

The Inspection

The Inspection is a 2022 American drama film written and directed by Elegance Bratton. Inspired by Bratton's real-life experiences, the film follows a young gay black man who defiantly endures brutal training at a Marine Corps boot camp, seeking approval from his homophobic mother. It stars Jeremy Pope, Raúl Castillo, McCaul Lombardi, Aaron Dominguez, Nicholas Logan, Eman Esfandi, Andrew Kai, Aubrey Joseph, Bokeem Woodbine, and Gabrielle Union.

The Inspection had its world premiere at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival on September 8, 2022, and was theatrically released in the United States on November 18 by A24. The film received generally positive reviews from critics, with Pope's performance being praised and earning a Golden Globe nomination.

Synopsis

Ellis French enlists in the Marine Corps and ends up at boot camp on Parris Island, South Carolina. He initially meets the physical requirements, but is not as successful in disguising his sexual orientation, making him the target of a near-lethal hazing from training instructor Leland Laws and a fellow recruit, Laurence Harvey.

Cast

- Jeremy Pope as Ellis French
- Raúl Castillo as Rosales
- Bokeem Woodbine as Leland Laws
- Gabrielle Union as Inez French
- McCaul Lombardi as Laurence Harvey
- Aaron Dominguez as Castro
- Nicholas Logan as Brooks
- Eman Esfandi as Ismail
- Andrew Kai as Label
- Aubrey Joseph as Boles

Brad Napp as Graduation officer

Production

The Inspection



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Elegance Bratton</u>
Written by	<u>Elegance Bratton</u>
Produced by	<u>Effie T. Brown</u> <u>Chester Algernal Gordon</u>
Starring	<u>Jeremy Pope</u> <u>Raúl Castillo</u> <u>McCaul Lombardi</u> <u>Aaron Dominguez</u> <u>Nicholas Logan</u> <u>Eman Esfandi</u> <u>Andrew Kai</u> <u>Aubrey Joseph</u> <u>Bokeem Woodbine</u> <u>Gabrielle Union</u>
Cinematography	<u>Lachlan Milne</u>
Edited by	<u>Oriana Soddu</u>
Music by	<u>Animal Collective</u>
Production companies	<u>A24</u>

In June 2021, it was announced [Jeremy Pope](#), [Gabrielle Union](#), [Bokeem Woodbine](#) and [Raúl Castillo](#) had joined the cast of the film, with [Elegance Bratton](#) directing from a screenplay he wrote, with [Gamechanger Films](#) set to produce, and [A24](#) set to produce and distribute.^{[4][5]} [Principal photography](#) concluded by November 2021.^[6]

Music

Bratton enlisted [Animal Collective](#) to compose and perform a score for the film. The soundtrack album, which features a collaboration with [Indigo De Souza](#) titled "Wish I Knew You", was released on November 18.^[7] Art pop musician [Serpentwithfeet](#) composed "The Hands", featured in the film's end credits.^[8]

	<div><div><div></div><div>Gamechanger Films</div></div><div>Freedom Principle</div></div>
Distributed by	A24
Release dates	September 8, 2022 (TIFF) <div>November 18, 2022 (United States)</div>
Running time	95 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$3 million ^[2]
Box office	\$406,644 ^[3]

Release

The film had its world premiere at the [2022 Toronto International Film Festival](#) on September 8, 2022.^[9] It also screened at the [60th New York Film Festival](#) on October 14, 2022.^[10] It was released in the United States on November 18, 2022.^[11]

The film was released for [VOD](#) on January 24, 2023, followed by a [Blu-ray](#) and [DVD](#) release on February 21, 2023.^[12]

Reception

Critical response

On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 89% of 140 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 7.1/10. The website's consensus reads: "Although it's frustratingly clumsy in certain respects, *The Inspection* is an affecting actors' showcase in service of some truly worthy themes."^[13] [Metacritic](#), which uses a [weighted average](#), assigned the film a score of 73 out of 100, based on 33 critics, indicating "generally favorable" reviews.^[14]

Dieter Oßwald, film correspondent for the Guild of German Film Art Theaters, writes that Bratton's impressive feature debut, which he describes as a "queer *Full Metal Jacket*", tells of a chapter of intolerance, discrimination and homophobia in the U.S., where until 2005 the official motto in the U.S. military was still "don't ask, don't tell" and coming out in uniform was considered unthinkable. In this

context, Oswald quotes an instructor in the film: "If we kicked all the gays out of the Army, there would be no more Marines." Showing such an ambivalent figure is part of the dramaturgical cleverness of the drama, which does not leave conflicts in the cliché, but deliberately presents the contradictions.^[15]

Accolades

Award	Date of ceremony	Category	Recipient(s)	Result	Ref.
<u>AARP Movies for Grownups Awards</u>	<u>January 28, 2023</u>	<u>Best Supporting Actress</u>	<u>Gabrielle Union</u>	Nominated	^[16]
<u>African-American Film Critics Association</u>	December 8, 2022	Best Actor	<u>Jeremy Pope</u>	Won	^[17]
<u>Alliance of Women Film Journalists</u>	January 5, 2023	Best Actor	<u>Jeremy Pope</u>	Nominated	^[18]
<u>Black Reel Awards</u>	<u>February 6, 2023</u>	<u>Outstanding Independent Film</u>	<i>The Inspection</i>	Won	^[19]
		<u>Outstanding Director</u>	<u>Elegance Bratton</u>	Nominated	
		<u>Outstanding Screenplay</u>		Nominated	
		<u>Outstanding Emerging Director</u>		Nominated	
		<u>Outstanding First Screenplay</u>		Won	
		<u>Outstanding Actor</u>	<u>Jeremy Pope</u>	Won	
		<u>Outstanding Breakthrough Performance, Male</u>		Won	
		<u>Outstanding Supporting Actor</u>	<u>Bokeem Woodbine</u>	Nominated	
		<u>Outstanding Supporting Actress</u>	<u>Gabrielle Union</u>	Nominated	
		<u>Outstanding Ensemble - Casting Director</u>	Kim Coleman	Nominated	
<u>GLAAD Media Awards</u>	<u>March 30, 2023</u>	<u>Outstanding Film – Limited Release</u>	<i>The Inspection</i>	Won	^[20]
<u>Golden Globe Awards</u>	<u>January 10, 2023</u>	<u>Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Drama</u>	Jeremy Pope	Nominated	^[21]
<u>Hollywood Critics Association Creative Arts Awards</u>	February 17, 2023	Best First Feature	Elegance Bratton	Nominated	^[22]
<u>Houston Film</u>	<u>February 18,</u>	Best New Filmmaker	Elegance Bratton	Nominated	^[23]

Critics Society	2023				
Independent Spirit Awards	March 4, 2023	Best Lead Performance	Jeremy Pope	Nominated	[24]
		Best Supporting Performance	Gabrielle Union	Nominated	
		Best First Feature	Elegance Bratton, Effie T. Brown, Chester Alernal Gordon	Nominated	
National Board of Review Awards	December 8, 2022	Top Ten Independent Films	<i>The Inspection</i>	Won	[25]
NAACP Image Awards	February 25, 2023	Outstanding Independent Motion Picture	<i>The Inspection</i>	Won	[26]
Palm Springs International Film Festival	January 13, 2023	Directors to Watch Award	Elegance Bratton	Won	[27]
Santa Barbara International Film Festival	January 13, 2023	Virtuoso Award	Jeremy Pope	Won	[28]


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External links

- Official website (<https://a24films.com/films/inspection>) 
 - *The Inspection* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13495458/>) at IMDb
 - *The Inspection* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_inspection) at Rotten Tomatoes
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