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# The Beekeeper (2024 film)

***The Beekeeper*** is a 2024 American action thriller film directed by David Ayer and written by Kurt Wimmer. The film stars Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman, Josh Hutcherson, Bobby Naderi, Phylicia Rashad, Jemma Redgrave and Jeremy Irons. When his kind-hearted landlady dies by suicide after losing her charity's funds to a phishing scam, Adam Clay, a former "Beekeeper" operative, sets out on a brutal campaign for revenge upon those responsible.

*The Beekeeper* was released in the United States by Amazon MGM Studios under the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer label on January 12, 2024. The film received positive reviews from critics and has grossed \$152.7 million worldwide.

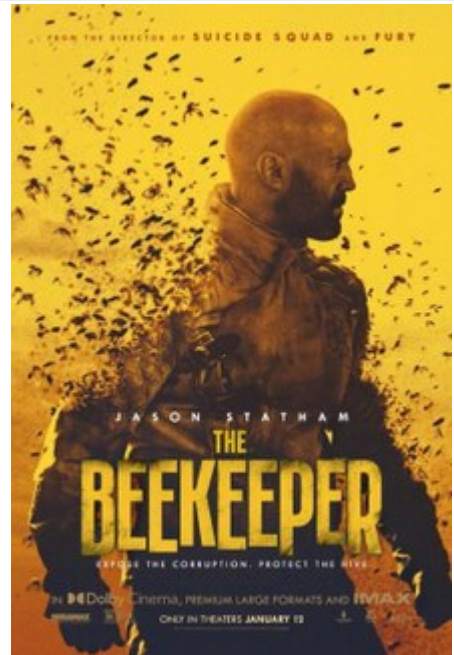
## Plot

Retired school teacher Eloise Parker lives alone but has a tenant in her barn, Adam Clay, living a quiet life as a beekeeper. One day, Eloise falls for a phishing scam that bankrupts her and steals over \$2 million from a charity fund she manages. Devastated, she commits suicide. Adam discovers her body and is immediately arrested by FBI agent Verona Parker, Eloise's daughter. After being cleared and released, Verona tells Adam the group that robbed her mother has been on the FBI's radar for a while but is difficult to track. Seeking justice for Eloise, Adam contacts the Beekeepers, a mysterious group, to find the scammers responsible.

Adam receives an address for the scammers: a call center run by Mickey Garnett. Adam scares off the employees and destroys the building. Mickey informs his boss, technology executive Derek Danforth, who sends Mickey to kill Adam. A violent confrontation ensues where Adam kills Mickey's men and severs Mickey's right hand fingers with a bandsaw. Mickey calls Derek while stopped at a bridge, informing him that Adam is a Beekeeper. Having followed Mickey, Adam drags him off the bridge with his truck to his death and warns Derek that he is coming after him.

Derek informs former CIA director Wallace Westwyld, who is running security for Danforth Enterprises at the request of Derek's mother, Jessica, about Adam. Concerned, Wallace

### *The Beekeeper*



Theatrical release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<u>David Ayer</u>
<b>Written by</b>	<u>Kurt Wimmer</u>
<b>Produced by</b>	<u>Bill Block</u> <u>Jason Statham</u> <u>David Ayer</u> <u>Chris Long</u> <u>Kurt Wimmer</u>
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Jason Statham</u> <u>Emmy Raver-Lampman</u> <u>Josh Hutcherson</u> <u>Bobby Naderi</u> <u>Phylicia Rashad</u> <u>Jeremy Irons</u>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<u>Gabriel Beristain</u>
<b>Edited by</b>	<u>Geoffrey O'Brien</u>
<b>Music by</b>	<u>David Sardy</u> <u>Jared Michael Fry</u>

contacts current CIA Director Harward in hopes of stopping Adam. Harward contacts the Beekeepers and learns that Adam has retired from the organization. The Beekeepers subsequently declare neutrality after Adam kills the current Beekeeper, Anisette, sent to kill him. Verona and her partner, Matt Wiley, anticipate that Adam will deliver an assault on the Nine Star United Center in Boston, which oversees all of Derek's global scam call centers. After informing FBI Deputy Director Prigg that Adam is a Beekeeper, they receive all the support they ask for.

Wallace coordinates a group of ex-special forces personnel, revealing to them that the Beekeepers are a highly skilled and dangerous clandestine human intelligence organization tasked with protecting the United States, operating above and beyond governmental jurisdiction. To have a chance at stopping Adam, Wallace orders the group to secure the inside of the Nine Star Building, while the FBI places their own SWAT team around the perimeter. However, Derek's refusal to evacuate the employees enables Adam to quickly defeat the FBI SWAT team and infiltrate the building. After wiping out all of Wallace's ex-special forces group, Adam proceeds to interrogate manager Rico Anzalone, who reveals that Derek is his boss.

