

***Poolman*** is a 2023 American comedy mystery film directed, produced, co-written by and starring Chris Pine in his directorial debut. It also stars Annette Bening, DeWanda Wise, Stephen Tobolowsky, Clancy Brown, John Ortiz, Ray Wise, Juliet Mills, Ariana DeBose, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Danny DeVito.

The film premiered at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival. It was released in the United States on May 10, 2024. The film received negative reviews from critics.

## Plot

Darren Barrenman is a pool cleaner in Los Angeles, living in an old apartment complex (*The Tahitian Tiki*) owned by parental figures Jack and Diane. He is an advocate, inspired by Erin Brockovich, constantly pitching his local council on potential improvements, to the disdain of councillor Stephen Toronkowski.<sup>[4]</sup>

Femme fatale June Del Rey reveals a real-estate and water plot by Toronkowski that requires Barrenman's detective skills.

Barrenman draws on his eclectic group of friends and fellow residents to track Toronkowski and photograph his misdeeds.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Cast

- Chris Pine as Darren Barrenman
- Annette Bening as Diane Espilnade
- DeWanda Wise as June Del Ray
- Stephen Tobolowsky as Stephen Toronkowski / Blanche
- Clancy Brown as Theodore Hollandaise
- John Ortiz as Wayne / Dirk Pfumpter
- Ray Wise as William Van Patterson
- Juliet Mills as Mrs. Patterson
- Ariana DeBose as April Dudley
- Jennifer Jason Leigh as Susan Kerkovich

***Poolman***



Theatrical release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<u>Chris Pine</u>
<b>Written by</b>	<u>Chris Pine</u> <u>Ian Gotler</u>
<b>Produced by</b>	<u>Stacey Sher</u> <u>Patty Jenkins</u> <u>Chris Pine</u> <u>Ian Gotler</u>
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Chris Pine</u> <u>Annette Bening</u> <u>DeWanda Wise</u> <u>Stephen Tobolowsky</u> <u>Clancy Brown</u> <u>John Ortiz</u> <u>Ray Wise</u> <u>Juliet Mills</u> <u>Ariana DeBose</u> <u>Jennifer Jason Leigh</u> <u>Danny DeVito</u>

- Danny DeVito as Jack Denisoff

## Production

It was announced in February 2022 that Chris Pine was set to make his directorial debut on the film, which he co-wrote the screenplay for with Ian Gotler. Pine will also star in the film alongside Annette Bening and Danny DeVito.<sup>[6][7]</sup> Pine came up with the idea for the film during a conversation with director Patty Jenkins, who will serve as a producer.<sup>[8]</sup> In May, Ariana DeBose and Jennifer Jason Leigh were added to the cast, with Matthew Jensen set as cinematographer.<sup>[9]</sup> In July, DeWanda Wise joined the cast.<sup>[10]</sup>

Filming began in June 2022 in Los Angeles.<sup>[11]</sup> The film moved to post-production by November 2022, with the distribution rights being sold by AGC International to Paramount Pictures, StudioCanal, Lionsgate Films and other companies for multiple countries outside the United States.<sup>[12]</sup> The rights for the UK and Ireland were sold to Signature Entertainment.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Release

*Poolman*'s world premiere took place at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival on September 11, 2023.<sup>[13][14]</sup> In December 2023, Vertical Entertainment acquired distribution rights to the film.<sup>[15]</sup>

The film was released in the United States on May 10, 2024.<sup>[16]</sup>

## Reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 21% of 47 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 3.0/10.<sup>[17]</sup> Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 32 out of 100, based on 13 critics, indicating "generally unfavorable" reviews.<sup>[18]</sup>

Michael Rechtshaffen, writing for *The Hollywood Reporter*, called the film a "shrill misfire" and predicted that it would "likely have a tough time finding a home".<sup>[19]</sup> Siddhant Adlakha from IndieWire opined that the film was "disastrous" and "[i]t's only 100 minutes long, but upward of 99 of those minutes are likely to be spent in silent boredom, if not irritated disbelief at being subjected to such guileless, artless nonsense".<sup>[20]</sup>

## References

- ↑ "*Poolman* (15)" (<https://www.bbfc.co.uk/release/poolman-q29sbgvjdgldvbjpwwc0xmde3mjgy>). *BBFC*. March 10, 2024. Retrieved April 5, 2024.
- ↑ "*Poolman*" (<https://www.boxofficemojo.com/title/tt18077924/>). *Box Office Mojo*. *IMDb*. Retrieved May 17, 2024.

<b>Cinematography</b>	<u>Matthew Jensen</u>
<b>Edited by</b>	<u>Stacey Schroeder</u>
<b>Music by</b>	<u>Andrew Bird</u>
<b>Production companies</b>	<u>AGC Studios</u> <div><u>Shiny Penny</u></div> <div><u>Wicious Pictures</u></div> <div><u>CatchLight Studios</u></div> <div><u>Barry Linen Motion Pictures</u></div>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Vertical Entertainment</u>
<b>Release dates</b>	September 11, 2023 <span>(TIFF)</span> <div>May 10, 2024 <span>(United States)</span></div>
<b>Running time</b>	100 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Box office</b>	\$153,325 <sup>[2][3]</sup>

3. "*Poolman*" ([https://www.the-numbers.com/movie/Poolman-\(2024\)](https://www.the-numbers.com/movie/Poolman-(2024))). *The Numbers*. Nash Information Services, LLC. Retrieved May 12, 2024.
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5. <https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/poolman-film-review-2024>
6. Wiseman, Andreas (February 8, 2022). "AGC Launches Chris Pine's Directorial Debut *Poolman* With Patty Jenkins & Stacey Sher Producing; Pine Leads Cast With Annette Bening & Danny DeVito – EFM Hot Pic" (<https://deadline.com/2022/02/chris-pine-star-trek-directorial-debut-poolman-danny-devito-patty-jenkins-1234928624/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved February 8, 2022.
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## External links

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- *Poolman* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt18077924/>) at IMDb
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