

We Have a Ghost

We Have a Ghost is 2023 American supernatural horror comedy film written and directed by Christopher Landon, based on the 2017 short story "Ernest" by Geoff Manaugh. It stars David Harbour, Jahi Winston, Tig Notaro, Jennifer Coolidge, and Anthony Mackie. It was released on February 24, 2023, by Netflix^[3] and received mixed reviews from film critics.

Plot

The Presleys purchase a cheap and abandoned house. Kevin, the youngest, records a video of a ghost in the attic. The ghost is mute and does not remember his past life. The ghost's shirt says 'Ernest,' so Kevin calls him Ernest. Kevin is resolved to help Ernest discover his past, while his father Frank publishes the video of Ernest on YouTube to become famous.

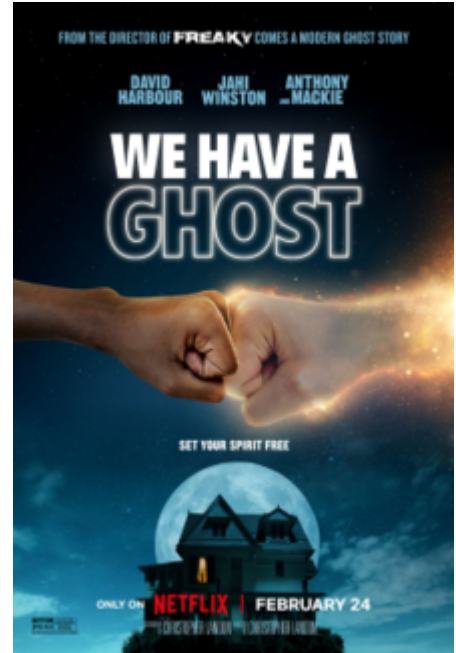
At high school Kevin meets his neighbor Joy. They discover a photo of Ernest posing with an Ernest S., the previous house owner. Ernest has flashbacks of his daughter.

Horror writer Dr. Leslie Monroe, who previously ran a CIA program for capturing ghosts, breaks into the Presley home to capture Ernest alongside several FBI agents, but Kevin, Joy and Ernest have already left to find Ernest S. in Oklahoma. Ernest S. identifies the ghost as Randy. He claims that after Randy's wife died, Randy left his daughter June with Ernest S. and disappeared. The CIA arrive in Oklahoma and capture Randy.

Randy has a flashback of being killed by Ernest S., and Dr. Monroe frees Randy. Meanwhile, Ernest S. arrives at the house to kill Kevin, believing Kevin is avenging Randy's murder. Ernest S. reveals that his wife was infertile and they murdered Randy to take June for their own. Ernest S. chases Kevin to the attic, where Frank tackles Ernest S. out the window. Kevin and Frank reunite Randy with June, and Randy moves on to the afterlife after a heartwarming goodbye with Kevin.

Kevin and Joy are now a couple and the Presleys are preparing to move to a different house 5 miles away. Before leaving, Kevin and Joy are talking in the attic and he asks if she thinks

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Official release poster

Directed by	<u>Christopher Landon</u>
Screenplay by	Christopher Landon
Based on	"Ernest" by Geoff Manaugh
Produced by	Marty Bowen Dan Halsted
Starring	<u>David Harbour</u> <u>Jahi Winston</u> <u>Anthony Mackie</u>
Cinematography	Marc Spicer
Edited by	Ben Baudhuin
Music by	<u>Bear McCreary</u> ^[1]
Production companies	<u>Temple Hill</u> <u>Entertainment</u> Halsted Pictures
Distributed by	<u>Netflix</u>
Release date	February 24, 2023

Randy can still see them from wherever he is. After Kevin leaves the attic, a light flickers in the attic, possibly Randy's way of saying he can and good-bye/thank you.

Running time	127 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$51 million ^[2]

Cast

- Anthony Mackie as Frank Presley
- David Harbour as Ernest
- Jahi Winston as Kevin Presley
- Tig Notaro as Dr. Leslie Monroe
- Erica Ash as Melanie Presley
- Jennifer Coolidge as Judy Romano
- Faith Ford as Barbara Mangold
- Niles Fitch as Fulton Presley
- Isabella Russo as Joy Yoshino
- Scott A Martin as Sheriff Brown
- Steve Coulter as Deputy Director Arnold Schipley
- Jo-Ann Robinson as June
- Tom Bower as Ernest Scheller

In addition, Bob the Drag Queen and Dr. Phil McGraw have cameo appearances as themselves.^{[4][5]}

Production

Production of *We Have a Ghost* was announced in July 2021, with Christopher Landon writing and directing, and Geoff Manaugh, on whose short story it was based, as executive producer. The cast included Anthony Mackie, David Harbour, Jahi Winston, Tig Notaro, Jennifer Coolidge, Erica Ash, Niles Fitch, Isabella Russo, Faith Ford and Steve Coulter.^[6] Harbour was Landon's first choice for the role of Ernest; as he told *Entertainment Weekly*: "I knew that the role was incredibly challenging because there's no dialog, so he just has to do so much with so little. We had a meeting, and he told me he was terrified of doing it, which I thought was great because it shows that he was feeling vulnerable and intrigued and excited. By the end of our meeting, I think we both felt really strongly that it was a good match".^[7]

Principal photography began in August 2021 in Donaldsonville and New Orleans.^[8] A few weeks into filming, production was halted because of the landfall of Hurricane Ida in Louisiana. Production resumed October to finish filming scenes in the Ascension Parish west bank city.^{[9][10]}

Reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 42% of 73 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.1/10. The website's consensus reads: "*We Have a Ghost* has a fun concept and a talented cast; unfortunately, this spookily uneven '80s pastiche also has very little idea of what to do with them."^[11] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 53 out of 100, based on 23 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[12]

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External links

- *We Have a Ghost* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/80230619>) on Netflix
 - *We Have a Ghost* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7798604/>) at IMDb
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