

Flag Day (film)

Flag Day is a 2021 American drama film directed by and starring Sean Penn based on Jennifer Vogel's 2004 memoir, *Flim-Flam Man: A True Family History*.^[4] It premiered in competition at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival^[5] and was released in cinemas on August 20, 2021 by United Artists Releasing. The film has received mixed reviews from critics.

Premise

The daughter (Dylan Penn) of a con artist (Sean Penn) struggles to come to terms with her father's past, involving the fourth-largest seizure of counterfeit bills in U.S. history, nearly \$20 million.

Cast

- Dylan Penn as Jennifer Vogel
 - Jadyn Rylee as teenage Jennifer
 - Addison Tymec as younger Jennifer
- Sean Penn as John Vogel
- Katheryn Winnick as Patty Vogel
- Josh Brolin as Uncle Beck
- Hopper Penn as Nick Vogel
 - Beckam Crawford as Nick as a younger child
- Regina King^[6] as U.S. Marshall Blake
- Norbert Leo Butz as Doc
- Dale Dickey as Grandma Margaret
- Eddie Marsan as Mr. Emmanuelle
- Bailey Noble as Debbie

Production

In March 2012, Penn expressed interest in joining the cast of a *Flim-Flam Man* film adaptation^[7] directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu.^{[8][9]}

It was announced in March 2019 that a casting call for the film had been issued, with filming for the project due to commence in Winnipeg, Canada.^{[10][11][12]}

Flag Day



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Sean Penn
Screenplay by	Jez Butterworth <div>John-Henry Butterworth</div>
Based on	<i>Flim-Flam Man: A True Family History</i> by Jennifer Vogel
Produced by	William Horberg <div>Jon KilikFernando Sulichin</div>
Starring	Dylan Penn <div>Sean PennJosh Brolin</div>
Cinematography	Daniel Moder
Edited by	Valdís Óskarsdóttir <div>Michelle Tesoro</div>
Music by	Joseph Vitarelli

Filming began in June with the cast including Penn and his children [Dylan Penn](#) and [Hopper Penn](#).^[13] [Josh Brolin](#), [Miles Teller](#) and [Katheryn Winnick](#) were also among the cast announced.^[14] In July 2019, [James Russo](#) was confirmed as part of the cast.^[15] On August 1, 2019, scenes were filmed at the [Fort Garry](#) campus of the [University of Manitoba](#).^[16] Filming took place at [Piedras Blancas](#) in [San Luis Obispo County, California](#).^[17]

The film was produced by [William Horberg](#), [Jon Kilik](#) and [Fernando Sulichin](#).^[18]

In an interview with *[Deadline Hollywood](#)* at the [2021 Cannes Film Festival](#), Penn said that he initially thought that it would be something he might act in, but after trouble identifying the right director he took on the offer as it was a movie that he would have liked to see get made.^[19] It is the first film directed by Penn in which he also appears.

Production companies	Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer <p>Conqueror Productions</p> Olive Hill Media <p>Wonderful Films</p>
Distributed by	United Artists Releasing
Release dates	July 10, 2021 (Cannes) <p>August 20, 2021 (United States)</p>
Running time	108 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Box office	\$1.3 million ^{[2][3]}

Release

The film had its world premiere at the [Cannes Film Festival](#) in July 2021. Prior to the festival, [Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer](#) acquired U.S. distribution rights to the film, with plans to release it later that year through their joint venture, [United Artists Releasing](#).^[20] It was released on August 20, 2021.^[21] It was previously scheduled to be released on August 13, but moved back a week to avoid competing with another MGM film, *[Respect](#)*.^[22]

Soundtrack

The soundtrack to *Flag Day* features original music by [Eddie Vedder](#), [Glen Hansard](#) and [Cat Power](#). The first single, "My Father's Daughter" marks the musical debut of Vedder's then-17-year-old daughter Olivia, who also sings lead on the song "There's a Girl".^[23] The album with the thirteen-track soundtrack was released on August 20, 2021.^[24]

No.	Title	Writer(s)	Producer(s)	Length
1.	"My Father's Daughter" (Eddie Vedder , Glen Hansard and Olivia Vedder)	Eddie Vedder • Glen Hansard	David Odum	2:50
2.	"Flag Day" (Eddie Vedder and Glen Hansard)	Vedder • Hansard	Odum	4:09
3.	"I Think of Angels" (Cat Power)	Kristján Kristjánsson	KK	3:32
4.	"Tender Mercies" (Eddie Vedder and Glen Hansard)	Vedder • Hansard	Odum • Andrew Watt	3:13
5.	"Rather Be Home" (Eddie Vedder and Glen Hansard)	Vedder • Hansard		3:25
6.	"I Am a Map" (Cat Power)	Chan Marshall	Cat Power	2:01
7.	"As You Did Before" (Glen Hansard)	Vedder • Hansard		4:29

8.	"There's a Girl" (Eddie Vedder, Vedder • Hansard Glen Hansard and Olivia Vedder)			3:33
9.	"I'll Be Waiting" (Eddie Vedder Vedder • Hansard and Glen Hansard)	Odlum		2:35
10.	"I Will Follow" (Cat Power)	Marshall	Cat Power	4:48
11.	"Wave" (Eddie Vedder and Glen Hansard)	Vedder • Hansard	Odlum	3:19
12.	"Drive" (Eddie Vedder)	Michael Stipe • Mike Mills • Peter Buck • Bill Berry		4:24
13.	"Dream" (Cat Power)	Marshall	Cat Power	5:22
Total length:				47:48

Controversy

During promotion for the movie, at a time when thousands were dying monthly from the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, Penn stated he didn't want anyone who chose not to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to be allowed to see the movie in theaters, which upset the anti-vaxxer element.^[25]

Reception

Box office

Flag Day was released in 24 theaters and made \$40,750 in its opening weekend. According to *Deadline Hollywood*, the film was targeting an "older, sophisticated demo." In its initial release, 56% of all audiences were over the age of 55, low numbers that were credited to the Delta variant. The film was screened in 50 theaters in its second weekend.^[26]

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 40% of 86 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.3/10. The website's consensus reads: "*Flag Day* benefits from powerful performances and a moving fact-based story, but it's largely lost in the movie's melodramatic din."^[27] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 53 out of 100, based on 24 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[28]


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External links

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