

Slumberland (film)

Slumberland is a 2022 American fantasy adventure film directed by Francis Lawrence and written by David Guion and Michael Handelman. Based on the comic strip *Little Nemo in Slumberland* by Winsor McCay, the film stars Jason Momoa, Chris O'Dowd, Kyle Chandler, Weruche Opia, and introducing Marlow Barkley in her film debut as Nemo.^[2] It tells the story of a young girl who goes to live with her uncle after her father is lost at sea and enters Slumberland where she befriends a renegade character who is involved in a plot to get to the Sea of Nightmares and obtain a special pearl that may have the power to reunite her with her father.

Slumberland was released on November 18, 2022, by Netflix. It received generally mixed reviews from critics.

Plot

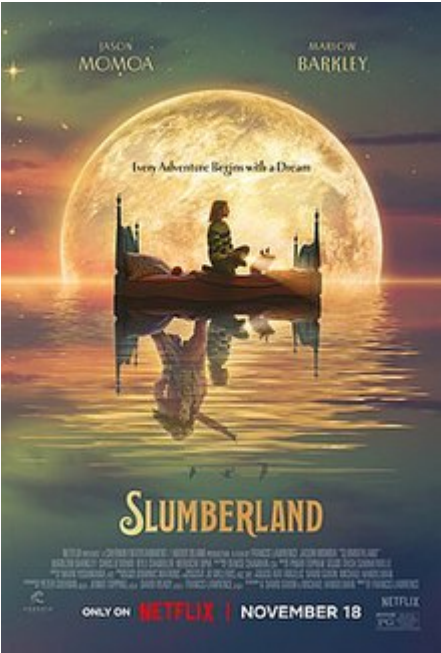
Nemo is a young girl who lives in a lighthouse with her widowed father Peter, a lighthouse keeper. Every night, Peter tells her wild bedtime stories about his adventures with Flip, his partner from the old days when they were outlaws.

One night during a storm, Peter heads out to help a distressed boat. Nemo is later visited by the family friend Carla who informs her that Peter was lost at sea. With Nemo devastated by the news, Carla persuades Nemo's estranged uncle Philip to take her in before she becomes a ward of the state. In contrast to his brother Peter, Philip is a doorknob salesman who leads a lonely, boring, and monotonous life. Nemo moves to the city with Philip and the two find it difficult to adjust to each other. When enrolled at a local school, she struggles to fit in as she meets school counselor Ms. Arya and a student named Jamal.

One night, she is awakened when her stuffed pig (Pig) comes to life. In reality, she is still asleep and in Slumberland, the world between dreams. Here, she meets Flip, learning that he is real and not simply a character her father made up. A stubborn and unscrupulous outlaw, Flip is looking for a map that will lead him to magical wish-granting pearls.

Nemo finds the map in the waking world and takes it back to Slumberland by sleeping through classes. Flip begrudgingly allows her to join him for the pearls so she can wish her father

Slumberland



Official release poster

Directed by	<u>Francis Lawrence</u>
Screenplay by	<u>David Guion</u> <div><u>Michael Handelman</u></div>
Based on	<i><u>Little Nemo</u></i> <div>by <u>Winsor McCay</u></div>
Produced by	<u>Peter Chernin</u> <div><u>Jenno Topping</u><div><u>David Ready</u><div><u>Francis Lawrence</u></div></div></div>
Starring	<u>Jason Momoa</u> <div><u>Marlow Barkley</u><div><u>Chris O'Dowd</u><div><u>Kyle Chandler</u><div><u>Weruche Opia</u></div></div></div></div>
Cinematography	<u>Jo Willems</u>
Edited by	<u>Mark Yoshikawa</u>
Music by	<u>Pinar Toprak</u>
Production companies	<u>Chernin</u> <div><u>Entertainment</u></div>

into her dreams. Nemo learns that Flip has refused to wake up for so long he no longer remembers who he is in the real world. He uses the map as a guide through various people's dreams to get to the Sea of Nightmares, where the pearls are. They are attacked by Nemo's nightmare, a cloud of smoke resembling a kraken. Flip is later imprisoned by Agent Green of the Bureau of Subconscious Activities (BoSA) for intruding on people's dreams.

	About:Blank
Distributed by	<u>Netflix</u>
Release date	November 18, 2022
Running time	117 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$150 million ^[1]

In the real world, Philip shows Nemo an old videotape of him and Peter playing together as children. Nemo realizes that Flip is Philip's dream alter ego. As Flip has not woken up, Philip has lost that part of his personality and become Flip's opposite: docile and unadventurous. Nemo returns to Slumberland to rescue Flip. At the Sea of Nightmares, she reveals to him who he really is. The truth of his boring real life upsets him and Flip decides never to wake up. Nemo is awakened by Ms. Arya, who calls Philip to bring up her progress in school. This event leads to an argument between her and Philip.

