

Downtown Owl (film)

Downtown Owl is a 2023 American comedy drama film directed by Lily Rabe and Hamish Linklater, in their directorial debuts, from a screenplay by Linklater. It is based on the 2008 novel by Chuck Klosterman. The film is produced by Rabe, Bettina Barrow, Linklater (in his debut production), and Rebecca Green under Kill Claudio Productions, Three Point Capital and Esme Grace Media, in association with Stage 6 Films. It stars Rabe, Ed Harris, Vanessa Hudgens, August Blanco Rosenstein, Jack Dylan Grazer, Finn Wittrock, and Henry Golding.

Downtown Owl premiered at the Tribeca Festival on June 8, 2023.^[2] It was released in the United States on April 23, 2024.^[3]

Premise

Set in 1983, in the fictional town of Owl, North Dakota, the story centers around three intangibly connected residents—Horace, an old man who spends his afternoons reminiscing better times from the past at the local coffee shop, Mitch, a depressed high school backup quarterback, and Julia, an English teacher at the local high school who recently moved to Owl—whose lives, along with those of the town’s other residents, are upended by a whiteout blizzard.

Cast

- Lily Rabe as Julia Rabia
- Ed Harris as Horace Jones
- August Blanco Rosenstein as Mitch Hrlicka
- Vanessa Hudgens as Naomi
- Jack Dylan Grazer as Eli
- Finn Wittrock as Coach Laidlaw
- Henry Golding as Vance Druid
- Arianna Jaffier as Rebecca
- Arden Michalec as Tina

Production

In October 2012, it was announced Adam Scott and Naomi Scott had optioned rights to *Downtown Owl* by Chuck Klosterman for a planned film adaption to produce under their Gettin Rad Productions banner.^[4]

Downtown Owl



Release poster

Directed by	Lily Rabe <div>Hamish Linklater</div>
Screenplay by	Hamish Linklater
Based on	<i>Downtown Owl</i> by Chuck Klosterman
Produced by	Lily Rabe <div>Hamish LinklaterBettina BarrowRebecca Green</div>
Starring	Lily Rabe <div>Ed HarrisVanessa HudgensAugust Blanco Rosenstein</div>

In April 2022, it was announced [Lily Rabe](#), [Ed Harris](#), [Vanessa Hudgens](#), [Finn Wittrock](#), and [Jack Dylan Grazer](#) had joined the cast of the film, with Rabe directing and producing alongside [Hamish Linklater](#) who wrote the screenplay, and her producing partner [Bettina Barrow](#) under their banner, Kill Claudio Productions with [Sony Pictures' Stage 6 Films](#) overseeing production and [Sony Pictures Releasing](#) set to distribute.^{[5][6][7]} The film was a part of the [Sundance Institute's Feature Film Program](#) and [Creative Producing Initiative](#) under the organization's Creative Producing Summit and Talent Forum.^{[6][8]} It was also announced that [T Bone Burnett](#) had signed on to compose the [film score](#), and [Rebecca Green](#) and [Michael Melamedoff](#) were co-producing under [Three Point Capital](#) and [Esme Grace Media](#).^{[5][9][10]} The following day, it was revealed that [Henry Golding](#) had joined the cast of the film.^{[11][12]}

[Principal photography](#) took place throughout April 2022, in [Minnesota](#).^[13] [Filming](#) took place in [Saint Paul](#),^[14] [Independence](#),^[15] and [Elko New Market](#).^{[16][17][18]}

Reception

On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 44% of 16 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.1/10.^[19] [Metacritic](#), which uses a [weighted average](#), assigned the film a score of 48 out of 100, based on 7 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[20]

References

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- ↑ DeVore, Britta (April 13, 2022). "Lily Rabe to Direct and Star in 'Downtown Owl' Alongside Vanessa Hudgens and Finn Wittrock" (<https://collider.com/downtown-owl-cast-lily-rabe-vanessa-hudgens-finn-wittrock/>). *Collider*. Retrieved June 26, 2022.

	<div><div><div></div><div>Jack Dylan Grazer</div></div><div><div></div><div>Finn Wittrock</div></div><div><div></div><div>Henry Golding</div></div></div>
Cinematography	<div>Bart Cortright</div>
Edited by	<div>Nena Erb</div>
Music by	<div>T Bone Burnett</div>
Production companies	<div><div><div>Stage 6 Films</div><div>Kill Claudio</div><div>TPC</div><div>Esme Grace</div></div></div>
Distributed by	<div>Sony Pictures Releasing</div>
Release dates	<div>June 8, 2023</div> <div>(Tribeca)</div> <div>April 23, 2024</div> <div>(United States)</div>
Running time	<div>88 minutes^[1]</div>
Country	<div>United States</div>
Language	<div>English</div>

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External links

- *Downtown Owl* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2542852/>) at [IMDb](#)
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