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# Spaceman (2024 film)

***Spaceman*** is a 2024 American science fiction drama film directed by Johan Renck and written by Colby Day. It is based on the 2017 novel *Spaceman of Bohemia* by Jaroslav Kalfař. Starring Adam Sandler, Carey Mulligan, Kunal Nayyar, Isabella Rossellini, and Paul Dano. It follows an astronaut sent on a mission to the edge of the solar system who encounters a creature that helps him resolve his earthly problems.

*Spaceman* premiered at the 74th Berlin International Film Festival on February 21, 2024, and received a limited theatrical release on February 23, 2024 before its streaming debut by Netflix on March 1, 2024.

## Plot

Czech astronaut Jakub Procházka is six months into a space mission to investigate a mysterious cloud of dust and particles, called Chopra, lying beyond Jupiter. The Czech mission has arrived shortly before a competing South Korean mission. Jakub struggles with loneliness and misses his wife, Lenka, who has recently stopped talking with him after he left her and their unborn daughter behind to go on the mission.

Lenka sends him a message telling him that she wants to leave him, but Commissioner Tuma, Jakub's commanding officer, prevents it from reaching him, to prevent Jakub's mental state from worsening. Days later, still without news from Lenka, Jakub finds a spider-like creature with telepathic abilities inside a compartment of the ship. The creature, whom Jakub names Hanuš<sup>[a]</sup>, wishes to understand humans better and to help Jakub with his loneliness.

Exploring his memories, Hanuš learns more about Jakub: his father was an informant of the state party and was killed when Jakub was young. He met Lenka, but often neglected her, being more focused on his career as a cosmonaut, going as far as leaving her when she suffered a miscarriage. After showing Jakub an implanted memory of the miscarriage, which Jakub was not present for, Hanuš, disappointed with humanity, leaves the ship, leaving Jakub distressed.

### Spaceman



Release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<u>Johan Renck</u>
<b>Screenplay by</b>	<u>Colby Day</u>
<b>Based on</b>	<i><u>Spaceman of Bohemia</u></i> by <u>Jaroslav Kalfař</u>
<b>Produced by</b>	<u>Michael Parets</u> <u>Channing Tatum</u> <u>Reid Carolin</u> <u>Peter Kiernan</u> <u>Timothy Headington</u> <u>Lia Buman</u> <u>Max Silva</u>
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Adam Sandler</u> <u>Carey Mulligan</u> <u>Kunal Nayyar</u> <u>Lena Olin</u> <u>Isabella Rossellini</u> <u>Paul Dano</u>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<u>Jakob Ihre</u>
<b>Edited by</b>	<u>Scott Cummings</u> <u>Simon Smith</u>

Jakub arranges with technician and good friend of his, Peter, to get him to deliver a message to Lenka, asking for forgiveness for his neglect. Hanuš returns after this, revealing that he's dying due to a parasitic infection that wiped out his entire species.

The two finally arrive at the Chopra cloud, which is revealed to be a leftover of the beginning of the universe and where every moment of time exists simultaneously. Hanuš leaves to die in space, but Jakub goes after him. Within the cloud, Jakub comes to the conclusion that he only wishes to be with his wife. She appears to him in a forest scene as a rusalka. Hanuš passes away due to the infection.

Jakub is picked up by the South Korean space vessel. Jakub and Lenka talk again, coming to terms with their relationship.

## Cast

- Adam Sandler as Jakub Procházka
- Carey Mulligan as Lenka, Jakub's pregnant wife
- Paul Dano as the voice of Hanuš, an extraterrestrial spider
- Kunal Nayyar as Peter, a technician
- Isabella Rossellini as Commissioner Tuma, Jakub's commanding officer
- Lena Olin as Zdena, Lenka's mother

## Production

In October 2020, Netflix announced that the novel *Spaceman of Bohemia* would be adapted by screenwriter Colby Day into a feature film of the same name directed by Johan Renck and starring Adam Sandler.<sup>[4]</sup> In April 2021, Carey Mulligan was added to the cast, and the film was retitled *Spaceman*.<sup>[5]</sup> On April 19, 2021 it was announced that Paul Dano and Kunal Nayyar joined the cast.<sup>[6]</sup>

Principal photography began on April 19, 2021, in New York City, and wrapped on July 1, 2021, in the Czech Republic.<sup>[7][8]</sup> In the Czech Republic, filming took place in Prague and surrounding areas of the country's Central Bohemian Region.<sup>[9]</sup>

Max Richter composed the soundtrack. On February 22, 2024, the track *Don't Go Away*, a collaboration between Richter and the American band Sparks, which features in the film, was released to streaming services.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Release

*Spaceman* had its world premiere at the 74th Berlin International Film Festival in the *Berlinale Special* section on February 20, 2024.<sup>[11]</sup>

	<u>John Axelrad</u>
<b>Music by</b>	<u>Max Richter</u>
<b>Production companies</b>	<u>Tango Entertainment</u> <u>Free Association</u> <u>Sinestra</u>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Netflix</u>
<b>Release dates</b>	February 20, 2024 ( <u>Berlinale</u> ) February 23, 2024 ( <u>United States</u> )
<b>Running time</b>	107 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$40 million <sup>[2]</sup>

The film was released on March 1, 2024,<sup>[12]</sup> its originally planned release date in 2023 being delayed due to the impact of the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Reception

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On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 49% of 132 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.7/10. The website's consensus reads: "*Spaceman*'s poignant themes are partly brought to life by sensitive performances from a talented cast, but it fails to consistently engage with its most interesting ideas."<sup>[14]</sup> Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 55 out of 100, based on 35 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.<sup>[15]</sup>

In a positive review for RogerEbert.com, Robert Daniels praised Sandler's performance, writing, "I just love Sandler in this register. It's no longer a surprise when he pulls a well-defined and memorable dramatic performance."<sup>[16]</sup> In a mixed review for IGN, Siddhant Adlakha wrote: Its visual artistry—which goes to great lengths to establish mood, and uneasy emotional equilibrium—is swiftly laid low by its dependence on the literal, nullifying whatever abstractions its sci-fi premise might come to briefly represent.<sup>[17]</sup> Writing for The New York Times, Alissa Wilkinson negatively compared it to *Argyle* and *Madame Web* calling it "an awful movie, a very bad movie indeed" and saying that her favorite part was "imagining how many people are going to click on it when it pops up on their Netflix page and wonder whether that doorjamb they'd accidentally knocked into yesterday had in fact given them a concussion."

## Notes

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- a. The novel has Jakub choose the name Hanuš, telling the alien the apocryphal story that a clockmaker named Hanuš constructed the Prague astronomical clock.<sup>[3]</sup>

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## External links

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- *Spaceman* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/81301595>) on Netflix
  - *Spaceman* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11097384/>) at IMDb
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