

The Eternal Daughter

The Eternal Daughter is a 2022 Gothic mystery drama film produced, written and directed by Joanna Hogg. It stars Tilda Swinton in a double role, as both a middle-aged filmmaker and her elderly mother who are guests at a mysterious hotel. Joseph Mydell and Carly-Sophia Davies are featured in supporting roles.

The Eternal Daughter premiered at the 79th Venice International Film Festival on 6 September 2022, and was released in the United States on 2 December 2022 by A24.

Plot

Middle-aged filmmaker Julie takes her elderly mother, Rosalind, to a secluded and seemingly empty hotel. Julie's father has recently died and Julie wants to spend time with her mother with the hope of making a film about her. Shrouded in an eerie fog, the hotel is a former family home of Rosalind's and she recounts painful memories that occurred at the location, including a miscarriage and the death of a family member during World War II. Julie begins to regret dredging up these memories but Rosalind assures her that it's not her fault and she has had happy memories at the childhood home as well.

One night, Julie walks into her room to find her mother's dog gone. She searches the grounds frantically, enlisting the help of Bill, a hotel employee. Rosalind returns to the room and finds the dog sitting on the bed. She thanks Bill for his help and they share a drink as they bond over their shared grief—Julie's father and Bill's wife, who has also died recently. The following day, Julie overhears Rosalind talking with Bill. Rosalind says she feels sorry for Julie because she has no children of her own and dotes on her mother instead.

On Rosalind's birthday, Julie prepares a special supper for her, but when Rosalind says she is not hungry, Julie breaks down. She feels she cannot be happy when her mother is not happy and that she fears for the future as she has no children to take care of her when she is older. While bringing her mother a birthday cake, she cries and it is revealed that she is alone at the table and that her mother died in the past.

The Eternal Daughter



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Joanna Hogg
Written by	Joanna Hogg
Produced by	Ed Guiney <div>Emma Norton</div> <div>Andrew Lowe</div> <div>Joanna Hogg</div>
Starring	Tilda Swinton <div>Joseph Mydell</div> <div>Carly-Sophia Davies</div>
Cinematography	Ed Rutherford
Edited by	Helle Le Fevre
Production companies	A24 <div>BBC Film</div> <div>Element Pictures</div> <div>JWH Films</div>
Distributed by	A24 <div>BFI Distribution</div>
Release dates	6 September 2022 <div>(Venice)</div>

The following day, Julie works on her screenplay and then prepares to depart. As she leaves the hotel it is revealed to be full of guests and staff. The receptionist seems visibly concerned for Julie, who with the help of Bill gets into a taxi. The fog around the hotel gradually clears.

Cast

The cast includes:^[4]

- Tilda Swinton as Julie and Rosalind Hart
- Joseph Mydell as Bill
- Carly-Sophia Davies as Hotel receptionist
- Crispin Buxton as Cousin
- Louis as Louis the dog

Production

On January 18, 2021, it was announced that a film written and directed by Joanna Hogg and starring Tilda Swinton had wrapped.^[5] On January 27, 2021, it was confirmed that A24 acquired the worldwide distribution rights.^{[6][7]}

The film was shot in Wales during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.^[6]

Release

The film premiered at the 79th Venice International Film Festival on 6 September 2022.^{[2][8]} It also screened at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival^{[9][10]} and the 60th New York Film Festival.^{[11][12]} It was released in the United States on 2 December 2022. BFI Distribution acquired U.K. distribution rights in March 2023.^[13]

Reception

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 95% of 115 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 7.8/10. The website's consensus reads: "Tilda Swinton² is haunting in the gothic ghost story *The Eternal Daughter*, an ode to familial female ties that leaves much to unravel after the fog lifts."^[14] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 80 out of 100, based on 30 critics, indicating "generally favorable" reviews.^[15]

Year-end lists

The film appeared on a number of critics' lists of the best films of 2022: ^[16]

- 2nd – Molly Haskell, Screen Slate
- 2nd – David Sims, The Atlantic

	2 December 2022 (United States) ^[1]
Running time	96 minutes ^[2]
Countries	United Kingdom United States
Language	English
Box office	\$568,330 ^[3]

- 2nd – Florence Almozini, *Film Comment Poll*
- 3rd – Monica Castillo, *RogerEbert.com*
- 3rd – Justin Chang, *The Los Angeles Times*
- 3rd – Reverse Shot

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External links

- *The Eternal Daughter* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13874422/>) at IMDb
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