Verona informs Prigg that Derek runs both companies, which several US government agencies use. Verona also brings up the point that not only will Adam attempt to kill Derek, but he may also kill Jessica Danforth, the President of the United States, due to her association with the scam. As Adam eludes capture, Wallace advises Derek to stay with his mother under Secret Service protection.

At the president's beachside mansion, Wallace hires a group of mercenaries, including Lazarus, who lost a leg during a previous encounter with a Beekeeper. Adam infiltrates the mansion, while the President learns the truth from Prigg about her son's exploitation of a CIA program during her presidential campaign. She decides that when Adam approaches, she will tell him and the world the truth about Derek's use of the program. Enraged, Derek kills Prigg and takes his mother hostage. Adam fights his way to the President's office, killing the mercenaries and Lazarus in the process. Wallace talks to Adam to persuade him to turn away at the last moment but fails. Adam eventually reaches Jessica's office, being quickly joined by Verona, Matt, and the rest of the FBI agents.

Verona tries to dissuade Adam from killing Jessica and Derek. Derek attempts to kill his mother, but Adam kills him first and escapes through a nearby window and onto the beach. Despite Verona having a clear shot, she decides not to shoot Adam. He flees with the aid of the underwater gear he had hidden on the beach.

## Cast

- Jason Statham as Adam Clay
- Emmy Raver-Lampman as Agent Verona Parker
- Josh Hutcherson as Derek Danforth
- Bobby Naderi as Agent Matt Wiley
- Minnie Driver as Director Janet Harward

<b>Production companies</b>	<u>Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer</u> <u>Miramax</u> Cedar Park Entertainment Punch Palace Productions
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Amazon MGM Studios</u>
<b>Release date</b>	January 12, 2024
<b>Running time</b>	105 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$40 million
<b>Box office</b>	\$152.7 million

- [David Witts](#) as Mickey Garnett
- [Michael Epp](#) as Pettis
- [Taylor James](#) as Lazarus
- [Jemma Redgrave](#) as President Danforth
- [Enzo Cilenti](#) as Rico Anzalone
- [Phylicia Rashad](#) as Eloise Parker
- [Jeremy Irons](#) as Wallace Westwyld

## Production

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### Development

In August 2021, it was announced that [Jason Statham](#) would star in the film for [Miramax](#), and would also serve as a producer.<sup>[2]</sup> [David Ayer](#) signed on to direct in May 2022.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Filming

Principal photography began in September 2022 in the United Kingdom.<sup>[4]</sup> In October, Statham shot scenes at [Tyringham Hall](#) in [Tyringham](#).<sup>[5]</sup> Filming wrapped that December.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Release

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[Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer](#) (MGM) acquired the film's distribution rights in the United States in August 2022.<sup>[4]</sup> In February 2023, [Sky Cinema](#) acquired the rights in the United Kingdom.<sup>[7]</sup> It was released by [Amazon MGM Studios](#) on January 12, 2024.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

*The Beekeeper* was released on [VOD](#) and digital platforms on January 30, 2024.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Reception

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### Box office

*The Beekeeper* grossed \$66.2 million domestically (United States and Canada) and \$86.5 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$152.7 million,<sup>[11]</sup> against a budget of "\$40 million or less".<sup>[12]</sup> It spent its first eight weeks in the Top 10 at the domestic box office, peaking at No. 1 in its third week.<sup>[13]</sup>

### Critical response

On the review aggregator website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 70% of 175 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.9/10. The website's consensus reads: "Cheerfully undemanding and enjoyably retrograde, *The Beekeeper* proves that when it comes to dispensing action-thriller justice, Statham hasn't lost his sting."<sup>[14]</sup> [Metacritic](#), which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 54 out of 100, based on 37 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.<sup>[15]</sup> Audiences polled by [CinemaScore](#) gave the film an average grade of "B+" on an A+ to F scale.<sup>[16]</sup>

A review in *The Guardian* says the non-shooting scenes are rushed and both Rashad and Driver are underused, and describes it as "a solid, low-stakes, medium-reward new year's effort".<sup>[17]</sup> *RogerEbert.com*'s Matt Zoller Seitz praised various aspects of the film, including its range of villains, but regretted: "It's a real shame that 'The Beekeeper' isn't the righteous trash masterpiece that it keeps threatening to turn into."<sup>[18]</sup>

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## External links

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- Official website (<https://mgm.com/movies/the-beekeeper>) 
- *The Beekeeper* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15314262/>) at IMDb

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