

Journey to Bethlehem

Journey to Bethlehem is a 2023 American Christian musical film directed by Adam Anders in his feature-length directorial debut. Written by Anders and Peter Barsocchini, the film stars Milo Manheim and Fiona Palomo as Joseph and Mary, with Antonio Banderas as King Herod.

Premise

A young woman carrying an unimaginable responsibility. A young man torn between love and honor. A jealous king who will stop at nothing to keep his crown. This live-action Christmas musical celebration for the entire family, weaves classic Christmas melodies in to new pop songs in a music-infused retelling of the timeless story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus.^[5]

Cast

- Fiona Palomo as Mary
- Milo Manheim as Joseph
- Lecrae as Gabriel
- Joel Smallbone as Antipater
- Antonio Banderas as King Herod
- Antonio Cantos as Joachim
- Moriah Peters as Deborah
- Stephanie Gil as Rebekah
- Rizwan Manji as Caspar
- Geno Segers as Balthazar
- Omid Djalili as Melchior

Production

Journey to Bethlehem



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Adam Anders
Written by	Adam Anders <div>Peter Barsocchini</div>
Produced by	Adam Anders <div>Brandt AndersenSteve BarnettRyan BusseStephen MeinenAlan Powell</div>
Starring	Fiona Palomo <div>Milo ManheimLecraeJoel SmallboneAntonio Banderas</div>
Cinematography	Xavi Giménez
Edited by	Sabrina Plisco
Music by	Adam Anders <div>Nikki AndersPeer Åström</div>

The film and its cast was announced in March 2023, with newcomer Fiona Palomo as Mary, *Zombies* star Milo Manheim as Joseph, and Antonio Banderas as King Herod.^{[5][6]} Shooting locations included the Santa Bárbara Castle in Alicante.^[7]

Music

The following soundtrack was released on Nov 3, 2023.^[8] The deluxe version containing the original score was released on November 24, 2023.

Track listing

No.	Title	Length
1.	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"	0:18
2.	"Journey to Bethlehem"	1:47
3.	"Mary's Getting Married"	3:34
4.	"Good to be King"	2:57
5.	"Can We Make This Work"	2:46
6.	"Mother To A Savior and King"	3:54
7.	"The Ultimate Deception"	2:55
8.	"Three Wise Guys"	2:34
9.	"We Become We"	2:08
10.	"In My Blood"	2:54
11.	"The Nativity Song"	4:04
12.	"Brand New Life"	3:27
Total length:		33:24

Production company	<div>Affirm Films</div> <div>Monarch Media</div> <div>SPACE + ART Entertainment</div> <div>Night Light</div>
Distributed by	<div>Sony Pictures Releasing</div>
Release date	November 10, 2023 (United States)
Running time	98 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$6 million ^[2]
Box office	\$7.8 million ^{[3][4]}

Release

Journey to Bethlehem was theatrically released on November 10, 2023, by Sony Pictures and Affirm Films. A teaser trailer premiered in front of Affirm's *Big George Foreman*, before being released on YouTube.^[9]

The film was released on digital platforms on December 8, 2023, followed by a Blu-ray and DVD release on January 16, 2024.^[10]

Reception

Box office

In the United States and Canada, *Journey to Bethlehem* was released alongside *The Marvels*, and was projected to gross \$1–3 million from 1,823 theaters in its opening weekend.^[11] The film made \$1 million on its first day, including \$250,000 from Thursday night previews. It went on to debut to \$2.4 million, finishing in seventh.^[2]

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 75% of 24 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.3/10. The website's consensus reads: "*Journey to Bethlehem* adds a solidly traditional and surprisingly fun -- albeit occasionally treacly -- entry to the lengthy list of Nativity films."^[12] Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A−" on A+ to F scale, while those surveyed by PostTrak gave it an 81% positive score.^[2]

References

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3. "*Journey to Bethlehem* (2023)" ([https://www.the-numbers.com/movie/Journey-to-Bethlehem-\(2023\)](https://www.the-numbers.com/movie/Journey-to-Bethlehem-(2023))). *The Numbers*. Nash Information Services, LLC. Retrieved December 22, 2023.
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10. "*Journey to Bethlehem* (2023)" (<https://www.dvdsreleasedates.com/movies/11461/journey-to-bethlehem>). *www.dvdsreleasedates.com*. Retrieved January 10, 2024.
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12. "*Journey to Bethlehem*" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/journey_to_bethlehem). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Retrieved December 1, 2023.

External links

- Official website (<https://www.journeytobethlehemmovie.com/>)
 - *Journey to Bethlehem* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt26753154/>) at IMDb
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