

# Moxie (film)

***Moxie***, stylized as ***MOXiE!*** is a 2021 American comedy-drama film directed by Amy Poehler. Tamara Chestna and Dylan Meyer adapted the screenplay from the 2017 novel of the same name by Jennifer Mathieu. It stars Hadley Robinson, Alycia Pascual-Peña, Lauren Tsai, Patrick Schwarzenegger, Nico Hiraga, and Poehler. The film focuses on 16-year-old Vivian (played by Hadley Robinson), who starts a feminist zine to empower the young women in her high school, as they contend with bullying, sexual harassment, and rape. The film was released on March 3, 2021, by Netflix and received mixed reviews from critics.

## Plot

Vivian is 16, lives with her mother Lisa, and attends Rockport High School. One day she joins her best friend Claudia at a class taught by Mr. Davies. Vivian notices classmate Seth, has gotten more attractive over the summer. He used to be called Seth "The Shrimp". Mr. Davies introduces new student Lucy, then begins a discussion of *The Great Gatsby*, a novel about a mysterious millionaire. She criticizes it as another tale of a rich white guy expressing sorrow over not having the woman he wants. The star jock Mitchell interrupts Lucy's opinion and defends the Jay Gatsby character.

Later, Vivian sees Mitchell taking the soda Lucy was trying to buy, harassing her, and spitting in it. When Lucy reports Mitchell to Principal Shelly, she doesn't want to penalize Mitchell and tries to avoid getting involved.

At home, Vivian goes through Lisa's stuff and finds her old feminist zines and becomes inspired. The next day at school, the students discover a list labeling young women made by a group of jocks shared to everyone's phone. Many girls are embarrassed by it, in which the jocks express many sexist and perverse opinions, which makes them self-conscious. When Mitchell calls Lucy a foul word, Vivian becomes inspired by her feminist mother and starts "Moxie", a zine aimed at calling out the unfair treatment of girls at the school, and empowering them to raise their concerns.

Vivian befriends Lucy, as well as a group of other girls who have been put down, but Claudia is reluctant to get behind the movement and it causes a rift between them. Vivian also begins a

### Moxie



Official release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<u>Amy Poehler</u>
<b>Screenplay by</b>	Tamara Chestna Dylan Meyer
<b>Based on</b>	<i>Moxie</i> by <u>Jennifer Mathieu</u>
<b>Produced by</b>	Kim Lessing Morgan Sackett Amy Poehler
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Hadley Robinson</u> <u>Alycia Pascual-Peña</u> <u>Lauren Tsai</u> <u>Nico Hiraga</u> <u>Patrick Schwarzenegger</u> Amy Poehler
<b>Cinematography</b>	Tom Magill
<b>Edited by</b>	<u>Julie Monroe</u>

relationship with Seth, who knows she started "Moxie" and supports her.

After Mitchell wins an athletic scholarship over the girls' favorite candidate, Kiera, Vivian walks home feeling depressed, drinking a bottle of champagne along the way. She comes home to find Lisa with her boyfriend John, and is annoyed that her mother kept the relationship a secret from her. Vivian then throws up.

Later, the "Moxie" girls respond to Mitchell winning the award by putting crude stickers all over the school. Principal Shelly, who was called out by "Moxie" for not supporting the girls, attempts to shut down the group. Claudia, who eventually joins the group, takes the fall for the stickers.

Vivian then hits a low point when Claudia criticizes her for not coming forward (she knew Vivian started "Moxie"), while also having a rough patch with Seth. She also faces challenges with her mother after she yells at Lisa and John during dinner.

Vivian finds a note from an anonymous girl who says she was raped the previous year. Vivian gets "Moxie" supporters to stage a walkout in support of the girl. The majority of students participate, and Vivian reveals that she started "Moxie".

Head cheerleader Emma comes forward as the rape survivor, stating that Mitchell, her ex-boyfriend, was her rapist. It happened the previous year when they were dating, and they called her "Most Bangable", which left her mortified. All the students are horrified and lend their support. Principal Shelly overhears and plans to punish Mitchell at last.

Vivian reconciles with her mom, Claudia, and Seth, and "Moxie" gains more followers. Lisa expresses pride in her daughter and the girls throw a party in celebration of "Moxie".

<b>Music by</b>	<u>Mac</u> <u>McCaughan</u>
<b>Production company</b>	<u>Paper Kite</u> <u>Productions</u>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Netflix</u>
<b>Release date</b>	March 3, 2021
<b>Running time</b>	111 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English

## Cast

---

- Hadley Robinson as Vivian Carter
- Alycia Pascual-Peña as Lucy
- Lauren Tsai as Claudia
- Nico Hiraga as Seth Acosta
- Patrick Schwarzenegger as Mitchell Wilson
- Amy Poehler as Lisa Johnson
- Sydney Park as Kiera
- Anjelika Washington as Amaya
- Sabrina Haskett as Kaitlynn
- Josie Totah as CJ
- Emily Hopper as Meg
- Marcia Gay Harden as Principal Shelly
- Ike Barinholtz as Mr. Davies
- Joshua Darnell Walker as Jay
- Josephine Langford as Emma
- Clark Gregg as John

- Helen Slayton-Hughes as Helen
- Charlie Hall as Bradley
- Darrell M. Davie as Blaze
- Cooper Mothersbaugh as Darryl

#### Cameos

- Ron Perkins as U-copy Clerk
- Greg Poehler as News Anchor
- Kevin Dorff as Male Grocery Manager
- David Schwartz as Musician
- The Linda Lindas as band at party

