

A Real Pain is a 2024 comedy drama film, written, directed, and produced by Jesse Eisenberg. It stars Eisenberg, Kieran Culkin, Will Sharpe, Jennifer Grey, Kurt Egyiawan, Liza Sadovy, and Daniel Oreskes. Emma Stone serves as a producer under her Fruit Tree banner.

It had its world premiere at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival on January 20, 2024. The film is scheduled to be released in the United States on October 18, 2024.

Premise

A Real Pain follows mismatched cousins David (Jesse Eisenberg) and Benji (Kieran Culkin) who reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the odd-couple's old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history.

Cast

- Jesse Eisenberg as David Kaplan
- Kieran Culkin as Benji Kaplan
- Will Sharpe as James
- Jennifer Grey as Marcia
- Kurt Egyiawan as Eloge
- Liza Sadovy as Diane
- Daniel Oreskes as Mark
- Ellora Torchia as Priya^[4]

Production

In August 2022, it was announced Jesse Eisenberg and Kieran Culkin would star in the film, with Eisenberg directing from a screenplay he wrote, with Emma Stone and Dave McCary set to produce.^[5] It marks Eisenberg's second feature film as writer/director, after 2022's *When You Finish Saving the World*.^[6]

Principal photography began in May 2023.^[7]^[8]

Release

<i>A Real Pain</i>	
Directed by	Jesse Eisenberg
Written by	Jesse Eisenberg
Produced by	Jesse Eisenberg <div>Emma Stone</div> <div>Dave McCary</div> <div>Ali Herting</div> <div>Jennifer Semler</div> <div>Ewa Puszczynska</div>
Starring	Jesse Eisenberg <div>Kieran Culkin</div> <div>Will Sharpe</div> <div>Jennifer Grey</div> <div>Kurt Egyiawan</div> <div>Liza Sadovy</div> <div>Daniel Oreskes</div>
Cinematography	Michal Dymek
Edited by	Robert Nassau
Production companies	Topic Studios <div>Fruit Tree</div> <div>Extreme</div> <div>Emotions</div> <div>Rego Park^[1]^[2]</div>
Distributed by	Searchlight Pictures
Release dates	January 20, 2024 (Sundance) <div>October 18, 2024 (United States)</div>
Running time	90 minutes ^[3]
Countries	United States <div>Poland^[3]</div>
Language	English

It premiered in the U.S. Dramatic Competition at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival on January 20, 2024.^[9] Shortly after, Searchlight Pictures acquired worldwide rights to the film for \$10 million in an all-night auction.^{[10][11]}

The film is scheduled to be released in the United States on October 18, 2024.^[12]

Reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 92% of 39 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 8.1/10. The website's consensus reads: "Led by a scene-stealing turn from Kieran Culkin, *A Real Pain* is a powerfully funny, emotionally resonant dramedy that finds writer-director-star Jesse Eisenberg playing to his strengths on either side of the camera."^[13] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 84 out of 100, based on 17 critics, indicating "universal acclaim".^[14]

Damon Wise of Deadline Hollywood praised Culkin for his performance, calling it a career-high.^[15]

Accolades

Award	Date of ceremony	Category	Nominee(s)	Result	Ref.
<u>Sundance Film Festival</u>	<u>January 26, 2024</u>	Grand Jury Prize – Dramatic	<i>A Real Pain</i>	Nominated	^[16]
		Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award	<u>Jesse Eisenberg</u>	Won	

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Principal photography in Lublin

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External links

- *A Real Pain* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt21823606/>) at IMDb
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