



The Green Mile (film)

This is an **old revision** of this page, as edited by **TheOldJacobite** ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) at **14:31, 3 November 2017** (*Undid revision 808444385 by 179.60.161.28 (talk)---Rewording was inaccurate.*). The present address (URL) is a **permanent link** to this revision, which may differ significantly from the **current revision**.

The Green Mile is a 1999 American fantasy crime drama film written and directed by [Frank Darabont](#) and adapted from the 1996 [Stephen King](#) serial novel of the same name.

The film stars [Tom Hanks](#) as [Paul Edgecomb](#) and [Michael Clarke Duncan](#) as [John Coffey](#), with supporting roles by [David Morse](#), [Bonnie Hunt](#), and [James Cromwell](#). The film also features [Dabbs Greer](#) in his final film, as the older Paul Edgecomb. The film, told in a flashback format, tells the story of Paul's life as a [death row](#) [corrections officer](#) during the [U.S. Great Depression](#), and the [supernatural](#) events he witnessed.

The film was nominated for four [Academy Awards](#): [Best Picture](#), [Best Supporting Actor](#) for [Michael Clarke Duncan](#), [Best Sound Mixing](#), and [Best Adapted Screenplay](#).

Plot

In a Louisiana assisted-living home in 1999, Paul Edgecomb begins to cry while watching the film *Top Hat*. His companion Elaine becomes concerned, and Paul explains to her that the film reminded him of the events of 1935, which took place when he was a prison officer, in charge of death row, what they refer to as the "Green Mile".

In 1935, Paul supervises officers Brutus Howell, Dean Stanton, Harry Terwilliger, and Percy Wetmore at Cold Mountain Penitentiary. Paul is suffering from a severe bladder infection and receives John Coffey, a physically imposing but mentally challenged black man, into his custody. John had been sentenced to death after being convicted of raping and murdering two white girls. One of the other inmates is a Native-American named Arlen Bitterbuck, who is charged with murder and is the first to be executed. Percy demonstrates a severe sadistic streak, but, as the nephew of Louisiana's First Lady, he is beyond reproach. He is particularly abusive with

The Green Mile



Theatrical release poster by [Drew Struzan](#)

Directed by	Frank Darabont
Screenplay by	Frank Darabont
Produced by	Frank Darabont David Valdes
Starring	Tom Hanks David Morse Bonnie Hunt Michael Clarke Duncan James Cromwell Michael Jeter Graham Greene Doug Hutchison Sam Rockwell Barry Pepper Jeffrey DeMunn Patricia Clarkson

inmate Eduard Delacroix; he breaks Del's fingers with his baton, steps on a pet mouse named Mr. Jingles, which Del had adopted, repeatedly calls him by a gay slur, and ultimately sabotages his execution by failing to soak the sponge used to conduct electricity to Del's head; Del dies screaming in pain.

John begins to demonstrate supernatural powers; he cures Paul's bladder infection, resurrects Mr. Jingles, and heals Melinda Moores, wife of the prison's chief warden, of a brain tumor. This last affliction he releases into Percy, who under its influence shoots another prisoner, mass murderer William Wharton, dead. Wharton had from the moment of his arrival been a troublemaker; he assaulted the guards as he was being escorted into the block, made mischief on two occasions that later caused Paul to order him restrained in the block's padded cell, groped Percy, racially insulted John, and revealed psychically to John that he is, in fact, responsible for the crime for which John was condemned. John then reveals the story psychically to Paul, and, when doing so, he also releases his supernatural energy into Paul. Meanwhile, Percy is committed to the insane asylum.

	Harry Dean Stanton
Cinematography	David Tattersall
Edited by	Richard Francis-Bruce
Music by	Thomas Newman
Production company	Castle Rock Entertainment
Distributed by	Warner Bros.
Release date	December 10, 1999 (United States)
Running time	189 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$60 million ^[2]
Box office	\$290.7 million ^[2]

Although distraught over the notion of being executed while innocent, John tells Paul that he does, in fact, wish to die, as he views the world as a cruel place. Mentioning that he had never seen a movie before, John watches *Top Hat* with the other guards as a last request. John is executed that night but refuses the customary hood, as he is afraid of the dark. Paul concludes his story by telling Elaine that John's was the last execution that he and Brutus supervised; following Coffey's execution, they both took jobs in the juvenile system.

Elaine realizes that, since he had a grown son in 1935, Paul must be much older than he looks. Paul reveals that he is, in fact, 108 years of age. Not only is he still alive, so is Del's mouse, Mr. Jingles. Paul then muses that if John's power could make a mouse live for as long as Mr. Jingles has, how much longer does he himself have left?