Nemo runs away from home and sails through a storm back to the lighthouse. She hits her head and passes out in the boat, sending her back to Slumberland. In the Sea of Nightmares, she acquires a wishing pearl. Flip saves her from the kraken nightmare as in the real world, she falls into the water, unconscious. Philip arranges a rescue boat captained by Carla and heads toward the lighthouse, terrified by the storm. When the nightmare grabs Flip, Nemo uses her wish to force Flip to wake up. In the real world, Philip becomes emboldened and dives into the water to rescue Nemo.

In Slumberland, Green commends Nemo on using her wish to save Flip, saying Nemo has finally found something more important than what she has lost. Green reveals that Pig actually swallowed two pearls, allowing Nemo to wish to see her father again. Peter appears and the two spend time together before he tells her that life is waiting for her in the real world and she cannot stay. Nemo says goodbye to her father and wakes up, where Phillip embraces her, now embedded with the personality of Flip.

Nemo begins to improve her life in the waking world, making friends at school and repairing her relationship with her uncle as they make use of one of Peter's boats for sailing.

Cast

- Marlow Barkley as Nemo, a young girl who has dreams of Slumberland. The character is a boy in the 1900s comic strip.^[3]
 - Abigail White works as Nemo's photo double.
- Jason Momoa as Flip, a con artist with sharp teeth and the ears and horns of a goat who becomes Nemo's companion and was a former friend of Nemo's father Peter. The character is a clown in the 1900s comic strip.^[3]
- Chris O'Dowd as Philip, Nemo's uncle who works as a doorknob salesman. He is the waking world counterpart of Flip.
 - Cameron Nicoll as young Phillip
- Kyle Chandler as Peter, Nemo's father and former lighthouse keeper who gets lost at sea.
 - Antonio Rane Pastore as young Peter.

- Weruche Opia as Agent Green, an operative of the Bureau of Subconscious Activities who Flip has been eluding.
- India de Beaufort as Ms. Arya, the school counselor at Nemo's school.
- Chris D'Silva as Jamal, Nemo's school friend.
- Yanna McIntosh as Carla, a family friend of Peter and Nemo.
- Izaak Smith as a Canadian guy who dreams about riding a giant Canada goose
- Michael Blake as an accountant whose dreams have him with more hair
- Humberly González as Graciela, a nun who dreams about being a salsa dancer.
- Ava Cheung as Ho-Sook
- Leslie Adlam as Agent Brown, an operative of the Bureau of Subconscious Activities.
- Jamillah Ross as Agent Orange, an operative of the Bureau of Subconscious Activities.
- Tonya Cornelisse as Agent Red, an operative of the Bureau of Subconscious Activities.
- Katerina Taxia as Janice, a lunch lady.

Production

Development and casting

On March 3, 2020, it was announced that Jason Momoa would star in a live-action adaptation of the comic strip series *Little Nemo in Slumberland* by Winsor McCay from director Francis Lawrence, with Netflix distributing and production starting in the summer of that same year.^[4] However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, filming for the project was postponed. On October 12, 2020, Kyle Chandler joined the cast of the film, where Chris O'Dowd and Marlow Barkley had already been confirmed to star.^[5] The following year, on February 18, Weruche Opia and India de Beaufort were cast.^[2]

Filming

Filming began on February 18, 2021, in Toronto, and concluded on May 19, 2021.^{[6][7][8]}

Post-production

Pinar Toprak composed the musical score.^[9] DNEG and Framestore provided the visual effects. Additional VFX was done by Scanline VFX, Ghost VFX, Important Looking Pirates, Outpost VFX, Rodeo FX, Incessant Rain Studios. and Pinscreen, which did AI VFX. The film's main and end titles were done by Imaginary Forces.

Release

Slumberland was released on November 18, 2022, by Netflix.^[10] In its first week of release *Slumberland* was the fifth most streamed program for the week of November 21–27 accruing over 1 billion minutes viewed across the platform.^[11]

Reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 40% of 42 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.3/10. The website's consensus reads: "Winsor McCay's classic Nemo comics are fertile ground for the right filmmaker, but *Slumberland* forsakes the spirit of the strips in favor of senseless spectacle."^[12] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 40 out of 100, based on 16 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[13]

Accolades

The film was nominated for two awards (Outstanding Animated Character in a Photoreal Feature & Outstanding Created Environment in a Photoreal Feature) at the 21st Visual Effects Society Awards.^[14]

See also

- *Little Nemo: Adventures in Slumberland*

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External links

- *Slumberland* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13320662/>) at *IMDb*
 - *Slumberland* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/81220825>) on *Netflix*
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