

The Magician's Elephant (film)

The Magician's Elephant is a 2023 animated fantasy adventure film directed by Wendy Rogers, written by Martin Hynes and produced by Julia Pistor. Based on the 2009 novel of the same name by Kate DiCamillo, the film features the voices of Noah Jupe, Mandy Patinkin, Natasia Demetriou, Benedict Wong, Miranda Richardson and Aasif Mandvi. Animated by Animal Logic, the film was distributed by Netflix and released on March 17, 2023.

Premise

Peter is searching for his long-lost sister Adele. A fortune teller tells him to find a magician's elephant.^[2]

Voice cast

- Noah Jupe as Peter, an orphan being raised by his veteran guardian, Vilna
- Mandy Patinkin as Vilna Lutz, a former soldier who is the guardian of Peter
- Brian Tyree Henry as Leo Matienne, Peter's downstairs neighbour, husband of Gloria and the captain of the guards
- Natasia Demetriou as The Fortune Teller, the narrator of the film^[3]
- Sian Clifford as Gloria Matienne, Peter's downstairs neighbour and wife of Leo
- Benedict Wong as The Magician
- Miranda Richardson as Madam LaVaughn
- Kirby Howell-Baptiste as The Countess
- Aasif Mandvi as The King
- Pixie Davies as Adele, Peter's long lost sister
- Dawn French as Sister Marie^[3]

Production

On August 17, 2009, 20th Century Fox announced that Martin Hynes would adapt a novel titled *The Magician's Elephant*, which was yet to be released, into a feature film.^[4] In that same announcement, former Nickelodeon Movies producer Julia Pistor was also confirmed as the producer of the film.^[5] On December 15, 2020, after languishing into development hell for a number of

The Magician's Elephant



Official release poster

Directed by	Wendy Rogers
Screenplay by	Martin Hynes
Based on	<i>The Magician's Elephant</i> <div>by Kate DiCamillo</div>
Produced by	Julia Pistor
Starring	<div> <div>Noah Jupe</div> <div>Mandy Patinkin</div> <div>Brian Tyree Henry</div> <div>Natasia Demetriou</div> <div>Sian Clifford</div> <div>Benedict Wong</div> <div>Miranda Richardson</div> <div>Kirby Howell-Baptiste</div> <div>Aasif Mandvi</div> <div>Pixie Davies</div> <div>Dawn French</div> </div>
Edited by	Robert Fisher Jr.

years, it was announced that Pistor had taken the property to Netflix who acquired the film rights to the book and screenplay to develop the animated feature film, with Animal Logic in Sydney working on the animation. In the same announcement, Noah Jupe, Benedict Wong, Pixie Davies, Sian Clifford, Brian Tyree Henry, Mandy Patinkin, Natasia Demetriou, Aasif Mandvi, Miranda Richardson, and Kirby Howell-Baptiste were all cast to star in the film.^[6]

Music by	<u>Mark Mothersbaugh</u>
Production company	Pistor Productions
Distributed by	<u>Netflix</u>
Release date	March 17, 2023
Running time	100 minutes ^[1]
Countries	United States Australia
Language	English

Release

The Magician's Elephant was released on March 17, 2023.^[7]

Reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 67% of 37 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.5/10. The website's consensus reads: "Always well-intentioned and once-in-a-blue-moon compelling, *The Magician's Elephant* is an adaptation with a message about believing in yourself unveiled with more whimsy than magic."^[8] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 53 out of 100, based on seven critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[9]

References

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External links

- *The Magician's Elephant* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/80234520>) on Netflix
 - *The Magician's Elephant* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2560092/>) at IMDb
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