

We Grown Now is a 2023 American drama film, written and directed by Minhal Baig, and produced by Joe Pirro and Baig. It stars Blake Cameron James, Gian Knight Ramirez, S. Epatha Merkerson, Avery Holliday, Ora Jones, Lil Rel Howery and Jurnee Smollett.

It had its world premiere at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival on September 8, 2023 and will be released in a limited theatrical release in the United States on April 19, 2024, by Sony Pictures Classics and Stage 6 Films.

Premise

Best friends Malik and Eric come of age in the Cabrini-Green housing complex in the early 1990s.

Cast

- Blake Cameron James as Malik
- Gian Knight Ramirez as Eric
- S. Epatha Merkerson as Anita
- Avery Holliday as Amber
- Ora Jones
- Lil Rel Howery as Jason
- Jurnee Smollett as Dolores
- Giovani Chambers as Slug

Production

In May 2022, it was announced Minhal Baig would write and direct the film, with principal photography commencing in and around Chicago.^[3]

Release

The film had its world premiere at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival on September 8, 2023.^[4] On October 4, 2023, Sony Pictures Classics acquired distribution rights to the film, which is scheduled to be released in a limited theatrical release in the United States on April 19, 2024.^{[5][6]}

Critical reception

We Grown Now



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Minhal Baig
Written by	Minhal Baig
Produced by	Minhal Baig <div>Joe Pirro</div>
Starring	<div>Blake Cameron James<div>Gian Knight Ramirez<div>S. Epatha Merkerson<div>Lil Rel Howery<div>Jurnee Smollett</div></div></div></div></div>
Cinematography	Pat Scola
Edited by	Stephanie Filo
Music by	Jay Wadley
Production companies	<div>Participant<div>Symbolic Exchange<div>Stage 6 Films</div></div></div>

On Rotten Tomatoes, *We Grown Now* has a score of 93% based on reviews from 67 critics, with an average rating of 7.8/10. The website's critics consensus reads, "Casting grim environs in a nostalgic glow, *We Grown Now* is a coming-of-age story whose tinges of fantasy only make it feel more honest."^[7] On Metacritic, the film holds a weighted average score of 76 out of 100 based on 21 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".^[8]

Awards

At TIFF, the film was the winner of the Changemaker Award.^[9] The film also won the Audience Choice Award for Best U.S. Feature at the Chicago International Film Festival.^[10]

Distributed by	<u>Sony Pictures Classics</u> Stage 6 Films
Release dates	September 8, 2023 (TIFF) April 19, 2024 (United States)
Running time	93 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Box office	\$282,615 ^[1] ^[2]

References

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10. Chicago International Film Festival, "59th Festival Award Winners (<https://www.chicagofilmfestival.com/festival/festival-award-winners/>). *Chicago International Film Festival*, October 25, 2023.

External links

- *We Grown Now* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt28639049/>) at IMDb
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