

<b>Directed by</b>	<u>Jane Schoenbrun</u>
<b>Written by</b>	Jane Schoenbrun
<b>Produced by</b>	<u>Emma Stone</u> <u>Dave McCary</u> Ali Herting Sam Intili Sarah Winshall
<b>Starring</b>	<u>Justice Smith</u> <u>Brigette Lundy-Paine</u> Ian Foreman <u>Helena Howard</u> <u>Fred Durst</u> <u>Danielle Deadwyler</u>
<b>Cinematography</b>	Eric K. Yue
<b>Edited by</b>	Sofi Marshall
<b>Music by</b>	Alex G

main antagonist, Mr. Melancholy, are fed his poisonous "luna juice," and are buried alive. The episode implies that Owen is an unconscious Isabel, causing him to panic and shove his head into the screen. Frank pulls him out and forces him to wash himself as he screams that he is not living his real life and vomits luna juice.

In the present, Maddy explains to Owen that after leaving, the feelings of isolation and falsehood she felt at home followed her, so she paid a man to bury her alive. After eventually suffocating, she woke in *The Pink Opaque* as Tara, claiming that they are currently in Mr. Melancholy's "midnight realm", where people are sent after drinking the luna juice. She pleads with Owen to bury himself with her and start season six as Isabel before he suffocates from being buried in *The Pink Opaque*, but he panics and runs home. He waits for Maddy to return and force him to bury himself, but never sees her again.

Frank dies a few years later and Owen stays in the house, settling down and starting an unseen family. The theater closes and he takes a job at a family entertainment center. He rediscovers *The Pink Opaque* on a streaming service, but finds it to be of lower quality than he remembers. Twenty years later, Owen still works at the center and his asthma has become severe and is rapidly worsening. During a birthday party at the center, he breaks down, screams that he is dying, and begs for his mother to save him. Owen observes everyone around him turn lifeless before locking himself in the bathroom. He cuts his chest open and sees a TV screen inside of him playing distorted footage. He then returns to the center, apologizing to the guests for his breakdown before the screen cuts to black.

<b>Production companies</b>	<u>Fruit Tree</u> Smudge Films Hypnic Jerk <u>Access</u> <u>Entertainment</u>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>A24</u>
<b>Release dates</b>	January 18, 2024 ( <u>Sundance</u> ) May 3, 2024 (United States)
<b>Running time</b>	100 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$10 million <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Box office</b>	\$1.5 million <sup>[3][4]</sup>

## Cast

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- Justice Smith as Owen
  - Ian Foreman as younger Owen
- Brigette Lundy-Paine as Maddy
- Helena Howard as Isabel
- Fred Durst as Frank
- Danielle Deadwyler as Brenda<sup>[5]</sup>
- Lindsey Jordan as Tara
- Amber Benson as Johnny Link's Mom
- Conner O'Malley as Dave
- Emma Portner as Mr. Melancholy/Marco/Amanda/Evil Clown
- Michael C. Maronna as Neighbor #1
- Danny Tamberelli as Neighbor #2

Appearing as themselves in the film are Phoebe Bridgers, Haley Dahl and their band Sloppy Jane, as well as Kristina Esfandiari and her band King Woman.

## Production

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In October 2021, it was announced [Jane Schoenbrun](#) would direct the film, from a screenplay they wrote, with [Emma Stone](#) set to produce under her [Fruit Tree](#) banner, with [A24](#) producing, financing, and distributing.<sup>[6]</sup> In August 2022, it was announced [Justice Smith](#), [Brigette Lundy-Paine](#), [Helena Howard](#), [Danielle Deadwyler](#), [Amber Benson](#), [Ian Foreman](#), [Michael Maronna](#), [Conner O'Malley](#), [Emma Portner](#), [Danny Tamberelli](#), [Phoebe Bridgers](#), [Lindsey Jordan](#), [Fred Durst](#), [Haley Dahl](#), [Jonathan Chacko](#), and [Kristina Esfandiari](#) had joined the cast of the film.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

[Principal photography](#) took place in New Jersey from July to August 2022.<sup>[9][10][11]</sup> Shooting took place at [Verona High School](#), [Cedar Grove High School](#) and [Keansburg Amusement Park](#). Other notable locations were the music venue [The Saint](#) and [Camp Lewis](#).<sup>[11]</sup>

## Music

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The film's original score was composed by [Alex G](#). The film features an original soundtrack that includes songs from [Caroline Polachek](#), [Sloppy Jane](#), [Phoebe Bridgers](#), [Kristina Esfandiari](#), [Florist](#), [yeule](#), and [Drab Majesty](#) among others. The soundtrack was released on May 10, 2024.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Release

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*I Saw the TV Glow* premiered in the Midnight section at the 2024 [Sundance Film Festival](#) on January 18, 2024.<sup>[13]</sup> It also screened at the [74th Berlin International Film Festival](#) in the Panorama section on February 20, 2024<sup>[14]</sup> and [South by Southwest](#) on March 10, 2024.<sup>[15][16]</sup> It was released in limited theaters on May 3, 2024, playing in [New York](#) and [Los Angeles](#),<sup>[17]</sup> before a nationwide expansion on May 17.<sup>[18]</sup>

## Reception

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On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 84% of 146 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 7.7/10. The website's consensus reads: "With a distinctive visual aesthetic that enhances its emotionally resonant narrative, *I Saw the TV Glow* further establishes writer-director Jane Schoenbrun as a rising talent."<sup>[19]</sup> [Metacritic](#), which uses a [weighted average](#), assigned the film a score of 84 out of 100, based on 40 critics, indicating "universal acclaim".<sup>[20]</sup>

Guy Lodge of [Variety](#) wrote, "This is both promising psychodrama fodder on its own terms, and of a piece with the particular fixations Schoenbrun has established across their small oeuvre thus far".<sup>[21]</sup> David Ehrlich of [IndieWire](#) wrote, "Schoenbrun's astonishing second feature manages to retain the seductive fear of their micro-budget debut and deepen its thrilling wounds of discovery even while examining them at a much larger scale".<sup>[22]</sup> Many reviewers also praised its transgender themes, with Richard Brody for [The New Yorker](#) calling it "a profound vision of the trans experience" and Veronica Esposito for [The Guardian](#) saying it "speaks to '90s trans teens".<sup>[23][24]</sup>

The film did receive some negative reviews with Amy Nicholson of [The Los Angeles Times](#) describing the film as a "collection of leaden scenes that might make the audience want to claw out of its own skin" adding, "The film invents a new emotion: passionate ambivalence."<sup>[25]</sup> Nicolas Rapold of [Sight & Sound](#)

agreed writing, "There's the awed sense of a blueprint or roadmap that is insisted upon without entirely being executed and fulfilled" adding "[it] is a collection...of sequences and moments more than a fully realised whole."<sup>[26]</sup>

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## External links

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- Official website (<https://a24films.com/films/i-saw-the-tv-glow>) 
  - *I Saw the TV Glow* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15574270/>) at IMDb
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