

Didi

Didi (Chinese: 弟弟; lit. 'Younger Brother') is a 2024 American coming-of-age comedy drama film, written, directed, and produced by Sean Wang, in his directorial debut. It stars Izaac Wang and Joan Chen. Carlos López Estrada and Chris Columbus serve as producer and executive producer under their AntiGravity Academy and Maiden Voyage Pictures banners, respectively.

Didi had its world premiere at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival on January 19, 2024, where it won the Audience Award: U.S. Dramatic and U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award: Ensemble.[2] It is scheduled to be released on July 26, 2024, by Focus Features.

Premise

Set in 2008, a 13-year-old Taiwanese-American boy learns how to skate, flirt and love his mother.[3]

Cast

- Izaac Wang as Chris Wang
- Shirley Chen as Vivian Wang
- Chang Li Hua as Nai Nai
- Joan Chen as Chungsing Wang
- Raul Dial as Fahad Mahmood
- Aaron Chang as Jimmy Kim
- Mahaela Park as Madi
- Chiron Denk as Donovan
- Sunil Maurillo as Cory
- Montay Boseman as Nugget
- Georgie August as Georgia
- Stephanie Hsu as Kissing Tutorial Instructor

Production

Principal photography took place in July 2023, in Fremont, California.[4] The film consists mostly of first-time actors, from the Bay Area.[5] The film was previously selected for the 2023 Sundance Institute Screenwriting & Directors Lab and the 2022 SFFILM Rainin Grant.[6][7]

Release

Didi
Directed by Sean Wang
Written by Sean Wang
Produced by Sean Wang, Carlos López Estrada, Valerie Bush, Josh Peters
Starring Izaac Wang, Joan Chen
Cinematography Sam A. Davis
Edited by Arielle Zakowski
Music by Giosue Greco
Production companies AntiGravity Academy, Spark Features, Unapologetic Projects, Maiden Voyage Pictures
Distributed by Focus Features
Release dates January 19, 2024 (Sundance), July 26, 2024
Running time 91 minutes[1]
Country United States
Languages English, Mandarin

Dìdi had its world premiere at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival on January 19, 2024.^[8] A few days later, Focus Features acquired distribution rights to the film.^[9] It also screened at South by Southwest on March 12, 2024 and is scheduled to be the closing film at Sundance's London edition on June 9, 2024.^{[10][11][12]} It also premiered internationally at the Beijing International Film Festival on April 19, 2024.^[13] It is scheduled to be released on July 26, 2024.^[14]

Critical reception

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, *Dìdi* holds an approval rating of 90%, based on 30 critic reviews with an average rating of 7.6/10.^[15] On Metacritic, which assigns a weighted average, the film holds a score of 77 out of 100, indicating "generally favorable" reviews.^[16]

In her review for *The Guardian*, Adrian Horton described *Dìdi* as "easily one of the best, most seamless films [she's] seen on the experience of growing up online" and declared it a "clear antecedent" to *Eighth Grade* (2018).^[17] Scott Phillips praised the cast performances in his review for *Forbes* and concluded: "It would be reductive to call *Dìdi* a 'feel good movie'. It never manipulates its audience, but it offers a great deal of comedy to go with its heavier themes. It feels like real life, finding the humor and the happiness that can be often be obscured by the challenges".^[18]

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External links

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