

# All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt

*All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt* is a 2023 American drama film written and directed by Raven Jackson in her feature-film directorial debut. It stars Charleen McClure, Moses Ingram, Reginald Helms Jr., Zainab Jah, Sheila Atim, and Chris Chalk. Barry Jenkins serves as a producer under his Pastel banner. The film has very little spoken dialogue.

It had its world premiere in the U.S. Dramatic competition at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival on January 22, 2023 and was released by A24 on November 3, 2023. It received positive reviews from critics and was named one of the top 10 independent films of 2023 by the National Board of Review.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Plot

The film charts the growth, loves, and heartbreaks of a Black woman in Mississippi, from her childhood through to her adult years.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Cast

- Charleen McClure as Mack
  - Kaylee Nicole Johnson as young Mack
  - Zainab Jah as older Mack
- Moses Ingram as Josie
  - Jayah Henry as young Josie
- Reginald Helms Jr. as Wood
  - Preston McDowell as young Wood
- Sheila Atim as Evelyn
- Chris Chalk as Isaiah<sup>[6]</sup>

## Production

In February 2021, it was announced that Raven Jackson would write and direct the film, with Barry Jenkins set to serve as a producer under his Pastel banner, and A24 set to produce and distribute.<sup>[7]</sup>

### All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt



Theatrical release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	Raven Jackson
<b>Written by</b>	Raven Jackson
<b>Produced by</b>	Maria Altamirano <div><span><span>Barry Jenkins</span></span></div> <div><span><span>Adele Romanski</span></span></div> <div><span><span>Mark Ceryak</span></span></div>
<b>Starring</b>	Charleen McClure <div><span><span>Moses Ingram</span></span></div> <div><span><span>Reginald Helms Jr.</span></span></div> <div><span><span>Zainab Jah</span></span></div> <div><span><span>Sheila Atim</span></span></div> <div><span><span>Chris Chalk</span></span></div>
<b>Cinematography</b>	Jomo Fray
<b>Edited by</b>	<span><span>Lee Chatametikool</span></span>
<b>Music by</b>	Sasha Gordon <div><span><span>Victor Magro</span></span></div>
<b>Production companies</b>	<span><span>A24</span></span>

Principal photography took place in Tennessee and in Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi in the fall of 2021.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

## Release

*All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt* had its world premiere at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival on January 22, 2023.<sup>[10]</sup> It also screened at the 71st San Sebastián International Film Festival<sup>[11]</sup> and the 2023 New York Film Festival.<sup>[12][13]</sup> The film was released by A24 on November 3, 2023.<sup>[1][14]</sup>

## Reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 89% of 64 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 7.5/10. The website's consensus reads: "For viewers willing and able to adjust to its leisurely, recursive rhythm, *All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt* is a beautifully elegant exploration of grief and longing."<sup>[15]</sup> Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 87 out of 100, based on 22 critics, indicating "universal acclaim".<sup>[16]</sup>

	Pastel Tender
Distributed by	A24
Release dates	January 22, 2023 (Sundance) <div>November 3, 2023</div>
Running time	92 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
Country	United States
Language	English
Box office	\$52,084 <sup>[2][3]</sup>

Richard Brody, from *The New Yorker*, described it as the most distinctive film of the year-2023 from a strict perspective of inventive narrative form.<sup>[17]</sup>

## Accolades

Award	Date of ceremony	Category	Recipient(s)	Result	Ref.
<a href="#">Sundance Film Festival</a>	<a href="#">January 27, 2023</a>	Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic Competition	<i>All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt</i>	Nominated	<a href="#">[10]</a>
<a href="#">San Sebastián International Film Festival</a>	<a href="#">September 30, 2023</a>	<a href="#">Golden Shell</a>		Nominated	<a href="#">[18]</a>
		RTVE-Another Look Award: Special Mention		Won	<a href="#">[19]</a>
		SIGNIS Award		Won	
<a href="#">Ghent International Film Festival</a>	<a href="#">October 21, 2023</a>	Best Film		Nominated	<a href="#">[20]</a>
<a href="#">Chicago International Film Festival</a>	<a href="#">October 22, 2023</a>	Gold Hugo		Nominated	<a href="#">[21]</a>
<a href="#">Montclair Film Festival</a>	<a href="#">October 29, 2023</a>	Breakthrough Director & Writer Award	Raven Jackson	Won	<a href="#">[22]</a>
<a href="#">Gotham Independent Film Awards</a>	<a href="#">November 27, 2023</a>	<a href="#">Breakthrough Director</a>		Nominated	<a href="#">[23]</a>
<a href="#">National Board of Review</a>	<a href="#">December 6, 2023</a>	<a href="#">Top 10 Independent Films</a>	<i>All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt</i>	Won <sup>[a]</sup>	<a href="#">[24]</a>
<a href="#">IndieWire Critics Poll</a>	<a href="#">December 11, 2023</a>	Best Cinematography	Jomo Fray	5th Place	<a href="#">[25]</a>
		Best First Feature	<i>All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt</i>	2nd Place	
<a href="#">Chicago Film Critics Association Awards</a>	<a href="#">December 12, 2023</a>	<a href="#">Best Editing</a>		Nominated	<a href="#">[26]</a>
		Milos Stehlik Award for Breakthrough Filmmaker	Raven Jackson	Nominated	
<a href="#">Florida Film Critics Circle Awards</a>	<a href="#">December 21, 2023</a>	Best First Film		Nominated	
<a href="#">Black Reel Awards</a>	<a href="#">January 16, 2024</a>	<a href="#">Outstanding Independent Film</a>	<i>All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt</i>	Nominated	<a href="#">[28]</a>
		<a href="#">Outstanding Emerging Director</a>	Raven Jackson	Nominated	
		<a href="#">Outstanding First Screenplay</a>		Nominated	
		<a href="#">Outstanding Cinematography</a>	Jomo Fray	Won	
<a href="#">Independent Spirit Awards</a>	<a href="#">February 25, 2024</a>	<a href="#">Best First Feature</a>	Raven Jackson, Maria Altamirano, Mark Ceryak, Barry Jenkins, and <a href="#">Adele Romanski</a>	Nominated	<a href="#">[29]</a>

## Notes

- a. This award does not have a single winner, but recognizes multiple films.

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## External links

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- *All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11534720/>) at IMDb
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