

French Exit (2020 film)

French Exit is a 2020 black comedy-drama film^{[7][8]} directed by Azazel Jacobs,^[9] based on the novel of the same name by Patrick deWitt, who also wrote the screenplay. It tells the story of a Manhattan heiress (Michelle Pfeiffer) who moves to Paris with her son (Lucas Hedges) with the little money they have left.

The film had its world premiere at the New York Film Festival on October 10, 2020, and was theatrically released in the United States and Canada on February 12, 2021. It received mixed reviews from critics, although Pfeiffer's performance was praised and she was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress – Motion Picture Comedy or Musical.

Plot

The bank seizes all the property of Manhattan heiress Frances Price several years after her husband's death. The close-to-penniless widow and her son, Malcolm, are left with few options. They sell everything in their house and relocate to a small apartment in Paris owned by Frances' friend, with the family cat, who happens to be Frances' reincarnated husband.

Cast

- Michelle Pfeiffer as Frances Price
- Lucas Hedges as Malcolm Price
- Valerie Mahaffey as Mme. Reynard
- Imogen Poots as Susan
- Susan Coyne as Joan
- Danielle Macdonald as Madeleine the medium
- Isaach de Bankolé as Julius
- Daniel Di Tomasso as Tom
- Tracy Letts as Franklin Price (voice)

Production

French Exit



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Azazel Jacobs
Screenplay by	Patrick deWitt
Based on	<i>French Exit</i> by Patrick deWitt
Produced by	Christine Habeler <div></div> Christina Piovesan <div></div> Noah Segal <div></div> Trish Dolman <div></div> Katie Holly <div></div> Oliver Glass <div></div>
Starring	Michelle Pfeiffer <div></div> Lucas Hedges <div></div> Valerie Mahaffey <div></div> Imogen Poots <div></div> Susan Coyne <div></div> Danielle Macdonald <div></div> Isaach de Bankolé <div></div> Tracy Letts <div></div>
Cinematography	Tobias Datum

It was announced in May 2019 that Michelle Pfeiffer, Lucas Hedges and Tracy Letts were cast in the film, with Azazel Jacobs directing and the novel's author Patrick deWitt writing the screenplay.^[10] Danielle Macdonald was cast in October.^[11]

Filming

Principal photography began in October 2019, with Paris and Montreal as the filming locations.^[12]

Release

In September 2019, Sony Pictures Classics acquired distribution rights to the film.^[8] It had its world premiere at the New York Film Festival on October 10, 2020.^[13]

On August 20, 2020, the studio scheduled the film to be released on February 12, 2021.^{[14][15]} In February 2021, it was announced the film would begin a limited release in New York City and Los Angeles on February 12, before going wide on April 2.^[16]

It was selected to be presented to Berlin Film Festival in the section *Berlin Special Titles*.

Reception

Critical response

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, 64% of 181 critic reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.1/10. The website's critics consensus reads: "The smartly written *French Exit* offers proof that even the most caustic characters can be made entertaining – and even relatable – through a Michelle Pfeiffer performance."^[17] According to Metacritic, which reports a weighted average score of 56 out of 100, based on 32 critics, the film received "mixed or average reviews".^[18]

David Ehrlich of IndieWire gave the film a "B−" and wrote: "Jacobs doesn't give us much else to hold on to. For all of its touching moments – and a series of closing grace notes that shimmer with a mystical flair missing from the rest of the film – this gossamer-thin adaptation is hampered by the same ambivalence that's haunted [Pfeiffer's character] Frances for so long."^[19]

Edited by	Hilda Rasula
Music by	Nick deWitt
Production companies	<div> <div><u>Evolution Entertainment</u>^[1]</div> <div><u>Rocket Science</u>^[1]</div> <div><u>Screen Siren Pictures</u></div> <div><u>Elevation Pictures</u></div> <div><u>Blinder Films</u></div> <div><u>Terminal City Pictures</u>^[1]</div> <div><u>Saalgo Productions</u>^[1]</div> <div><u>Telefilm Canada</u>^[1]</div> </div>
Distributed by	<div> <div><u>Elevation Pictures (Canada)</u>^[2]</div> <div><u>Sony Pictures Classics</u></div> <div><u>Stage 6 Films (international)</u>^[3]</div> </div>
Release dates	<div> <div>October 11, 2020 (NYFF)</div> <div>February 12, 2021 (Canada)</div> </div>
Running time	110 minutes ^[4]
Countries	<div> <div>Canada</div> <div>United Kingdom^[5]</div> </div>
Language	English
Box office	\$1.6 million ^{[6][1]}

Pfeiffer received critical acclaim for her performance with many critics dubbing it Oscar-worthy and Variety's Pete Dibrugge writing that she delivered a role "for which she'll be remembered." ^{[20][21][22][23][24]}

Accolades

Award	Date of ceremony	Category	Recipient	Result	Ref.
<u>Satellite Awards</u>	<u>February 15, 2021</u>	<u>Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy</u>	<u>Michelle Pfeiffer</u>	Nominated	^[25]
<u>Golden Globe Awards</u>	<u>February 28, 2021</u>	<u>Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy</u>		Nominated	^[26]
<u>Canadian Screen Awards</u>	<u>May 20, 2021</u>	<u>Best Actress</u>		Won	^[27]
<u>Independent Spirit Awards</u>	<u>April 22, 2021</u>	<u>Best Supporting Female</u>	<u>Valerie Mahaffey</u>	Nominated	^[28]

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External links

- Official website (<https://www.sonyclassics.com/film/frenchexit/>)
 - *French Exit* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10279362/>) at IMDb
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