

Bob Marley: One Love

Bob Marley: One Love is a 2024 American biographical drama musical film based on the life of reggae singer and songwriter Bob Marley, played by Kingsley Ben-Adir, from his rise to fame in the mid-1970s up until his death in 1981. The film is directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green, who co-wrote the screenplay with Terence Winter, Frank E. Flowers, and Zach Baylin. It also stars Lashana Lynch as Rita Marley, and James Norton as Chris Blackwell.

Bob Marley: One Love premiered at the Carib 5 in Kingston, Jamaica on January 23, 2024, and was released in the United States by Paramount Pictures on February 14, 2024. It received mixed reviews from critics and has grossed \$177 million worldwide, making it the tenth-highest-grossing film of 2024.

Plot

In 1976, amidst armed political conflict that is affecting daily life in Jamaica, Bob Marley announces he will perform at a concert, Smile Jamaica, promoting peace amongst the warring factions. While preparing for the concert, Marley, his wife Rita, and several other members of his band are shot by assailants. Rita and Marley are hospitalized, but survive and recover from their injuries in time for the concert. After performing, Marley, saddened that his own countrymen would try to kill him and his wife, shows the crowd his bullet wounds before walking off stage. He tells Rita to take their children to Delaware in the United States and stay with his mom, as he and the rest of his band venture to London.

After struggling to come up with a new album concept, Marley asks Rita to rejoin him and the band in England, and taking inspiration from the soundtrack of the film *Exodus* and their own situation, he and the band begin recording what would become their album of the same name. The album becomes a hit and helps further popularize reggae music and the Rastafari movement around the world. When the recording company schedules a tour in Europe, Marley also aims for stops throughout Africa to inspire the people there. This leads to friction with Rita as she and Marley argue about his responsibilities and both his and Rita's infidelities, in addition to

Bob Marley: One Love



Theatrical release poster

Directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green

Screenplay by Terence Winter
Frank E. Flowers
Zach Baylin
Reinaldo Marcus Green

Story by Terence Winter
Frank E. Flowers

Produced by Robert Teitel
Dede Gardner
Jeremy Kleiner
Ziggy Marley
Rita Marley
Cedella Marley

Starring Kingsley Ben-Adir
Lashana Lynch
James Norton

Cinematography Robert Elswit

having given up on promoting peace back in Jamaica. Marley also gets into an altercation with manager Don Taylor over a financial dispute.

After a toenail infection raises concern from Rita and his record producer Chris Blackwell, Marley is later diagnosed with a rare skin cancer. Blackwell confronts Marley about treatment choices, reluctantly dismissed by a firm Marley. Faced with his own mortality, Marley reconciles with Rita and Taylor and finally decides to return to Jamaica in 1978, where he is welcomed back by a crowd at the airport. Back home, the gunman who had shot him and the others arrives and begs for forgiveness, to which Marley states he "keeps no vengeance". After Marley debuts a song to Rita and the children about reconciliation, she finally deems him ready to perform a peace concert. The film ends as Marley and his band gear up to perform again for the Jamaican crowd with the song "One Love".

A pre-credits montage shows clips of the real Marley and his band during the One Love Peace Concert, which sees them joined on-stage by the heads of both of Jamaica's political parties, also revealing that Marley and his band were able to perform in Zimbabwe to celebrate the nation's independence before he died of his cancer in 1981 at the age of 36.

Edited by	<u>Pamela Martin</u> <u>Nick Houy</u>
Music by	<u>Kris Bowers</u>
Production companies	<u>Plan B</u> <u>Entertainment</u> <u>State Street</u> <u>Pictures</u> <u>Tuff Gong Pictures</u>
Distributed by	<u>Paramount</u> <u>Pictures</u>
Release dates	January 23, 2024 (Carib 5) February 14, 2024 (United States)
Running time	107 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Languages	English <u>Jamaican</u> <u>Patois</u> ^{[2][3]}
Budget	\$70 million ^[4]
Box office	\$178.5 million ^{[5][6]}

Cast

- Kingsley Ben-Adir as Bob Marley^[7]
 - Quan-Dajai Henriques as teenage Bob
 - Nolan Collignon as young Bob
- Lashana Lynch as Rita Marley^[7]
 - Nia Ashi as teenage Rita
- James Norton as Chris Blackwell^[7]
- Tosin Cole as Tyrone Downie
- Aston Barrett Jr. as Aston "Family Man" Barrett
- Anthony Welsh as Don Taylor
- Hector Boots Lewis as Carlton Carly Barrett^[8]
- Alexx A-Game as Peter Tosh
 - Narado Williams as teenage Peter
- Abijah "Naki Wailer" Livingston as Bunny Wailer
 - Courtney Edwards as teenage Bunny
- Stefan A.D Wade as Seeco Patterson
 - Matthew Malcolm Blake as young Seeco
- Sevana as Judy Mowatt^[8]
- Michael Gandolfini as Howard Bloom

- [Nadine Marshall](#) as [Cedella Malcolm](#)
- [Umi Myers](#) as [Cindy Breakspeare](#)
- [Gawaine "J-Summa" Campbell](#) as [Antonio "Gillie" Gilbert](#)
- [Naomi Cowan](#) as [Marcia Griffiths](#)
- [David Kerr](#) as [Junior Marvin](#)
- [Sheldon Sheperd](#) as [Neville Garrick](#)
- [Andrae Simpson](#) as [Donald Kinsey](#)
- [Jeff Crossley](#) as [Clement "Coxsone" Dodd](#)
- [Sundra Oakley](#) as [Diane Jobson](#)

