

Monster (2018 film)

Monster is a 2018 American legal drama film directed by Anthony Mandler, from a screenplay by Radha Blank,^[1] Cole Wiley, and Janece Shaffer, based on the novel of the same name by Walter Dean Myers. It stars Kelvin Harrison Jr., Jennifer Ehle, Tim Blake Nelson, Nas, ASAP Rocky, Paul Ben-Victor, John David Washington, Jennifer Hudson, and Jeffrey Wright. Wright, Nas, and John Legend also serve as executive producers on the film.

Three years after its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on January 22, 2018, the film was acquired by Netflix and released on May 7, 2021. It received generally positive reviews from critics.

Premise

Monster tells the story of Steve Harmon (Kelvin Harrison Jr.) a seventeen-year-old honor student whose world comes crashing down around him when he is charged with felony murder. The film follows his dramatic journey from a smart, likeable film student from Harlem attending an elite high school through a complex legal battle that could leave him spending the rest of his life in prison.^[2]

—Netflix

Cast

- Kelvin Harrison Jr. as Steve Harmon
- Jennifer Hudson as Mrs. Harmon
- Jeffrey Wright as Mr. Harmon
- Jennifer Ehle as Maureen O'Brien
- Tim Blake Nelson as Leroy Sawicki
- ASAP Rocky as James King
- Paul Ben-Victor as Anthony Petrocelli
- John David Washington as Richard "Bobo" Evans
- Nas as Raymond "Sunset" Green
- Jharrel Jerome as Osvaldo Cruz
- Dorian Missick as Asa Briggs
- Willie C. Carpenter as Judge

Monster	
	
Official promotional poster	
Directed by	Anthony Mandler
Screenplay by	Radha Blank <div>Cole Wiley</div> <div>Janece Shaffer</div>
Based on	<i>Monster</i> by Walter Dean Myers
Produced by	Tonya Lewis Lee <div>Nikki Silver</div> <div>Aaron L. Gilbert</div> <div>Mike Jackson</div> <div>Edward Tyler Nahem</div>
Starring	Kelvin Harrison Jr. <div>Jennifer Ehle</div> <div>Tim Blake Nelson</div> <div>ASAP Rocky</div> <div>John David Washington</div>

- Rege Lewis as Ernie Ryans
- Jonny Coyne as Detective Karyl
- Lovie Simone as Renee Pickford
- Liam Obergfoll as Casper Juenemann
- Mikey Madison as Alexandra Floyd
- Nyleek Moore as Jerry Harmon
- Roberto Lopez as Mr. Nesbitt

Release

The film premiered in the U.S. Dramatic Competition section at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival.^[3] In April 2019, it was announced that Entertainment Studios had acquired distribution rights to the film, retitled *All Rise*.^{[4][5]} In November 2020, Netflix acquired distribution rights to the film, with the title switching back to *Monster*.^[6] It was released on their service on May 7, 2021.^{[7][8]}

Reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 68% of 62 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.1/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "*Monster* would have benefited from a less heavy-handed approach, but Kelvin Harrison Jr.'s performance gives this timely drama emotional heft."^[9] According to Metacritic, which assigned a weighted average score of 56 out of 100 based on 18 critics, the film received "mixed or average reviews".^[10]

	<u>Jennifer Hudson</u>
	<u>Jeffrey Wright</u>
Cinematography	David Devlin
Edited by	<u>Joe Klotz</u>
Music by	Harvey Mason Jr.
Production companies	<u>Bron Studios</u> <p>Charlevoix Entertainment</p> <p>Get Lifted Film Company</p> <p>Tonik Productions</p> <p>Red Crown Productions</p> <p>Creative Wealth Media</p>
Distributed by	<u>Netflix</u>
Release dates	January 22, 2018 (Sundance) <p>May 7, 2021 (United States)</p>
Running time	98 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English

See also

- List of black films of the 2010s
- List of hood films
- Monster (Myers novel)

References

- ↑ "'Monster' Summary & Ending, Explained - Cultivates Drama With Hard-Hitting Dialogues | DMT" (https://dmtalkies.com/monster-summary-ending-explained-2021-netflix-film/). *Digital Mafia Talkies*. May 7, 2021. Retrieved May 7, 2021.
- ↑ Monster (https://media.netflix.com/en/only-on-netflix/81121351)
- ↑ "Sundance Film Festival Unveils Full 2018 Features Lineup" (https://variety.com/2017/film/news/sundance-film-festival-2018-lineup-program-1202625522/). *Variety*. November 29, 2017. Retrieved January 1, 2018.
- ↑ Hipes, Patrick (April 22, 2019). "Sundance Pic 'Monster' Gets New Title & Theatrical Deal With Byron Allen's ESMP" (https://deadline.com/2019/04/all-rise-movie-monster-release-date-byron-allen-1202599903/).

5. "Jennifer Hudson Sundance Film 'All Rise' Acquired by Byron Allen's Entertainment Studios" (<https://www.thewrap.com/jennifer-hudson-byron-allen-sundance-film-all-rise-acquired-entertainment-studios/>). *The Wrap*. April 22, 2019. Retrieved April 23, 2019.
6. Galuppo, Mia (November 10, 2020). "Netflix Acquires 'Monster' Starring Jennifer Hudson, Kelvin Harrison Jr" (<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/netflix-acquires-monster-starring-jennifer-hudson-kelvin-harrison-jr/>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved November 10, 2020.
7. Fleming, Mike Jr. (January 12, 2021). "Netflix Unveils A 2021 Film Slate With Bigger Volume & Star Wattage; Scott Stuber On The Escalating Film Ambition" (<https://deadline.com/video/netflix-2021-movie-slate/>). *Deadline Hollywood*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210112140848/https://deadline.com/video/netflix-2021-movie-slate/>) from the original on January 12, 2021. Retrieved January 12, 2021.
8. Santer, Kristen (April 6, 2021). "Netflix Drama 'Monster' Starring Kelvin Harrison Jr. and Jeffrey Wright Receives Heartbreaking First Trailer" (<https://collider.com/monster-trailer-netflix-kelvin-harrison-jr-jeffrey-wright/>). *Collider*. Retrieved April 6, 2021.
9. "*Monster (2018)*" (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/monster_2021). *Rotten Tomatoes*. Fandango Media. Retrieved October 10, 2021.
10. "*Monster (2021) Reviews*" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/monster-2021>). *Metacritic*. Fandom, Inc. Retrieved May 16, 2021.

External links

- *Monster* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2850272/>) at *IMDb*
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