

Totally Killer is a 2023 American slasher comedy film directed by Nahnatchka Khan from a screenplay by David Matalon, Sasha Perl-Raver, and Jen D'Angelo, and a screen story by Matalon and Perl-Raver.^[3] Produced by Jason Blum, under his Blumhouse Television banner, and Adam Hendricks and Greg Gilreath under their Divide/Conquer banner, it stars Kiernan Shipka, Olivia Holt, and Julie Bowen. The story follows Jamie (Shipka) who, after her mother is murdered by the same Sweet 16 Killer who went on a murder spree 35 years earlier, travels back in time to 1987, where she pairs up with her mother to catch the killer during his original spree and return to her timeline before she is trapped in the past forever.

Totally Killer premiered at Fantastic Fest on September 28, 2023, and was released on Amazon Prime Video on October 6, 2023.

Plot

In the small town of Vernon, on October 27, 29, and 31, 1987, three teenage girls named Tiffany Clark, Marisa Song, and Heather Hernandez were killed by the Sweet 16 Killer, each having been stabbed 16 times on the nights of their 16th birthdays.

In the present day, teenager Jamie Hughes goes to a concert with her friend Amelia on Halloween night while her mother, Pam, stays at home. Pam used to be friends with the three victims of the Sweet 16 Killer, and while handing out candy, she is attacked by the killer, who stabs her to death. As Jamie grieves Pam's death, she helps Amelia put the finishing touches on a time machine she created for a school project and is approached by reporter Chris Dubasage, who tells her that Pam received a note from the killer that she kept secret: "You're next, one day."

At night, Jamie is chased by the killer and hides in the time machine, which activates and sends her back to 1987. She realizes that if she stops the Sweet 16 Killer's original spree, she can save Pam's life. Jamie, masquerading as an exchange student from Canada, discovers that Pam and her friends were despised by everyone in the town as they were bullies. Jamie

Totally Killer



Release poster

Directed by	Nahnatchka Khan
Screenplay by	David Matalon <div></div> Sasha Perl-Raver <div></div> Jen D'Angelo
Story by	David Matalon <div></div> Sasha Perl-Raver
Produced by	Jason Blum <div></div> Adam Hendricks <div></div> Greg Gilreath
Starring	Kiernan Shipka <div></div> Olivia Holt <div></div> Charlie Gillespie <div></div> Lochlyn Munro <div></div> Troy L. Johnson <div></div> Liana Liberato <div></div> Kelcey Mawema <div></div> Stephi Chin Salvo <div></div> Anna Diaz <div></div> Ella Choi

manages to convince Amelia's mother, Lauren, and a teenager named Doug, her school's present-day principal, to help her. Although Jamie manages to infiltrate a party hosted by Tiffany, she is unable to stop her murder. Using the trauma to bond with Pam, she infiltrates their group and convinces them to leave for the weekend, although this backfires; they end up at the cabin where Marisa was killed in the original timeline. As Jamie works to protect Marisa, Heather is murdered instead, changing the timeline.

On Halloween night, the group reconvenes at the amusement park while Lauren works on turning a popular attraction into a makeshift time machine for Jamie to travel forward. In the present, Chris helps Amelia fix their time machine as they realize the timeline is changing. The group lures the Sweet 16 Killer into a haunted house where he attacks them, only to be impaled by Kara, the future town sheriff, with a scythe. Doug is revealed as the killer, seeking revenge on the group for the death of his girlfriend Trish. Marisa reveals that she, Tiffany, and Heather got Trish drunk one night and let her drive home, with her dying in an accident; Pam, however, was not present. As Jamie wonders why Pam received the note, a second killer appears and slits Marisa's throat.

The second killer chases after Jamie, killing Chris' father along the way. The two face off in the new time machine as it activates and the killer is revealed to be Chris from the present. Doug was the original killer, but Chris murdered Pam and forged the note in order to generate more content for his podcast. The two fight and Jamie kicks him into the spinning machine, killing him. Upon returning to the present day, she finds that Pam is still alive. However, Jamie's intervention in the past has resulted in an alternate future in which her parents got together earlier than they had originally. Consequently, she now has an older brother named Jamie and her name is now Colette.

