

We Need to Do Something

We Need to Do Something is a 2021 American psychological horror film directed by Sean King O'Grady and starring Sierra McCormick, Vinessa Shaw, Lisette Alexis, Pat Healy, and Ozzy Osbourne. Based on the novella of the same name,^[2] the film centers on a family trapped in their bathroom during a tornado. The film was shot during the COVID-19 pandemic and is the first film production from Spin a Black Yarn Productions, with its co-founders Josh Malerman and Ryan Lewis serving as producers.^{[3][4]}

We Need to Do Something had its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in June 2021,^{[5][6]} and was theatrically released by IFC Films on September 3, 2021.^[7] The film polarized critics upon release, who praised the film's characters, use of jump-scares, and McCormick's performance, however criticized its failure to "capture the actual psychological awfulness of being trapped too near your nearest and dearest, with no end in sight".^[8]

Plot

During a tornado, teenager Melissa, her parents Robert and Diane, and her brother, Bobby, gather in the bathroom.

A tree crashes through the house, blocking the door and trapping the family. They see a snake outside. Tensions rise as they await help. Alcoholic Robert becomes irate as he suffers withdrawal.

A dog appears outside, off screen. As the children pet it without looking, it proclaims in a male voice that it's a "good boy" and bites Melissa, who rips its tongue out by the root. Diane rinses off the tongue, and the family eats it.

Flashbacks show Melissa with her girlfriend, Amy. The pair are filmed kissing by Amy's stalker, Joe, and are frustrated by the gossip of bullies. Amy casts a spell on Joe, requiring Melissa to dig up the family dog in the backyard and take his tongue. Joe dies. Amy thinks the spell messed up because she had something inside her.

We Need to Do Something



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Sean King O'Grady
Written by	Max Booth III
Based on	<i>We Need to Do Something</i> by Max Booth III
Produced by	Peter Block Max Booth III Colin Duerr Lauren Hantz Ryan Lewis Josh Malerman Bill Stertz
Starring	Vinessa Shaw Sierra McCormick John James Cronin Lisette Alexis Pat Healy Ozzy Osbourne

The snake reappears and bites Bobby. Off-screen, men enter the house and shoot or are shot by a monster. Bobby dies of the bite. Melissa tells her parents she and Amy caused the supernatural events with the failed spell.

Robert, delirious from withdrawal and alcoholic wipes, says they must eat Bobby. He answers a call on Melissa's phone and throws the phone back outside. He screams about witches and beats Diane with a snake. Melissa stabs him to death with a piece of mirror.

Diane breaks through the brick wall and leaves. Melissa wakes up and has a vision of Amy attacking her. Diane returns covered in blood. The two scream as something crashes in or just outside the bathroom.

Cast

- [Sierra McCormick](#) as Melissa
- [Vinessa Shaw](#) as Diane
- [Pat Healy](#) as Robert
- John James Cronin as Bobby
- [Lisette Alexis](#) as Amy
- [Ozzy Osbourne](#) as the voice of Good Boy
- [Logan Kearney](#) as Joe

Production

The film is based on a novella of the same name written by Max Booth III, who adapted his own work into a screenplay; the success of Booth's 2020 novel *Touch the Night*, published by [Cemetery Dance](#), helped draw attention to the project.^[2] Although the novella and screenplay were completed prior to the [COVID-19 outbreak](#), director Sean King O'Grady found resonance in the story with America's response to the [pandemic](#), saying "Without directly addressing the nightmare we are currently living through, Max created a hellish allegory that still manages to capture the collective trauma we're all experiencing."^[4]

The film was shot entirely on a soundstage in [Michigan](#) owned by production company Atlas Industries over the course of four weeks between September and October 2020; production took place in secret, with no announcements about cast or crew until filming had already wrapped. Owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, extra precautions had to be taken, including a minimal number of crewmembers.^[4]

Reception

Critical response

On [review aggregator](#) [Rotten Tomatoes](#), the film holds an approval rating of 56% based on 59 reviews, with an average rating of 6.2/10. The website's critics consensus reads: "*While We Need to Do Something* can feel as unfocused as its title, it offers eerily timely genre chills, soaked in claustrophobic dread."^[9]

Cinematography	Jean-Philippe Bernier
Edited by	Shane Patrick Ford
Music by	David Chapdelaine
Production companies	Atlas Industries Spin a Black Yarn IFC Nightmare
Distributed by	IFC Films
Release dates	June 2021 (Tribeca) September 3, 2021 (United States)
Country	United States
Box office	\$13,589 ^[1]

Meagan Navarro of *Bloody Disgusting* gave the film a score of 2.5/5, writing that it "asks its audience to use their imagination for much of the horrors that barrage its characters, as its story is told solely within the confines of a single room", but stated that it "isn't interested in offering any definitive answers, only suggesting mere possibilities."^[10] Jessica Kiang of *Variety* said that the film "fails to capture the actual psychological awfulness of being trapped to near your nearest and dearest, with no end in sight", and added: "When, late in the film, a phone's 'Puttin' on the Ritz' ringtone sounds out, it's hard to escape the suspicion we've been Rickrolled."^[8]

Amidst the mixed reception, McCormick's performance was lauded, with some critics deeming it a highlight of the film. Weekly magazine *Chicago Reader* described the actress as "captivating",^[11] and *IGN* praised her take on the character, stating that she "brings wide eyes and a sulking snarl to teen daughter Melissa, whose internal drama is signaled by a goth wardrobe topped by a bubblegum pink wig."^[12]

References

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External links

- *We Need to Do Something* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13363828/>) at IMDb
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