

Knox Goes Away

Knox Goes Away is a 2023 American crime thriller film directed by Michael Keaton and written by Gregory Poirier. It stars Keaton, James Marsden, Suzu Nakamura, Joanna Kulig, Ray McKinnon, John Hoogenakker, Lela Loren, Marcia Gay Harden, and Al Pacino. The film follows a contract killer (Keaton), who after being diagnosed with a fast-moving form of dementia, is presented with the opportunity to redeem himself by saving the life of his estranged adult son (Marsden).

It premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 10, 2023, and was released theatrically in the United States on March 15, 2024, by Saban Films.

Plot

John Knox works a day-to-day job as a contract killer employed by Xavier Crane, a crime boss. He is estranged from his wife and son and dates a Cracovian immigrant named Annie, who shares his love for books. Knox is later diagnosed with a fast-moving form of dementia called Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease. He quickly makes arrangements to cash out and retire from the business. Before that, he undertakes one last job with his partner, Thomas Muncie.

During the job, after successfully killing his target but also accidentally killing the woman who was with him in the shower, Knox accidentally kills Muncie in his dementia-fueled confusion. He quickly stages the scene and leaves. That night, he is suddenly visited by his estranged son Miles, who tearfully admits to killing a man for raping his daughter, Knox's granddaughter. Knox instructs his son to remain quiet to the authorities as he later arrives at the crime scene and meticulously removes evidence that may incriminate Miles, while mysteriously storing them away for later use. Meanwhile, dogged detective Emily Ikari is on both murder cases, determined to pinpoint the perpetrator.

Knox later visits his friend and boss Xavier Crane, a crime lord. Together, they cook up a plan to set Knox's family up for life while leaving the business behind, all while Knox battles his fading mental state. Meanwhile, Detective Ikari links both crimes to a single perpetrator. She interrogates Knox to no



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Michael Keaton</u>
Written by	<u>Gregory Poirier</u>
Produced by	<u>Trevor Matthews</u> Nick Gordon <u>Michael Sugar</u> Ashley Zalta Michael Keaton
Starring	Michael Keaton <u>James Marsden</u> <u>Suzy Nakamura</u> <u>Joanna Kulig</u> <u>Ray McKinnon</u> <u>John Hoogenakker</u> <u>Lela Loren</u> <u>Marcia Gay Harden</u> <u>Al Pacino</u>
Cinematography	Marshall Adams
Edited by	Jessica Hernandez
Music by	Alex Heffes

effect. He plants the evidence he had previously stored away around his son Miles' home, seemingly betraying him. Miles is arrested for the murder of his daughter's rapist, and is confronted by Knox in prison, where Knox accuses Miles of ratting him out in a tax evasion case several years prior. After getting lost in the woods after digging up his stash of diamonds at a cabin his family used to own, Knox is picked up by Crane and driven home. Upon reaching home, he is confronted by a group of burglars and Annie, who had become aware of Knox's dementia and the fact that he had been cashing out and ratted him out as a result. Killing them all, Knox confronts Annie at gunpoint and informs her that she would have gotten a share anyways. Despondent, Knox calls Xavier, who wishes him fortune before informing the police as part of their plan, whereupon he is arrested by Detective Ikari. The police later discover signs that the evidence found at Miles Knox's house may have been tampered with, and planted there by Knox, leading to the conclusion that Knox may have framed his own son for the murder. When asked by Ikari on a possible motive, Miles, recalling his father's accusation of him in prison, responds accordingly, shifting the blame fully over to Knox. He is then released.

Several weeks later, Miles visits his father in prison. Knox, now having fully lost his mental faculties, does not recognize his own son and is later moved from prison to a medical facility, having only weeks left to live. Miles, and his mother receive equal shares of Knox's fortune, ensuring the completion of his retirement plan. Annie, who is spared, is shown receiving Knox's library and opening the cover of *A Tale of Two Cities*. The film ends with a catatonic Knox staring out a window.

Production companies	<div>FilmNation</div> <div>Entertainment</div> <div>Brookstreet Pictures</div> <div>Sugar23</div>
Distributed by	<div>Saban Films (United States)</div> <div>FilmNation Entertainment (International)</div>
Release dates	<div>September 10, 2023 (TIFF)</div> <div>March 15, 2024 (United States)</div>
Running time	114 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Box office	\$377,908 ^[2]

Cast

- [Michael Keaton](#) as John "Aristotle" Knox
- [Al Pacino](#) as Xavier Crane
- [Marcia Gay Harden](#) as Ruby Knox
- [James Marsden](#) as Miles Knox
- [Suzy Nakamura](#) as Detective Emily Ikari
- [John Hoogenakker](#) as Detective Rale
- [Joanna Kulig](#) as Annie
- [Ray McKinnon](#) as Thomas Muncie
- [Lela Loren](#) as Cheryl Knox
- [Dennis Dugan](#) as Philo Jones

Production

Michael Keaton directed the film from a script by Gregory Poirier.^[3] Principal photography took place from October to December 2022 in Los Angeles.^{[4][5]}

Release

Knox Goes Away had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 10, 2023.^{[6][1]} In November 2023, Saban Films acquired U.S. distribution rights to the film, later scheduling the film for a theatrical release on March 15, 2024.^{[7][8]}

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 61% of 70 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.9/10. The website's consensus reads: "Michael Keaton directs Michael Keaton in *Knox Goes Away*, and gets a terrific performance out of himself -- albeit one that's left stranded by an underwhelming screenplay."^[9] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 54 out of 100, based on 19 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[10]

References

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External links

- *Knox Goes Away* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt20115766/>) at *IMDb*
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