

# The Ultimate Playlist of Noise

*The Ultimate Playlist of Noise* is a 2021 American romantic comedy-drama film directed by Bennett Lasseter and written by Mitchell Winkie. The film stars Kean Johnson and Madeline Brewer.

*The Ultimate Playlist of Noise* was released in the United States on January 15, 2021, by Hulu. It received mixed reviews from critics, who praised the performances of Johnson and Brewer, as well as their chemistry together, but criticized the film's predictability and overreliance on clichés.

## Plot

Marcus Lund is a high school senior who is very music and sound obsessed. As a child, his older brother Alex saved him from their burning home, perishing in the process.

Marcus listens to all of the music Alex left behind. At a music gig, he falls for the singer who opens the show, but she takes off before he can introduce himself. Simultaneously he has a seizure.

After testing, Marcus is told he has a brain tumor requiring surgery that will render him deaf. Depressed at the idea that he soon won't be able to hear beloved sound, he compiles a playlist of 50 sounds he wants to record.

After giving a presentation of his plan to embark on a cross-country road trip to record the playlist, his mother rejects his plan. Marcus takes off in the car. A short time later, Wendy jumps in front of the car, and he knocks her off her feet. She jumps in, urging him to hurry.

Wendy's angry ex follows close behind on his motorcycle, trying to get the guitar from her. He breaks two windows and half jumps through the passenger window before Marcus drives through the red light, and Wendy pushes him out.

At a diner, Marcus and Wendy introduce themselves, he tells her saw her opener at the gig, telling her one day she'll make it. He shows her his 50 item playlist, and she shows him her limited edition 1959 Starling Gold Fender Stratocaster.

## *The Ultimate Playlist of Noise*



Official release poster

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Directed by</b>    | Bennett Lasseter  |
| <b>Written by</b>     | Mitchell Winkie   |
| <b>Produced by</b>    | Ryan Bennett<br><u>Jeremy Garelick</u><br>Michael Glassman<br><u>Mickey Liddell</u><br>Will Phelps<br>Marc Porterfield<br>Michael Schade<br>Pete Shilaimon<br>Nicole Stojkovich       |
| <b>Starring</b>       | <u>Kean Johnson</u><br><u>Madeline Brewer</u><br><u>Rya Kihlstedt</u><br><u>Ian Gomez</u><br><u>Bonnie Hunt</u><br><u>Emily Skeggs</u><br><u>Ariela Barer</u><br><u>Oliver Cooper</u> |
| <b>Cinematography</b> | Vincent Patin   |

On their way to NYC, they record many of the items on the list, including a thunder storm, a multitude of wind chimes, fireworks, a perfect strike in bowling...

Arriving in NYC, they go to Wendy's aunt's place. Wendy heads off to her audition, while Marcus heads to the recording studio. There, he discovers that the fire had actually been started by Alex, that he had committed suicide.

Marcus confirms with his mother what happened at the fire then, returning to Wendy's aunt's he finds out Wendy headed for Penn Station. There, he discovers that she lied, there was no audition, she was there to sell the guitar.

Marcus leaves, getting someone to buy him liquor. He empties his anti-seizure medication bottles randomly on the street. As he falls, his recording equipment ends up getting smashed by a passing car. As he's taken to the hospital, Wendy finds the pills and the smashed tape recorder.

When Marcus' mother catches up with him in the hospital, he finds out that Alex had been bipolar. She drives him back home. Back in New York, Wendy struggles to get the tape recorder fixed, finally getting it done at Alex's friend's studio.

Back home, Marcus awaits the operation, a box with the repaired tape recorder and his brother's demo arrive from Wendy. She records her well wishes to him. The day of the operation comes and Marcus cherishes every last sound. Sending out his 'Ultimate Playlist of Noise' to all his contacts, he says he's now learning to appreciate the world with his other senses.

## Cast

---

- [Kean Johnson](#) as Marcus Lund
- [Madeline Brewer](#) as Wendy
- [Rya Kihlstedt](#) as Alyssa
- [Ian Gomez](#) as Dominic
- [Bonnie Hunt](#) as Dr. Lubinsky
- [Emily Skeggs](#) as Laura
- [Ariela Barer](#) as Sarah
- [Oliver Cooper](#) as Dennis
- [Jake Weary](#) as Benjie
- [Carol Mansell](#) as Aunt Delilah
- [Carrie Louise Putrello](#) as Ms. Richardson
- [Gordon Winarick](#) as Alex

