

Cryptozoo

Cryptozoo is a 2021 American adult animated drama film written and directed by Dash Shaw. It features an ensemble cast as Lake Bell, Michael Cera, Angeliki Papoulia, Zoe Kazan, Peter Stormare, Grace Zabriskie, Louisa Krause and Thomas Jay Ryan. The film had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on January 29, 2021 and was released by Magnolia Pictures in the United States on August 20, 2021.

Plot

Cryptozookeepers try to capture a Baku, a dream-eating hybrid creature of legend, and start wondering if they should display these beasts or keep them hidden and unknown. Meanwhile, a pair of lovers mistakenly find their way into the Cryptozoo, leading to unpredictable consequences in 1960s San Francisco.^[4]

Cast

- Lake Bell as Lauren Grey, a veterinarian cryptozoologist who works at the Cryptozoo, and the main protagonist.
- Michael Cera as Matthew
- Angeliki Papoulia as Phoebe, a gorgon.
- Zoe Kazan as Magdalene
- Peter Stormare as Gustav, a faun.
- Grace Zabriskie as Joan, the owner of the Cryptozoo and Lauren Grey's mentor.
- Louisa Krause as Amber
- Thomas Jay Ryan as Nicholas, a cryptid-hating cryptid trafficker, and the main antagonist.
- Alex Karpovsky as David

Release and reception

The film had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on January 29, 2021 ^[5] and won the Innovator Award.^[6] Shortly after, Magnolia Pictures acquired U.S. distribution rights to the film and set it for an August 20, 2021 release in the United States.^[7] The film also screened at the 71st Berlin International Film Festival in March 2021.^[8]

Cryptozoo holds a 72% approval rating on review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, based on 89 reviews, with an average rating of 5.80/10. The site's critical consensus reads, "Although its

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Theatrical release poster	
Directed by	<u>Dash Shaw</u>
Written by	Dash Shaw
Produced by	Kyle Martin Jane Samborski Bill Way Tyler Davidson
Starring	<u>Lake Bell</u> <u>Michael Cera</u> <u>Angeliki Papoulia</u> <u>Zoe Kazan</u> <u>Peter Stormare</u> <u>Grace Zabriskie</u> <u>Louisa Krause</u> <u>Thomas Jay Ryan</u>
Edited by	Lance Edmands Alex Abrahams
Music by	<u>John Carroll Kirby</u>
Production companies	Fit Via Fi Electro Chinoland

visual overstimulation threatens to derail its themes, *Cryptozoo* is an ambitious and unique critique of capitalistic values."^[9] On *Metacritic*, the film holds a rating of 74 out of 100, based on 22 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".^[10]

Jessica Kiang of *Variety* wrote: "In this zoo, the story may be tame, but the images, and the imagination that releases them, run wild."^[11]

It was also nominated for the *John Cassavetes Award* at the *37th Independent Spirit Awards*^[12] and received a Special Mention by the Jury at the *Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival*.

References

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	<div>Washington Square Films</div> <div>Low Spark Films</div> <div>Cinereach</div>
Distributed by	Magnolia Pictures
Release dates	January 29, 2021 (Sundance) August 20, 2021 (United States)
Running time	95 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Box office	\$37,883 ^[2] ^[3]

11. Kiang, Jessica (29 January 2021). "'Cryptozoo' Review: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Hide Them" (<https://variety.com/2021/film/reviews/cryptozoo-review-dash-shaw-1234894260/>). *Variety*.
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External links

- [Official Site \(http://www.magpictures.com/cryptozoo/\)](http://www.magpictures.com/cryptozoo/)
 - [Cryptozoo \(https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13622118/\)](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13622118/) at [IMDb](#)
 - [Official trailer \(https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=sMk2K_x956M\)](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=sMk2K_x956M)
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