

The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial (2023 film)

The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial is a 2023 American legal drama film written and directed by William Friedkin. It is based on Herman Wouk's 1953 play of the same name, itself based on Wouk's 1952 novel *The Caine Mutiny*. It stars Kiefer Sutherland, Jason Clarke, Jake Lacy, Monica Raymund and Lance Reddick. The film marks a posthumous release for Reddick and Friedkin, who both died in 2023 on March 17 and August 7, respectively, and is Friedkin's final work.^[4]

The film premiered on September 3, 2023 at the 80th Venice International Film Festival and was released in the United States on October 6, 2023 on Paramount+ with Showtime by Republic Pictures.^{[2][5]}

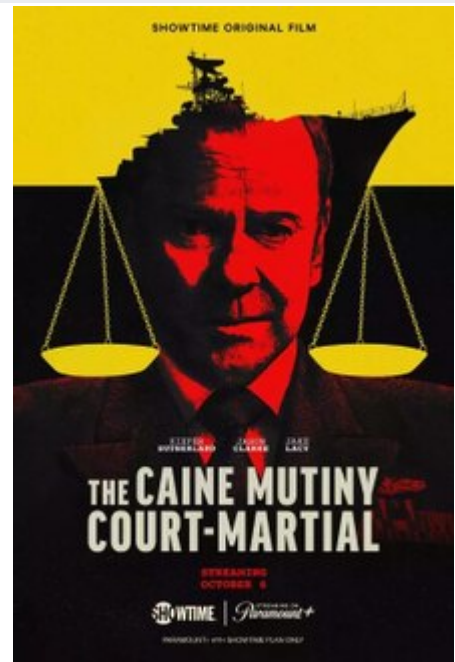
Synopsis

When U.S. Navy captain Queeg shows signs of mental instability that jeopardizes the safety of his ship, USS *Caine*, in a violent storm, the executive officer, Lt. Maryk, relieves him of command; Maryk now faces court-martial for mutiny. Lt. Greenwald, a skeptical JAG lawyer, is made to defend Maryk. Greenwald becomes increasingly concerned as the court martial proceeds and questions if the *Caine* incident were a true mutiny or the courageous acts of a group of sailors that could no longer trust their unstable leader.^[6]

Cast

- Kiefer Sutherland as Lieutenant Commander Queeg, commanding officer of USS *Caine*.
- Jason Clarke as Lieutenant Greenwald, defense attorney
- Jake Lacy as Lieutenant Maryk
- Monica Raymund as Lieutenant Commander Challee, lead prosecutor
- Lewis Pullman as Lieutenant Keefer
- Jay Duplass as Lieutenant Alan Bird
- Tom Riley as Lieutenant Keith
- Lance Reddick as Captain Blakely, head judge
- Elizabeth Anweis as Lieutenant Commander Joan Lundeen, MD, Navy psychiatrist
- Francois Battiste as Captain Southard

The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial



Release poster

Directed by	William Friedkin
Written by	William Friedkin
Based on	<i>The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial</i> by Herman Wouk
Produced by	Annabelle Dunne <div></div> Matthew Parker
Starring	Kiefer Sutherland <div></div> Jason Clarke <div></div> Jake Lacy <div></div> Monica Raymund <div></div> Lance Reddick
Cinematography	Michael Grady
Edited by	Darrin Navarro
Production companies	Showtime Networks <div></div> Selsed House^[1] <div></div> Loveless Media^[1]

- Gabe Kessler as Petty Officer Third Class Urban
- Gina Garcia-Sharp as the stenographer
- Stephanie Erb as Rear Admiral Lucille Stutz
- Dale Dye as Vice Admiral R. T. Dewey
- Denzel Johnson as Prosecution Paralegal J. P. Simmons

Production

In September 2021, [William Friedkin](#) announced plans to develop an adaptation of *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* and that he was beginning the process of casting the film.^[7] The following year, in August, *Deadline Hollywood* officially reported that a new adaptation of [Herman Wouk's](#) novel *The Caine Mutiny* directed by Friedkin was in the works for [Paramount Global Content Distribution](#) and [Showtime Networks](#). [Kiefer Sutherland](#) was announced to star, with Friedkin having altered Wouk's script himself to reflect a more modern timeline, setting it in the [Persian Gulf](#), as opposed to the original's [World War II](#) setting.^[8] Principal photography began presumably in January 2023^{[8][9]} and was completed sometime before star [Lance Reddick's](#) death in March.^[10] In the wake of his death, filmmaker [Guillermo del Toro](#) posted a [tweet](#), praising the actor's performance in the film.^[11]

Del Toro himself served as back-up director on the film for liability reasons, due to Friedkin's age,^[12] and had sat beside him every day during the shoot.^[13] Since the production had been operating on a tight schedule, Friedkin expected that everyone come to the set prepared so as to avoid doing any retakes. According to del Toro, rather than scold a particular actor who stumbled over a crucial line several times, Friedkin instead asked, "You wanna do it in an hour or so? Or we pick it up tomorrow?":

"The gesture was healing, soothing and put the entire set back in control. I had seen, at the ripe age of 58, that of th[e] many tools in Billy's arsenal, kindness was one of the most effective ones."^[14]

Release

In March 2023, [Paramount Global Content Distribution](#) revived [Republic Pictures](#), with *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* announced as one of its first acquisitions.^[15] *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* had its world premiere on September 3, 2023 at the [80th Venice International Film Festival](#) where it screened out of

Distributed by	Republic Pictures (through Paramount+ with Showtime)
Release dates	September 3, 2023 (Venice) ^[2] <div>October 6, 2023 (United States)</div>
Running time	109 minutes ^[3]
Country	United States
Language	English

The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial is a film that I have long awaited to make, originally written by one of the masters of his time, [Herman Wouk](#). I knew that I wanted to create a highly tense, pressurized scenario which would move rapidly along like a bat out of hell. I intentionally chose to keep the issue of right and wrong as ambiguous as possible. I was consistently impressed with the level of expertise that our actors brought to their roles and I believe that these are some of the best performances I have ever seen.

—William Friedkin, speaking about the film^[6]

competition.^{[2][6]} Upon its release, Paramount+ announced it will premiere the film in all international markets where the service is available.^[16] The film was released on October 6, 2023 on Paramount+ with Showtime followed by a linear release on Showtime on October 8.^[5]

Reception

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 94% of 52 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 7.3/10. The website's consensus reads: "The final film from a master of the medium, *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* serves as a gripping reminder that a single setting, a solid cast, and some sharply written dialogue is sometimes all you need."^[17] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 71 out of 100, based on 21 critics, indicating "generally favorable" reviews.^[18]

Pete Hammond, in his review for Deadline Hollywood, wrote that the film is "solid and no-frills".^[19]

Accolades

Year	Award	Category	Recipient	Result	Ref.
2024	29th Critics' Choice Awards	<u>Best Movie Made for Television</u>	<i>The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial</i>	Nominated	^[20]
		<u>Best Actor in a Limited Series or Movie Made for Television</u>	<u>Kiefer Sutherland</u>	Nominated	

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External links

- *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt24249946/>) at IMDb
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