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Wildflower (2022 film)

***Wildflower*** is a 2022 American coming of age comedy-drama film directed by Matt Smukler and written by Jana Savage, from a story by Smukler and Savage. It stars Kiernan Shipka, Dash Mihok, Charlie Plummer, Jean Smart, Alexandra Daddario, Reid Scott, Erika Alexander, Samantha Hyde, Brad Garrett, and Jacki Weaver.

The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 12, 2022 and was released on March 17, 2023.

Plot

Wildflower	
<span></span> <div>Theatrical release poster</div>	
Directed by	Matt Smukler
Screenplay by	Jana Savage
Story by	Matt Smukler <div>Jana Savage</div>
Produced by	Ethan Lazar <div>Billie Lourd</div> <div>Katie McNeill</div> <div>Kyle Owens</div> <div>Chris Parker</div> <div>Jamie Patricof</div> <div>Austen Rydell</div> <div>Dylan Sellers</div>
Starring	<u>Kiernan Shipka</u> <div><u>Dash Mihok</u></div> <div><u>Charlie Plummer</u></div> <div><u>Alexandra Daddario</u></div> <div><u>Brad Garrett</u></div> <div><u>Reid Scott</u></div> <div><u>Erika Alexander</u></div>

Bea is the daughter of two neurodivergent parents Sharon and Derek, and during her senior year in high school Bea is left comatose. Through flashbacks the story explores aspects of her life, including a romantic relationship with fellow student Ethan.

## Cast

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- [Kiernan Shipka](#) as Bambi "Bea" Johnson
- [Dash Mihok](#) as Derek Johnson
- [Charlie Plummer](#) as Ethan
- [Jean Smart](#) as Peg
- [Brad Garrett](#) as Earl
- [Alexandra Daddario](#) as Joy
- [Samantha Hyde](#) as Sharon Johnson
- [Jacki Weaver](#) as Loretta
- [Erika Alexander](#) as Mary
- [Reid Scott](#) as Ben
- [Victor Rasuk](#) as Mr. Vasquez
- [Kannon Omachi](#) as Nia
- [Chris Mulkey](#) as Hal

## Development

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The film was inspired by Smukler's niece, and was originally conceived as a short film before being developed as a feature film.<sup>[1]</sup> The script was optioned by Morning Moon production company in 2020, who produced the film in partnership with Limelight and [Entertainment One](#).<sup>[2]</sup> The filmmakers consulted disability representation activist [Elaine Hall](#) during development.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Release

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	<div>Samantha Hyde</div> <div><a href="#">Jacki Weaver</a></div> <div><a href="#">Jean Smart</a></div>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<a href="#">Jeff Cutter</a>
<b>Edited by</b>	JC Bond
<b>Music by</b>	<a href="#">Chad Fischer</a>
<b>Production companies</b>	<div>eOne</div> <div>Limelight</div> <div>Morning Moon</div> <div>Hunting Lane Films</div>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<a href="#">Momentum Pictures</a>
<b>Release dates</b>	<div>September 12, 2022</div> <div><a href="#">(TIFF)</a></div> <div>March 17, 2023</div> <div>(United States)</div>
<b>Running time</b>	105 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English

The film was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 12, 2022.<sup>[4][5]</sup> It was released by Momentum Pictures on March 17, 2023 in the United States and Canada.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Reception

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On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 64% of 40 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.8/10. The website's consensus reads: "*Wildflower* benefits from its appealing ensemble cast, but their efforts aren't quite enough to distinguish this middling coming-of-age story."<sup>[7]</sup> Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned a score of 52 out of 100, based on 7 reviews indicating "mixed or average reviews".<sup>[8]</sup>

William Bibbiani, writing for *TheWrap*, said that the film "can't seem to decide if it's a big mess or a formulaic teen drama, but when it gives us tender moments between its characters, it's hard to really care."<sup>[9]</sup> Lovia Gyarkye of *The Hollywood Reporter* wrote that the film "might not be a radical departure from films of its type, but it does offer buoyant performances from both fresh and familiar faces."<sup>[10]</sup>

In a review titled "When Disability Representation Goes Wrong", Sarah Milner of */Film* criticized its approach to portraying disability and described it as "inspiration porn." She criticized the portrayal of Sharon and Derek in particular, calling the characters "paper-thin punchlines."<sup>[3]</sup> Wendy Ide in a review for Screen Daily compared the film to *CODA* (2021), but felt that *Wildflower* fell short in its portrayal of disabled parents by comparison.<sup>[11]</sup> Charles Bramesco, writing for ThePlaylist.net, gave the film a C- rating and described its exploration of themes as shallow.<sup>[12]</sup>

## References

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## External links

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- *Wildflower* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt12024308/>) at *IMDb*
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