

The Opening Act

The Opening Act is a 2020 American comedy film written and directed by Steve Byrne, in his directorial debut.^[1] It stars Jimmy O. Yang, Alex Moffat, Cedric the Entertainer, Neal Brennan, Bill Burr, Whitney Cummings, Jermaine Fowler, Ken Jeong, Russell Peters, and Debby Ryan.

It was released on October 16, 2020, by RLJE Films.

Premise

The film follows Will Chu whose true life passion is to become a stand-up comedian. When he is given the opportunity to emcee a comedy show, opening for his hero, Billy G. he must decide if he wants to continue the life he has set up or pursue his dream, the life of a comedian.^[2]

Cast

- Jimmy O. Yang as Will Chu
- Cedric the Entertainer as Billy G
- Whitney Cummings as Brooke
- Ken Jeong as Quinn
- Debby Ryan as Jen
- Alex Moffat as Chris Palmer
- Iliza Shlesinger as Val
- Neal Brennan as Chip
- Russell Peters as Randy
- Bill Burr as Barry
- Anjelah Johnson as Chrissy
- Tom Segura as Cop
- Roy Wood Jr. as Gary
- Felipe Esparza as Cabbie Steve
- Jermaine Fowler as Ricky
- Jackie Tohn as Megan

Production

In June 2018, it was announced Jimmy O. Yang, Neal Brennan, Russell Peters, Debby Ryan, Bill Burr, Anjelah Johnson, Tom Segura and Roy Wood Jr. had joined the cast of the film, with Steve Byrne, directing from a screenplay he wrote. Vince Vaughn and Peter Billingsley will serve as producers under their Wild

The Opening Act



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Steve Byrne
Written by	Steve Byrne
Produced by	Vince Vaughn <div>Peter Billingsley</div> <div>Sefton Fincham</div>
Starring	Jimmy O. Yang <div>Alex Moffat</div> <div>Cedric the Entertainer</div> <div>Neal Brennan</div> <div>Bill Burr</div> <div>Whitney Cummings</div> <div>Jermaine Fowler</div> <div>Ken Jeong</div> <div>Russell Peters</div> <div>Debby Ryan</div>
Cinematography	Eric Edwards
Edited by	Sandra Torres Granovsky

West Picture Show Productions banner.^[2] In July 2018, Cedric the Entertainer, Whitney Cummings, Ken Jeong, Jermaine Fowler, Iliza Shlesinger, Alex Moffat, and Felipe Esparza joined the cast of the film.^{[3][4]}

Filming

In June 2018, it was reported that principal photography for the film had already begun in Los Angeles.^[2]

Release

In September 2020, RLJE Films acquired distribution rights to the film and set it for a October 16, 2020, release.^[5]

Reception

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 82% based on 22 reviews, with an average rating of 7/10. The website's critics consensus reads: "With *The Opening Act*, writer-director Steve Byrne offers perceptive insights on the struggles faced by budding stand-up comedians -- and creative dreamers in general."^[6]

References

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- N'Duka, Amanda (September 1, 2020). "RLJE Films Books Vince Vaughn-Produced Comedy 'The Opening Act' With Jimmy O. Yang, Jermaine Fowler & Ken Jeong" (<https://deadline.com/2020/09/rje-films-vince-vaughn-the-opening-act-jimmy-o-yang-jermaine-fowler-ken-jeon-1203028478/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved September 1, 2020.

Music by	<u>Dave Kushner</u> <div><u>Jose Cancela</u></div>
Production companies	<u>Wild West Picture Show Productions</u> <div><u>Look to the Sky Films</u><div><u>Endeavor Content</u></div></div>
Distributed by	<u>RLJE Films</u>
Release date	October 16, 2020
Country	United States
Language	English

6. "[The Opening Act](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_opening_act)" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_opening_act). *Rotten Tomatoes*. *Fandango*. Retrieved October 30, 2021.

External links

- *The Opening Act* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8633748/>) at *IMDb*
 - *The Opening Act* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_opening_act) at *Rotten Tomatoes*
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