

Shooting Stars (2023 film)

Shooting Stars is a 2023 American biographical sports drama film about the high school sports career of LeBron James. Directed by Chris Robinson, and starring Mookie Cook as the lead, it is based on James' 2009 memoir of the same name, co-authored by Buzz Bissinger.

The film was released on June 2, 2023, by Peacock.

Plot

Based on the book by LeBron James and the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Friday Night Lights*, Buzz Bissinger, *Shooting Stars* is the inspiring origin story of a basketball superhero, revealing how LeBron James and his childhood friends become the #1 high school team in the country, launching James's breathtaking career as a four-time NBA Champion, two-time Olympic Gold Medalist, and the NBA's all-time leading scorer.^[3]

Cast

- Mookie Cook as LeBron James^[4]
- Caleb McLaughlin as Dru Joyce III
- Algee Smith as Illya McGee
- Dermot Mulroney as Keith Dambrot
- Wood Harris as Dru Joyce II
- Natalie Paul as Gloria James
- Katlyn Nichol as Savannah James
- Avery Wills as Willie McGee
- Scout Henderson as Romeo Travis
- Khalil Everage as Sian Cotton
- Jett Howard as Carmelo Anthony^[5]

Production

In 2014, it was reported that a film based on LeBron James' high school years would be produced by Universal Pictures.^[6] The film is based on James' 2009 memoir of the same name, co-authored by Buzz Bissinger.^[4]

Shooting Stars



Official poster

Directed by	<u>Chris Robinson</u>
Screenplay by	<u>Frank E. Flowers</u> <u>Tony Rettenmaier</u> <u>Juel Taylor</u>
Based on	<i>Shooting Stars</i> by <u>LeBron James</u>
Produced by	<u>Rachel Winter</u> <u>Terence Winter</u> <u>LeBron James</u> <u>Maverick Carter</u>
Starring	<u>Mookie Cook</u> <u>Caleb McLaughlin</u> ^[1] <u>Algee Smith</u> <u>Dermot Mulroney</u>

Principal photography began on April 18, 2022, in Beachwood, Ohio.^[7] Filming lasted until June 2022. Among the locations used for filming were St. Paul's Episcopal Church.^[2]

Release

Shooting Stars premiered on Peacock on June 2, 2023.^[8] In the Philippines, the film was released on HBO Go on November 25, 2023.^[9]

Reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 53% of 34 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.9/10. The website's consensus reads: "Although *Shooting Stars* isn't without its engaging moments, this dramatized look back at LeBron James' early years is less entertaining than simply watching him play."^[10] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 62 out of 100, based on 11 critics, indicating "generally favorable" reviews.^[11]

Matt Zoller Seitz of RogerEbert.com gave the film four out of four stars, stating that "When a movie loves its characters and story as much as this one, and dedicates every aspect of filmmaking and performance to doing them justice, and consistently puts virtuosity in service of meaning, the result conjures a feeling that's close to what you experience when someone you adore has a great and richly deserved success, and you're privileged to be able to witness it and cheer them on."^[12]

See also

- *More than a Game* — a 2008 documentary film about LeBron's high school years.
- List of basketball films

References

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2. Gideon, Vic (April 28, 2022). "Filming for movie about LeBron James' life underway in Cleveland Heights" (<https://www.cleveland19.com/2022/04/28/filming-movie-about-lebron-james-life-underway-cleveland-heights/>). *cleveland19*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20220428202749/http://www.cleveland19.com/2022/04/28/filming-movie-about-lebron-james-life-underway-cleveland-heights/>) from the original on April 28, 2022. Retrieved May 3, 2022.
3. "Watch Shooting Stars (2023) Streaming Online | Peacock" (<https://www.peacocktv.com/stream-movies/shooting-stars>). *@peacocktv*. Retrieved June 14, 2023.

Cinematography	<div>Karsten Gopinath</div>
Edited by	<div>Jo Francis</div>
Music by	<div>Mark Isham</div>
Production companies	<div>Universal Pictures</div> <div>SpringHill Company</div>
Distributed by	<div>Peacock</div>
Release date	<div>June 2, 2023</div>
Running time	<div>115 minutes</div>
Country	<div>United States</div>
Language	<div>English</div>
Budget	<div>\$25 million^[2]</div>

4. Kit, Borys (May 13, 2022). "High School Basketball Star Mookie Cook to Play Young LeBron James in Drama 'Shooting Stars' (Exclusive)" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/mookie-cook-to-play-lebron-james-shooting-stars-adaptation-1235146499/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20230414023503/https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-news/mookie-cook-to-play-lebron-james-shooting-stars-adaptation-1235146499/>) from the original on April 14, 2023. Retrieved May 16, 2022.
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10. "Shooting Stars" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/shooting_stars_2023). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved August 24, 2023.
11. "Shooting Stars" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/shooting-stars-2023>). *Metacritic*. Fandom, Inc. Retrieved July 22, 2023.
12. Seitz, Matt Zoller (June 8, 2023). "Shooting Stars movie review & film summary (2023)" (<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/shooting-stars-movie-review-2023>). *RogerEbert.com*. Ebert Digital LLC. Retrieved May 9, 2024.

External links

Shooting Stars (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3715152/>) at *IMDb*

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