

Earth Mama

Earth Mama is a 2023 drama film directed and written by Savanah Leaf, based on the short film *The Heart Still Hums* by Leaf and Taylor Russell. It was released theatrically in the United States on July 7, 2023, by A24 and in the United Kingdom on December 8, 2023, by We Are Parable. It won the Outstanding British Debut award at the 2024 BAFTAs and was named one of the top 10 independent films of 2023 by the National Board of Review.

Premise

A pregnant single mother, with two children in foster care, embraces her Bay Area community as she fights to reclaim her family.

Cast

- Tia Nomore as Gia^[8]
- Erika Alexander as Miss Carmen^[8]
- Keta Price as Mel^[8]
- Doechii as Trina^[8]
- Sharon Duncan-Brewster as Monica^[8]
- Bokeem Woodbine as Paul^[8]
- Olivia Luccardi as Alexis^[8]
- Dominic Fike as Miles^[8]

Release

Earth Mama had its world premiere at the <u>2023 Sundance Film Festival</u> on January 20, 2023. The film was released in the United States by A24 on July 7, 2023.

Reception

On the <u>review aggregator</u> website <u>Rotten Tomatoes</u>, 96% of 54 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 7.7/10. The website's consensus reads: "Heavy yet hopeful, *Earth Mama* is a moving look at single motherhood on the margins that features outstanding work from writer-director Savanah

Earth Mama



Theatrical release poster

| Directed by | Savanah Leaf | | |
|-------------|--|--|--|
| Written by | Savanah Leaf | | |
| Based on | The Heart Still Hums by Savanah Leaf | | |
| | and <u>Taylor Russell</u> | | |
| Produced by | Cody Ryder | | |
| | Shirley O'Connor | | |
| | Medb Riordan | | |
| | Sam Bisbee | | |
| | Savanah Leaf | | |
| Starring | Tia Nomore | | |
| | Erika Alexander | | |
| | Doechii | | |
| | Sharon Duncan- | | |

Brewster

Keta Price

Olivia Luccardi

Dominic Fike

Leaf and star Tia Nomore." Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 84 out of 100, based on 24 critics, indicating "universal acclaim". [10]

Ronda Racha Penrice of $\underline{\mathit{TheWrap}}$ praised the film, noting first-time director Savanah Leaf's "ability to transmit great emotional depth in small snapshots." Lovia Gyarkye of $\underline{\mathit{The Hollywood}}$

| | Dokoom | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| | Bokeem | | |
| | Woodbine | | |
| Cinematography | Jody Lee Lipes | | |
| Edited by | George Cragg | | |
| Music by | Kelsey Lu | | |
| Production companies | A24 | | |
| | Film4 | | |
| | Academy Films | | |
| | Park Pictures | | |
| Distributed by | A24 (United | | |
| | States) | | |
| | We Are Parable ^[1] | | |
| | (United Kingdom) | | |
| Release dates | January 20, 2023 | | |
| | (Sundance) | | |
| | July 7, 2023 | | |
| | (United States) | | |
| | December 8, 2023 | | |
| | (United Kingdom) | | |
| Running time | 101 minutes ^[2] | | |
| Countries | United States | | |
| | United Kingdom ^[3] | | |
| Language | English | | |

<u>Reporter</u> described it as "a quiet film, but it never once loosens its grip," and that it "operates on an intimate register, a level that speaks to its characters instead of about them." [12]

Accolades

| Award | Date of ceremony | Category | Recipient(s) | Result | Ref. |
|--|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|------|
| British Academy Film Awards | February 18, 2024 | Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer | Savanah Leaf, Shirley O'Connor, Medb Riordan | Won | [13] |
| Independent | | Best Lead Performance | Tia Nomore | Nominated | [14] |
| | <u>December</u> 3, 2023 | Best Casting | Salome Oggenfuss, Geraldine Barón, and Abby Harri | Nominated | |
| | | Douglas Hickox Award (Best Debut Director) | Savanah Leaf | Won | |
| Independent Spirit Awards | February 25, 2024 | Best First Feature | Savanah Leaf | Nominated | [15] |
| | | Best Breakthrough Performance | Tia Nomore | Nominated | |
| National Board of Review | December 6, 2023 | Top Ten Independent Films | Earth Mama | Won | [16] |
| San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle | January 9, 2024 | Special Citation for Independent Cinema | Earth Mama | Won | [17] |

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External links

- Earth Mama (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt18382328/) at IMDb
- Earth Mama (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/earth mama) at Rotten Tomatoes