## Production

---

In February 2019, it was announced Amy Poehler would direct the film, from a screenplay by Tamara Chestna, and serve as a producer under her Paper Kite Productions banner, with Netflix distributing.<sup>[1]</sup> In October 2019, Hadley Robinson, Lauren Tsai, Patrick Schwarzenegger, and Ike Barinholtz joined the cast of the film.<sup>[2][3]</sup> In November 2019, Josephine Langford, Marcia Gay Harden, and Clark Gregg joined the cast of the film.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

## Filming

Principal photography began in October 2019 in Arcadia, California.<sup>[6][7]</sup>

## Release

---

The film was released on March 3, 2021, on Netflix.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Reception

---

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an approval rating of 70% based on 114 reviews, with an average rating of 6.5/10. The website's critics consensus reads, "*Moxie* comes up a little short on its titular ingredient when it comes to fully addressing its story's timely themes, but this sweet coming-of-age story is still easy to like."<sup>[9]</sup> On Metacritic, it has a weighted average score of 54 out of 100 based on 25 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews".<sup>[10]</sup>

Rasha Jameel, writing in *The Daily Star*, accused the film of tokenism. Criticizing its "careless" insertion of the "white savior" trope, Jameel wrote, "the film adds characters of colour and a white character with disability, but instead of allowing these characters to speak or act on their behalf, the narrative is told primarily through the all-too-common perspective of a privileged white American."<sup>[11]</sup>

## References

---

- Fleming, Mike Jr. (February 20, 2019). "Amy Poehler To Direct 'Moxie' At Netflix; Riot Grrrl-Inspired Teen Starts Feminist Revolution At Her High School" (<https://deadline.com/2019/02/amy-poehler-moxie-netflix-tamara-chestna-script-1202560888/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20190220212242/https://deadline.com/2019/02/amy-p>

- [oebler-moxie-netflix-tamara-chestna-script-1202560888/](#) from the original on February 20, 2019. Retrieved October 29, 2019.
2. N'Duka, Amanda (October 14, 2019). "Hadley Robinson, Lauren Tsai Star In Amy Poehler-Directed Netflix Film 'Moxie' " (<https://deadline.com/2019/10/hadley-robinson-lauren-tsai-amy-poehler-moxie-netflix-1202759767/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191014210313/https://deadline.com/2019/10/hadley-robinson-lauren-tsai-amy-poehler-moxie-netflix-1202759767/>) from the original on October 14, 2019. Retrieved October 29, 2019.
  3. Fleming, Mike Jr. (October 29, 2019). "Patrick Schwarzenegger Gets Lead In Amy Poehler's 'Moxie;' Ike Barinholtz In Talks" (<https://deadline.com/2019/10/patrick-schwarzenegger-amy-poehler-moxie-ike-barinholtz-1202770534/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191029171058/https://deadline.com/2019/10/patrick-schwarzenegger-amy-poehler-moxie-ike-barinholtz-1202770534/>) from the original on October 29, 2019. Retrieved October 29, 2019.
  4. N'Duka, Amanda (November 5, 2019). "'After' Star Josephine Langford Joins Amy Poehler's 'Moxie' " (<https://deadline.com/2019/11/after-josephine-langford-amy-poehler-moxie-netflix-1202777640/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191105180439/https://deadline.com/2019/11/after-josephine-langford-amy-poehler-moxie-netflix-1202777640/>) from the original on November 5, 2019. Retrieved November 5, 2019.
  5. "Marcia Gay Harden, 'Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Clark Gregg & More Round Out The Cast Of Amy Poehler's 'Moxie' " (<https://deadline.com/2019/11/marcia-gay-harden-clark-gregg-amy-poehler-moxie-netflix-1202781288/>). 8 November 2019. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20200927021720/https://deadline.com/2019/11/marcia-gay-harden-clark-gregg-amy-poehler-moxie-netflix-1202781288/>) from the original on 2020-09-27. Retrieved 2019-11-08.
  6. "Moxie" (<https://www.backstage.com/resources/detail/productionlisting/moxie-87021/>). *Backstage.com*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191029171100/https://www.backstage.com/resources/detail/productionlisting/moxie-87021/>) from the original on October 29, 2019. Retrieved October 29, 2019.
  7. Galuppo, Mia (October 29, 2019). "Patrick Schwarzenegger, Ike Barinholtz Join Amy Poehler Netflix Movie 'Moxie' " (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/patrick-schwarzenegger-ike-barinholtz-join-amy-poehler-netflix-movie-moxie-1250752/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191029193219/https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/patrick-schwarzenegger-ike-barinholtz-join-amy-poehler-netflix-movie-moxie-1250752/>) from the original on October 29, 2019. Retrieved October 29, 2019.
  8. Canfield, David (January 6, 2021). "EW's 2021 movie preview: 89 films we can't wait to see" (<https://ew.com/movies/2021-movie-preview/>). *Entertainment Weekly*. Retrieved January 6, 2021.
  9. "Moxie (2021)" (<https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/moxie>). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210318223752/https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/moxie>) from the original on March 18, 2021. Retrieved September 30, 2022.
  10. "Moxie Reviews" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/moxie>). *Metacritic*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210306114858/https://www.metacritic.com/movie/moxie>) from the original on March 6, 2021. Retrieved March 12, 2021.
  11. Jameel, Rasha (April 15, 2021). "Moxie: A whitewashed account of second-wave feminism" (<https://www.thedailystar.net/book-reviews/news/moxie-whitewashed-account-second-wave-feminism-2077981>). *The Daily Star*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20230822181606/https://www.thedailystar.net/book-reviews/news/moxie-whitewashed-account-second-wave-feminism-2077981>) from the original on 2023-08-22. Retrieved 2021-06-20.

## External links

---

- *Moxie* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6432466/>) at [IMDb](#)
- 

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Moxie\\_\(film\)&oldid=1221910926](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Moxie_(film)&oldid=1221910926)"

■