## Production

---

On November 1, 2019, it was announced that [Kean Johnson](#) and [Madeline Brewer](#) were cast as the leads of the film, with Bennett Lasseter directing from a screenplay by Mitchell Winkie, with [LD Entertainment](#) and [American High](#) producing, and [Hulu](#) distributing.<sup>[1]</sup> Later that month, on November 22, it was reported

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Edited by</b>            | Robin Gonsalves   |
| <b>Music by</b>             | Erick Schroder  |
| <b>Production companies</b> | <a href="#">LD Entertainment</a><br><a href="#">American High</a> |
| <b>Distributed by</b>       | <a href="#">Hulu</a>  |
| <b>Release date</b>         | January 15, 2021  |
| <b>Running time</b>         | 99 minutes  |
| <b>Country</b>              | United States   |
| <b>Language</b>             | English   |

that Emily Skeggs, Oliver Cooper, Ariela Barer, Jake Weary, and Gordon Winarick would also be joining the cast.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Filming

Principal photography occurred in late 2019 and wrapped in mid-December. The film was shot in downtown Syracuse, New York, which served as a stand in for New York City.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Release

---

*The Ultimate Playlist of Noise* was digitally released by Hulu on January 15, 2021.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Critical response

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds a 43% rating based on 14 reviews.<sup>[5]</sup>

In a negative review, Adam Graham of The Detroit News wrote that the film is, “is a teen romance with no new material to offer.”<sup>[6]</sup> Allen Adams of The Maine Edge opined that the film, “is well-intentioned and competently-made, but it simply can’t hit all the notes to which it aspires.”<sup>[7]</sup>

Critics also noted the film's similarities to *Sound of Metal*, a film released less than two months before *The Ultimate Playlist of Noise* in which a drummer played by Riz Ahmed struggles to adapt to the sudden loss of his hearing.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

## References

---

1. N'Duka, Amanda (November 1, 2019). "'Alita: Battle Angel's Kean Johnson, Madeline Brewer To Star In 'The Ultimate Playlist of Noise' Film From Hulu" (<https://deadline.com/2019/11/kean-johnson-madeline-brewer-the-ultimate-playlist-of-noise-hulu-1202774881/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved December 25, 2021.
2. N'Duka, Amanda (November 22, 2019). "'The Ultimate Playlist Of Noise': Emily Skeggs, Ariela Barer, Oliver Cooper & More Board Hulu Movie" (<https://deadline.com/2019/11/the-ultimate-playlist-of-noise-emily-skeggs-oliver-cooper-ariela-barer-hulu-movie-1202792981/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved December 25, 2021.
3. "Syracuse movie debuts on Hulu Friday, 'The Ultimate Playlist of Noise'" (<https://cnycentral.com/news/local/syracuse-movie-airs-on-hulu-friday>). *CNY Central*. January 15, 2021. Retrieved December 25, 2021.
4. Johnny, Loftus (January 15, 2021). "Stream It Or Skip It: 'The Ultimate Playlist of Noise' on Hulu, Where A Troubled Teen Takes To The Road In Search Of Recorded Sound" (<https://decider.com/2021/01/15/ultimate-playlist-of-noise-hulu-review-stream-it-or-skip-it/>). *Decider*. Retrieved December 25, 2021.
5. "The Ultimate Playlist of Noise (2021) – Rotten Tomatoes" ([https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the\\_ultimate\\_playlist\\_of\\_noise](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_ultimate_playlist_of_noise)). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Retrieved December 25, 2021.
6. Graham, Adam (January 14, 2021). "Review: Sap-filled 'Ultimate Playlist of Noise' in love with itself" (<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/entertainment/movies/2021/01/14/review-sap-filled-ultimate-playlist-noise-love-itself/6655998002/>). *The Detroit News*. Retrieved December 25, 2021.
7. Adams, Allen (January 18, 2021). "'The Ultimate Playlist of Noise' can't hit all the notes" (<https://www.themaineedge.com/style/the-ultimate-playlist-of-noise-cant-hit-all-the-notes>). *The*

*Maine Edge*. Retrieved December 25, 2021.

8. Eisenberg, Eric (January 13, 2021). "Hulu's The Ultimate Playlist Of Noise Review: A Standard Coming Of Age Drama With Cute, Emotional Moments" (<https://www.cinemablend.com/reviews/2561368/hulus-the-ultimate-playlist-of-noise-review-a-standard-coming-of-age-drama-with-cute-emotional-moments>). *CinemaBlend*. Retrieved December 25, 2021.

## External links

---

- *The Ultimate Playlist of Noise* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11268742/>) at IMDb
- 

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The\\_Ultimate\\_Playlist\\_of\\_Noise&oldid=1224730929](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Ultimate_Playlist_of_Noise&oldid=1224730929)"

▪