sup>[2]</sup>

## Cast

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- Katie Holmes as Liza
- Owain Yeoman as Sean
- Christopher Convery as Jude
- Ralph Ineson as Joseph
- Anjali Jay as Dr. Lawrence
- Oliver Rice as Liam
- Natalie Moon as Pamela
- Daphne Hoskins as Sophie
- Joely Collins as Mary

## Production

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By October 2018, it was announced that a sequel was in development, with Katie Holmes joining the cast of the film, William Brent Bell returning to direct and Stacey Menear back to write the script of the film, respectively, with Matt Berenson, Gary Lucchesi, Tom Rosenberg, Jim Wedaa and Eric Reid serving as

producers, under their Lakeshore Entertainment banners, and STX Entertainment producing and distributing the film.<sup>[4]</sup>

In November 2018, Christopher Convery, Ralph Ineson and Owain Yeoman also joined the cast of the film.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

Principal photography began in January 2019 and wrapped that March. Parts of the sequel were filmed in Victoria on Vancouver Island, located in British Columbia, Canada.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Release

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The film was theatrically released in the United States on February 21, 2020.<sup>[8][9]</sup> It was previously scheduled for July 26, 2019, and then December 6, 2019.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Reception

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### Box office

*Brahms: The Boy II* grossed \$12.6 million in the United States and Canada, and \$7.7 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$20.3 million, against a production budget of \$10 million.<sup>[2]</sup>

In the United States and Canada, the film was released alongside *The Call of the Wild* and *Impractical Jokers: The Movie* as well as the wide expansion of *The Lodge*, and was projected to gross \$5–8 million from 2,151 theaters in its opening weekend.<sup>[11][12]</sup> The film made \$2.2 million on its first day, including \$375,000 from Thursday night previews. It went on to debut to \$5.7 million, finishing fifth at the box office.<sup>[13]</sup> In its second weekend the film dropped 55% to \$2.6 million, finishing sixth.<sup>[14]</sup>

### Critical response

On Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 11% based on 57 reviews, with an average rating of 3.6/10. The site's critics consensus reads: "More likely to induce boredom than quicken the pulse, *Brahms: The Boy II* is chiefly scary for the way it undermines the effectiveness of its above-average predecessor."<sup>[15]</sup> On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 29 out of 100, based on 13 critics, indicating "generally unfavorable reviews".<sup>[16]</sup> Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "C−" on an A+ to F scale, and PostTrak reported it received an average 1 out of 5 stars from viewers they polled, with 24% of people saying they would definitely recommend it.<sup>[13]</sup>

Benjamin Lee, writing for *The Guardian*, gave the film one star out of five, describing it as "so punishingly dull to watch, filled with dry, perfunctory dialogue from Stacey Menear's consistently un inventive script and shot without even a glimmer of style," adding that "even at a brisk 86 minutes, it feels like unending torture..." with a finale "that buckles under the weight of its own stupidity, as well as some god-awful CGI."<sup>[17]</sup>

### Accolades

Katie Holmes was nominated at the Golden Raspberry Awards as Worst Actress (for her appearance in this movie and also in *The Secret: Dare to Dream*).<sup>[18]</sup>

## Possible sequel

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In August 2022, Bell stated that he has plans for a third installment. The filmmaker stated that his intentions are to round out the character of Brahms, with the completion of a trilogy. While the second film centered around the porcelain doll "Brahms", the potential next movie would once again continue the story of the character from the original release.<sup>[19]</sup> Later that month, Bell expounded on his ideas for potential future installments including a sequel and possible prequel options. When discussing the future of the series, the filmmaker stated that had Jason Blum collaborated on the movies, the third installment would have been released by the time the second was. Bell continued that the next movie will reveal that Brahms Heelshire survived the events at the end of the first installment, and that it will reveal what he has been up to; while expressing plans for the character and his doll counterpart to appear in the film. He stated: "...there's a lot of great stories and there's prequels. ...[It's a] rich world that lends itself to a lot."<sup>[20]</sup>

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## External links

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