

The Machine (2023 film)

The Machine is a 2023 American action comedy film directed by Peter Atencio, inspired by the 2016 stand-up routine of the same name created by Bert Kreischer. The film stars Kreischer as a fictionalized version of himself, with Mark Hamill, Jimmy Tatro, Iva Babić, Stephanie Kurtzuba and Jessica Gabor.

Following its viral success, Legendary Entertainment acquired the rights to adapt Kreischer's stand-up routine into a feature film in September 2018. Most of the lead cast members were hired from April to June 2021. Filming began in Serbia in April 2021 through Balkanic Media.

The Machine was released in the United States by Sony Pictures Releasing under its Screen Gems label on May 26, 2023. It received mostly negative reviews from critics and became a box-office bomb.

Premise

In 1999, college freshman Bert Kreischer goes on a trip to Russia. During a night of hard partying, Bert befriends a tour guide named Igor along with his friends and is nicknamed "The Machine".

Twenty-three years later, Bert is now a stand-up comedian and podcaster, having turned his story into a comedy special that goes viral on YouTube. Bert is in a tense relationship with his wife and elder daughter Sasha. While at a family cookout, Bert is unexpectedly reunited with his estranged father Albert.

Bert is then confronted by Irina, a Russian mobster. It is soon revealed that Bert inadvertently stole an antique pocket watch belonging to Irina's father, an act which led to the start of his own organized crime syndicate. Seeking revenge, Irina kidnaps Bert, along with his father, with the intention of punishing Bert for his wrongdoings, upon arrival in Russia.

Cast

- Bert Kreischer as himself
- Mark Hamill as Albert, Bert's father
- Jimmy Tatro as young Bert Kreischer^[5]
- Iva Babić as Irina, a mobster^[6]

The Machine



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Peter Atencio</u>
Screenplay by	<u>Kevin Biegel</u> <div><u>Scotty Landes</u></div>
Based on	The comedy of <u>Bert Kreischer</u>
Produced by	<u>Bert Kreischer</u> <div><u>LeeAnn Kreischer</u><u>Judi Marmel</u><u>Cale Boyter</u><u>Peter Atencio</u></div>
Starring	<u>Bert Kreischer</u> <div><u>Mark Hamill</u><u>Jimmy Tatro</u><u>Iva Babić</u><u>Stephanie Kurtzuba</u><u>Jessica Gabor</u></div>
Cinematography	<u>Eigil Bryld</u>

- Robert Maaser as Alexei, Irina's brother^[5]
- Stephanie Kurtzuba as LeeAnn
- Martyn Ford as Sponge
- Jessica Gabor as Sasha, Bert's eldest daughter
- Rita Bernard Shaw as Ashley^[5]
- Nikola Đuričko as Igor^[5]
- Oleg Taktarov as Train Igor^[5]
- Amelie Villiers as Tatiana,^[5] Bert's younger daughter
- Marko Nedeljkovic as young Igor
- Aleksandar Srećković as Fedor
- Mercedes De La Cruz as a teacher^[5]

Production

In September 2019, Legendary Entertainment acquired the rights to develop comedian Bert Kreischer's stand-up routine into a feature film adaptation following its viral success.^[7] In April 2021, Peter Atencio was hired to direct and produce the film with Kreischer and Judi Marmel.^{[8][9][10]} Kevin Biegel and Scotty Landes wrote the film.^[11] Joseph Trapanese composed the film's original score.^[12]

In April 2021, Kreischer was set to play himself and Mark Hamill was cast as Bert's father, Albert Kreischer Sr.^[8] Jess Gabor was cast as Bert's daughter.^[11] In May and June 2021, Stephanie Kurtzuba, Mercedes De La Cruz and Jimmy Tatro were cast in the film.^{[13][14][15]} Principal photography took place in Serbia in April 2021.^{[11][15][16]}

Release

The Machine was released in the United States by Sony Pictures Releasing under its Screen Gems label on May 26, 2023.^{[17][18]}

The film was released for digital platforms on June 20, 2023, followed by a Blu-ray and DVD release on August 15, 2023 by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.^[19]

Box office

The film was a box-office bomb. In the United States and Canada, *The Machine* was released alongside *The Little Mermaid*, *Kandahar*, *About My Father*, and *You Hurt My Feelings*. The film was projected to gross around \$5 million from 2,409 theaters over its four-day Memorial Day opening weekend.^[20] The film made \$2.2 million on its first day, \$5 million in the traditional weekend, and \$5.9 million over the four-day frame.^[21] In its second weekend, the film declined 66% to \$1.7 million, finishing in eighth place.^{[22][23]}

Critical response

Edited by	Eleanor Infante
Music by	<u>Joseph Trapanese</u>
Production companies	<u>Legendary Pictures</u> <p>Uh Hundred Percent Productions</p> Levity Productions
Distributed by	<u>Screen Gems</u> (through <u>Sony Pictures Releasing</u>)
Release date	May 26, 2023
Running time	112 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$20 million ^[2]
Box office	\$10.7 million ^{[3][4]}

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 32% of 25 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 4.4/10. The website's consensus reads: "A sloppily lifeless movie that's strictly for hardcore Bert Kreischer fans, *The Machine* is broken beyond repair."^[24] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 37 out of 100, based on seven critics, indicating "generally unfavorable" reviews.^[25] Audiences surveyed by CinemaScore gave the film a "B+" grade at the A+ to F scale, while PostTrak gave the film an overall 78% positive score, with 60% saying they would definitely recommend it.^{[2][26]}

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External links

- [Official website \(https://www.themachine.movie\)](https://www.themachine.movie)
 - *The Machine* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11040844/>) at *IMDb*
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