	Jeremy Monn-Djasgnar Nathaniel Appiah Jonathan Potts <u>Randall Park</u> <u>Julie Bowen</u>
Cinematography	Judd Overton
Edited by	Jeremy Cohen
Music by	<u>Michael Andrews</u> ^[1]
Production companies	<u>Amazon MGM Studios</u> <u>Blumhouse Television</u> <u>Divide/Conquer</u>
Distributed by	<u>Amazon Prime Video</u>
Release dates	September 28, 2023 (<u>Fantastic Fest</u>) October 6, 2023 (United States)
Running time	106 minutes ^[2]
Country	United States
Language	English

Cast

- Kiernan Shipka as Jamie Hughes / Colette
- Olivia Holt as teen Pam Miller
 - Julie Bowen as adult Pam Hughes (née Miller)
- Charlie Gillespie as teen Blake Hughes
 - Lochlyn Munro as adult Blake Hughes
- Troy L. Johnson as a teen Lauren Creston
 - Kimberly Huie as adult Lauren Creston
- Liana Liberato as Tiffany Clark
- Kelcey Mawema as Amelia Creston
- Stephi Chin-Salvo as Marisa Song
- Anna Diaz as Heather Hernandez

- Ella Choi as teen Kara Lim
 - Patti Kim as adult Kara Lim
- Jeremy Monn-Djasgnar as teen Randy Finkle
 - [Tommy Europe](#) as adult Randy Finkle
- Nathaniel Appiah as teen Doug Summers
 - [Conrad Coates](#) as adult Doug Summers
- Nicholas Lloyd as teen Chris Dubusage
 - Jonathan Potts as adult Chris Dubusage
- [Randall Park](#) as Sheriff Dennis Lim
- Zach Gibson as teen Lurch
 - [Brendan O'Brien](#) as adult Lurch
- [Andy Thompson](#) as Mr. Parr

Production

In May 2022, [Amazon Studios](#) and [Blumhouse Television](#) announced *Totally Killer* which is being directed by [Nahnatchka Khan](#) and written by Jen D'Angelo and David Matalon and Sasha Perl-Raver. [Kiernan Shipka](#), [Olivia Holt](#), [Julie Bowen](#), and [Randall Park](#) were cast in leading roles.^[4] It is produced by [Jason Blum](#), under his [Blumhouse Television](#) banner, and Adam Hendricks and Greg Gilreath under their [Divide/Conquer](#) banner.^[5]

Principal photography took place from May 12 to June 23, 2022, in [Vancouver](#), [British Columbia](#).^[6]

Release

Totally Killer premiered at [Fantastic Fest](#) on September 28, 2023.^[7] It was released on [Amazon Prime Video](#) on October 6, 2023.^[8]

Reception

On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 87% of 104 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.5/10. The website's consensus reads: "*Totally Killer* may not take full advantage of its promising conceit, but this time-traveling horror/sci-fi mashup is still enjoyable overall."^[9] [Metacritic](#), which uses a [weighted average](#), assigned the film a score of 62 out of 100, based on 17 critics, indicating "generally favorable" reviews.^[10]

[Christy Lemire](#), writing for [RogerEbert.com](#), gave the film 3 out of 4 stars. She called it "a fish-out-of-water comedy filled with amusing one-liners combined with time-travel sci-fi that actually kinda makes sense."^[11] Michael Nordine of [Variety](#) wrote, "In trying to break the tension with humor, too many horror movies undercut their emotional stakes by instead being glib, a pitfall *Totally Killer* mostly manages to avoid."^[12] *The A.V. Club's* Matthew Jackson gave it a B grade, saying the film was "not necessarily a new slasher classic, but it is the kind of film horror devotees can happily kick back and enjoy on a cozy Friday night in October, and that's a particular achievement all its own."^[13]

Tatat Bunnag of the [Bangkok Post](#) said that director Nahnatchka Khan "successfully captures the vibrant atmosphere and fluorescent colours of the 80s, while also deftly highlighting the problematic attitudes and behaviours of that era when viewed through today's lens."^[14] *The Times of India's* Abhishek Srivastava

gave the film 3 out of 5 stars, calling it "akin to a guilty pleasure; while it may easily be classified as a B-grade slasher film on paper, once you see the final product on the screen, you somehow find yourself enjoying it."^[15]

Benjamin Lee of *The Guardian* gave the film 2 out of 5 stars, writing, "Its time-travel slasher plot cribs elements from all and relies on enthusiasm over invention to keep us entertained, a gamble that only works in brief bursts."^[16] *The New York Times*'s Brandon Yu wrote, "Its '80s throwback setting is short on color and life, and its slasher elements lack the choreographic or cinematic oomph to induce any terror, or even tension."^[17] Dominic Baez of *The Seattle Times* gave it 1.5 out of 4 stars, saying it "wants to make a joke at its source material's expense, but all it ever accomplishes is making you want to watch those classics instead."^[18]

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External links

- *Totally Killer* (<https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B0CG7JCWP4>) at Amazon Prime Video
- *Totally Killer* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11426232/>) at IMDb

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