Production

Development

In June 2018, it was announced that [Paramount Pictures](#) was developing a biographical drama film based on the life of singer and songwriter [Bob Marley](#), with Marley's son [Ziggy Marley](#) serving as a producer.^[9] In March 2021, [Reinaldo Marcus Green](#) had been hired to direct, with [Zach Baylin](#) (who wrote Green's 2021 film *King Richard*), [Frank E. Flowers](#), and [Terence Winter](#) writing the screenplay.^{[10][11]} In February 2022, [Kingsley Ben-Adir](#) was cast as the titular character, after an extensive, yearlong and globe-spanning search by the studio.^[12] In August, [Lashana Lynch](#) had joined the cast playing as Bob's wife [Rita Marley](#).^[13] In February 2023, [Michael Gandolfini](#), [Nadine Marshall](#), [James Norton](#) and [Anthony Welsh](#) had joined the cast.^[14]

Filming

[Principal photography](#) began in December 2022 in London^{[15][16]} and Jamaica and wrapped in April 2023.^{[17][18]} The film's title, *Bob Marley: One Love*, was announced by producer [Ziggy Marley](#) at [CinemaCon](#) that same month.^{[18][19]}

Music

In October 2023, it was reported that [Kris Bowers](#) had composed the film's score, after working with Green on *Monsters and Men* (2018) and *King Richard*.^[20] On January 26, 2024, American country singer [Kacey Musgraves](#) released a cover of the [Wailers'](#) "[Three Little Birds](#)" (1977), part of the film's soundtrack.^[21] The soundtrack EP of the film was released on February 14, 2024, by [Island Records](#) and [Tuff Gong](#).^[22]

Release

Bob Marley: One Love held its world premiere in Marley's hometown of [Kingston, Jamaica](#), on January 23, 2024.^[23] It was released theatrically in the United States on February 14, 2024.^[24] It was originally scheduled to be released on January 12, 2024.^[14] It was released in the United Kingdom on February 14, 2024.^[1]

Home media

It premiered on [Paramount+](#) and [MGM+](#) in the US and Canada on April 12, 2024, with a linear streaming on the same day.

It will be released on 4K Ultra HD, DVD and Blu-ray on May 28, 2024 by [Paramount Home Entertainment](#).

Reception

Box office

As of April 22, 2024, *Bob Marley: One Love* has grossed \$96.9 million in the United States and Canada, and \$80.3 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$177.2 million.^[5]

In the United States and Canada, *One Love* was released alongside *Madame Web*, and was initially projected to gross \$30–35 million from 3,536 theaters over its six-day opening frame.^[4] The film made \$14 million on its first day, a [Valentine's Day](#) mid-week record (surpassing *The Vow*'s \$11.5 million in 2012), and \$3.8 million on its second.^{[25][26]} After making \$7.5 million on Friday, six-day estimates were raised to \$46 million. It went on to debut to \$51 million over its first six days (including \$27.7 million in its opening weekend), finishing first at the box office and marking one of the best openings for a music biopic.^[27] In its second weekend the film made \$13.5 million (a drop of 53%), remaining in first.^[28] It made \$7.4 million in its third weekend, finishing second behind newcomer *Dune: Part Two*.^[29]

In Jamaica, the film's opening day gross of \$100,000 and an 89% market share set a record for the biggest box office opening of all-time in the country.^{[30][31][32]}

Critical response

On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 44% of 185 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.4/10. The website's consensus reads: "Kingsley Ben-Adir does an admirable job in the central role, but *Bob Marley: One Love* is ultimately a standard biopic that doesn't do justice to its brilliant subject."^[33] [Metacritic](#), which uses a [weighted average](#), assigned the film a score of 43 out of 100, based on 36 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[34] Audiences surveyed by [CinemaScore](#) gave the film an average grade of "A" on an A+ to F scale, while those polled at [PostTrak](#) gave it a 91% positive score, with 80% saying they would definitely recommend the film.^{[25][27]}

Lovia Gyarkye of *The Hollywood Reporter* wrote: "[Ben-Adir] wholly conjures Marley's charisma while also teasing the musician's sense of isolation, stemming from a childhood marked by abandonment. His compelling performance enlivens a film that otherwise feels like it's perpetually struggling to take off."^[35] Javier Ocaña of *El País* called the film "a serviceable biopic that is saved by its soundtrack"^[36] while *Expresso* thought it "showed the man beyond the myth".^[37]

Brian Lowry of [CNN](#) called the film "a dutiful addition to a recent wave of such biographies (see *Rocketman* and *Bohemian Rhapsody*), but a largely uninspired one."^[38] *The Age*'s Jake Wilson gave it 1.5/5 stars, calling it a "routine biopic" and writing, "considering this is unlikely to be the last attempt to dramatise Marley's life story, next time it wouldn't hurt if a Jamaican filmmaker had a go."^[39] *The Atlantic*'s

Hannah Giorgis wrote, "*One Love* might offer a less daunting entry point than *Marley*, which can feel intimidating in its scope. But his music and ideas—and all the people who helped usher them into this fractured world—deserve better."^[40]

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External links

- [Official website \(https://www.onelovemovie.com\)](https://www.onelovemovie.com) 
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