

Playing God (2021 film)

Playing God is a 2021 American film written and directed by Scott Brignac and starring [Luke Benward](#), [Michael McKean](#), [Alan Tudyk](#), and [Hannah Kasulka](#). It was released in theaters and on-demand on August 6, 2021.^[1]

Premise

Playing God follows "Rachel and Micah, a brother and sister con-artist duo who find themselves scamming a grieving billionaire, Ben, by convincing him they can introduce him to God, face-to-face. They recruit their longtime mentor, Frank, to 'play' God as the three of them attempt the biggest con of their lives."^[2]

Cast

- [Luke Benward](#) as Micah
- [Michael McKean](#) as Frank
- [Alan Tudyk](#) as Ben
- [Hannah Kasulka](#) as Rachel
- [Jude Demorest](#) as June
- [Marc Menchaca](#) as Vaughan
- Raoul Canoli as Jesus

Production

On May 14, 2018, it was announced that Scott Brignac was writing and directing a new film entitled *Playing God* to be produced by [Aaron Benward](#) and Russell Grove.^[2] Alongside the film's initial announcement, it was confirmed that [Luke Benward](#), [Michael McKean](#), [Alan Tudyk](#), [Hannah Kasulka](#), [Jude Demorest](#), and [Marc Menchaca](#) had joined the film's main cast.^[2] Principal photography for the film had reportedly begun by May 2018 in Houston, Texas.^[2]

Critical reception

Some reviewers allege a disparity between Brignac's apparent intentions and the substance of the film's plot. For instance, [Glenn Kenny](#) on [RogerEbert.com](#), writes, "The movie’s ending...suggests that what Brignac was after has not too much to do with what ended up on screen: a parable of forgiveness with genuine theological heft."^[3] In that vein, Michael Shindler in [The American Conservative](#) compares the film unfavorably to [A Serious Man](#), [Winter Light](#), and

Playing God	
 <div>Theatrical release poster</div>	
Directed by	Scott Brignac
Written by	Scott Brignac
Produced by	Aaron Benward <p>Russell Grove</p>
Starring	Luke Benward <p>Michael McKean</p> <p>Alan Tudyk</p> <p>Hannah Kasulka</p> <p>Jude Demorest</p> <p>Marc Menchaca</p>
Music by	Joshua Moore
Distributed by	Vertical Entertainment
Release date	August 6, 2021
Running time	96 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English

Nostalgia, describing it as an instance of "pseudo-religious filmmaking" akin to God's Not Dead, and writes, "In the world as it is, inexplicable tragedy exists: helpless fawns burn in wildfires, babies die excruciating deaths from horrific diseases, plagues wipe out millions, and so on. But in Brignac's world evil is a cardboard plot device."^[4]

References

1. Lane, Carly (July 8, 2021). "Exclusive: 'Playing God' Trailer Reveals a Cool Caper Thriller About a Family of Con Artists" (<https://collider.com/playing-god-trailer-michael-mckean-alan-udyk/>). *Collider*. Retrieved July 9, 2021.
2. N'Duka, Amanda (May 14, 2018). "Luke Benward, Michael McKean, Alan Tudyk & Hannah Kasulka To Star In 'Playing God' " (<https://deadline.com/2018/05/luke-benward-michael-mckean-alan-tudyk-playing-god-movie-1202390947/>). *Deadline*. Retrieved May 14, 2018.
3. Kenny, Glenn (August 6, 2021). "Playing God" (<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/playing-god-movie-review-2021>). *RogerEbert.com*. Ebert Digital LLC. Retrieved 6 October 2021.
4. Shindler, Michael (October 2, 2021). "Playing God,' Playing To Lose" (<https://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/playing-god-playing-to-lose/>). *The American Conservative*. Retrieved 6 October 2021.

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Playing_God_\(2021_film\)&oldid=1183273034](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Playing_God_(2021_film)&oldid=1183273034)"

■