

Apollo 10 1/2: A Space Age Childhood

Apollo 10½: A Space Age Childhood is a 2022 American animated coming of age comedy-drama film set during the events preceding the Apollo 11 Moon landing, loosely based on the childhood of writer, director, and producer Richard Linklater. It presents a fictional tale of a fourth-grader who becomes the first person to land on the Moon and stars Glen Powell, Jack Black, Zachary Levi and Josh Wiggins.

Linklater, who originally got the idea for the film in 2004, was planning to create the film in live action but instead decided to go with an animation style influenced by Saturday morning cartoons, due to the playful nature of animation. Home movies created in Houston, Texas during the 1960s were used for research, and some were also included in the film. Principal photography began in February 2020 at Robert Rodriguez's Troublemaker Studios in Austin, Texas, and wrapped in March 2020. Parts of the filming were done in front of the largest green screen in Texas and parts of the film, which were shot in live-action, were animated during post-production using a technique similar to the rotoscoping used in Linklater's *Waking Life* (2001) and *A Scanner Darkly* (2006).

Apollo 10½ premiered at South by Southwest on March 13, 2022, and was released in select theaters on March 24, 2022, before premiering on Netflix on April 1.^[1] It received positive reviews, with praise for its writing, visuals, and nostalgic feel.

Plot

The film tells the story of the first Moon landing in the summer of 1969 from two interwoven perspectives. It captures both the astronaut and mission control view of the triumphant moment, and the lesser-seen bottom up perspective of what it was like from an excited kid's perspective, living near NASA but mostly watching it on TV like hundreds of millions of others. It's ultimately both an exacting re-creation of this special moment in history and a kid's fantasy about being plucked from his average life in suburbia to secretly train for a covert mission to the Moon.

Voice cast

- Milo Coy as young Stanley^[2]
- Jack Black as adult Stanley^[2]

Apollo 10½: A Space Age Childhood



Release poster

Directed by	<u>Richard Linklater</u>
Written by	<u>Richard Linklater</u>
Produced by	<u>Richard Linklater</u> <u>Tommy Pallotta</u> <u>Mike Blizzard</u> <u>Femke Wolting</u> <u>Bruno Felix</u>
Starring	<u>Glen Powell</u> <u>Zachary Levi</u> <u>Jack Black</u>
Cinematography	<u>Shane F. Kelly</u>
Edited by	<u>Sandra Adair</u>
Production companies	<u>Netflix</u> <u>Animation</u> <u>Minnow Mountain</u>

- [Glen Powell](#) as Bostick, [NASA official](#)^[2]
- [Zachary Levi](#) as Kranz, [NASA official](#)^[2]
- [Josh Wiggins](#) as Steve
- [Lee Eddy](#) as Mom
- [Bill Wise](#) as Dad
- [Natalie L'Amoreaux](#) as Vicky
- [Jessica Brynn Cohen](#) as Jana
- [Sam Chipman](#) as Greg
- [Danielle Guilbot](#) as Stephanie

	Submarine
	Detour
	Filmproduction
Distributed by	Netflix
Release dates	March 13, 2022 (SXSW) March 24, 2022 (United States)
Running time	98 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English

Production

[Richard Linklater](#) originally got the idea for the film in 2004.^[3] In February 2018, it was announced [Richard Linklater](#) would direct the film from a screenplay he wrote.^[4] In July 2020, it was announced [Glen Powell](#), [Jack Black](#), [Zachary Levi](#), [Josh Wiggins](#), [Milo Coy](#), [Lee Eddy](#), [Bill Wise](#), [Natalie L'Amoreaux](#), [Jessica Brynn Cohen](#), [Sam Chipman](#) and [Danielle Guilbot](#) had joined the cast of the film, with [Netflix](#) distributing.^[5]

[Richard Linklater](#) was planning to create the film in [live action](#) but instead decided to go with an [animation](#) style influenced by [Saturday morning cartoons](#) because of the playful nature of animation. [Home movies](#) created in [Houston, Texas](#) during the 1960s were used for research, some were also included in the film.^{[3][6]}

[Principal photography](#) began in February 2020 at [Robert Rodriguez's Troublemaker Studios](#) in [Austin, Texas](#), and wrapped in March 2020.^{[7][8][9]} [Linklater](#) spent much of the time during the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) editing the film.^[10]

Setting

The film is set in [Houston](#) in the 1960s, during the [Space Race](#).^{[10][6]}

Filming

Parts of the filming were done in front of the largest [green screen](#) in Texas, and everything the characters did not interact with or touch was [animated](#) in [post-production](#). Parts of the film, which were shot in live-action, were animated during post-production using a technique similar to the [rotoscoping](#) used in [Linklater's Waking Life](#) (2001) and [A Scanner Darkly](#) (2006). After initially being denied eligibility for the [Animated Feature](#) category by the [Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences](#) for using the stylized animation approach, their appeal, with support from fellow directors and animators,^[11] reversed the decision.^[12]

Release

Apollo 10½: A Space Age Childhood premiered as a headliner at the 2022 South by Southwest film festival on March 13, 2022.^[13] When the official trailer was released, the release date was announced for April 1, 2022, which is when it premiered on Netflix.^[14] The film was screened in select theaters on March 24, 2022.^[15]

Reception

Review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reports that 91% of 142 sampled critics gave the film a positive review, with an average rating of 8/10. The site's critics consensus reads, "The sweetly nostalgic *Apollo 10 1/2: A Space Age Childhood* finds Richard Linklater reusing visual and thematic ingredients in a deeply personal, freshly inspired way."^[16] On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 79 out of 100 based on 39 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".^[17]

Apollo 10½ was ranked seventh on Cahiers du Cinéma's top 10 films of 2022 list.^[18]

Accolades

Award	Date of ceremony	Category	Recipient(s)	Result	Ref.
<u>Washington D.C. Area Film Critics Association</u>	<u>December 12, 2022</u>	<u>Best Animated Feature</u>	<i>Apollo 10 1/2: A Space Age Childhood</i>	Nominated	^[19]
<u>Chicago Film Critics Association</u>	<u>December 14, 2022</u>	<u>Best Animated Film</u>		Nominated	^[20]
<u>St. Louis Gateway Film Critics Association</u>	<u>December 18, 2022</u>	<u>Best Animated Film</u>		Nominated	^[21]
<u>San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle</u>	<u>January 9, 2023</u>	<u>Best Animated Feature</u>		Nominated	^[22]
<u>Austin Film Critics Association</u>	<u>January 10, 2023</u>	<u>Best Animated Film</u>		Nominated	^[23]
		<u>Best Austin Film</u>		Nominated	
<u>Georgia Film Critics Association</u>	<u>January 13, 2023</u>	<u>Best Animated Film</u>		Nominated	^[24]
<u>Online Film Critics Society</u>	<u>January 23, 2023</u>	<u>Best Animated Feature</u>		Nominated	^[25]
<u>Houston Film Critics Society</u>	<u>February 18, 2023</u>	<u>Best Animated Feature</u>		Nominated	^[26]
		<u>Texas Independent Film Award</u>		Won	

See also

- Apollo 11 in popular culture

References

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External links

- *Apollo 10 1/2: A Space Age Childhood* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/81161042>) on *Netflix*
 - *Apollo 10 1/2: A Space Age Childhood* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7978758/>) at *IMDb*
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