Cast

- Tom Hanks as Paul Edgecomb
 - Dabbs Greer as old Paul Edgecomb
- David Morse as Brutus "Brutal" Howell
- Bonnie Hunt as Jan Edgecomb
- Michael Clarke Duncan as John Coffey
- James Cromwell as Hal Moores
- Michael Jeter as Eduard "Del" Delacroix
- Doug Hutchison as Percy Wetmore
- Sam Rockwell as William "Wild Bill" Wharton
- Jeffrey DeMunn as Harry Terwilliger
- Barry Pepper as Dean Stanton
- Patricia Clarkson as Melinda Moores
- Brent Briscoe as Bill Dodge

- Harry Dean Stanton as Toot-Toot
- Gary Sinise as Burt Hammersmith
- Graham Greene as Arlen Bitterbuck
- William Sadler as Klaus Detterick
- Bill McKinney as Jack Van Hay
- Jon Polito as "D" Block Prison Guard
- Eve Brent as Elaine Connelly
- Paula Malcomson as Marjorie Detterick

Production

Darabont adapted the novel into a screenplay in under eight weeks.^[3]

The film was shot at Warner Hollywood Studios, West Hollywood, California, and on location in Shelbyville, Tennessee and Blowing Rock, North Carolina.^[4]

Casting

Hanks and Darabont met at an Academy Award luncheon in 1994. Stephen King stated he envisioned Hanks in the role and was happy when Darabont mentioned his name.^[3]

Morse had not heard about the script until he was offered the role. He stated he was in tears by the end of it.^[3] Darabont wanted Cromwell from the start, and after he read the script, Cromwell was moved and agreed.^[3]

Duncan credited his casting to Bruce Willis, with whom he had worked on the film *Armageddon* one year earlier. According to Duncan, Willis introduced him to Darabont after hearing of the open call for John Coffey.^[5]

Soundtrack

The official film soundtrack, *Music from the Motion Picture The Green Mile*, was released on December 19, 1999 by Warner Bros. It contains 37 tracks, primarily instrumental tracks from the film score by Thomas Newman. It also contains four vocal tracks: "Cheek to Cheek" by Fred Astaire, "I Can't Give You Anything but Love, Baby" by Billie Holiday, "Did You Ever See a Dream Walking?" by Gene Austin, and "Charmaine" by Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians.

Reception

Critical response

Review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes gives the film a score of 80%, based on 132 reviews. The critical consensus states "Though *The Green Mile* is long, critics say it's an absorbing, emotionally powerful experience."^[6] The film also has a score of 61 out of 100 on Metacritic based on 36 critics indicating "generally favorable reviews".^[7]

Roger Ebert gave the film 3 and a half stars out of 4, writing "The film is a shade over three hours long. I appreciated the extra time, which allows us to feel the passage of prison months and years."^[8] *Forbes* commentator Dawn Mendez referred to the character of John Coffey as a "'magic Negro' figure"—a term describing a stereotypical fictional black person depicted in a fictional work as a "saintly, nonthreatening" person whose purpose in life is to solve a problem for or otherwise further the happiness of a white person.^[9]

Awards and honors

1999 Academy Awards^{[10][11]}

- Nominated – Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role – Michael Clarke Duncan
- Nominated – Best Picture – David Valdes, Frank Darabont
- Nominated – Best Sound Mixing – Robert J. Litt, Elliot Tyson, Michael Herbick, Willie D. Burton
- Nominated – Best Adapted Screenplay – Frank Darabont

2000 Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films

- **Won** – Best Supporting Actor – Michael Clarke Duncan
- **Won** – Best Supporting Actress – Patricia Clarkson
- **Won** – Best Action/Adventure/Thriller Film
- Nominated – Best Director – Frank Darabont
- Nominated – Best Music – Thomas Newman

2000 Broadcast Music Incorporated Film & TV Awards

- **Won** – Film Music Award – Thomas Newman

2000 Black Reel Awards

- **Won** – Theatrical – Best Supporting Actor – Michael Clarke Duncan

2000 Blockbuster Entertainment Awards

- **Won** – Favorite Actor – Drama – Tom Hanks
- Nominated – Favorite Supporting Actor – Drama – Michael Clarke Duncan
- Nominated – Favorite Supporting Actress – Drama – Bonnie Hunt

2000 Bram Stoker Awards

- Nominated – Best Screenplay – Frank Darabont

2000 Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards

- **Won** – Best Screenplay, Adaptation – Frank Darabont
- **Won** – Best Supporting Actor – Michael Clarke Duncan
- Nominated – Best Film

2000 Chicago Film Critics Association Awards

- Nominated – Best Supporting Actor – Michael Clarke Duncan
- Nominated – Most Promising Actor – Michael Clarke Duncan

2000 Directors Guild of America

- Nominated – Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Motion Pictures – Frank Darabont

2000 Golden Globe Awards

- Nominated – Best Supporting Actor – Motion Picture – Michael Clarke Duncan

2000 NAACP Image Awards

- Nominated – Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture – Michael Clarke Duncan

2000 MTV Movie Awards

- Nominated – Best Breakthrough Male Performance – Michael Clarke Duncan

2000 Motion Picture Sound Editors (Golden Reel Awards)

- Nominated – Best Sound Editing – Dialogue and ADR – Mark A. Mangini, Julia Evershade
- Nominated – Best Sound Editing – Effects and Foley – Mark A. Mangini, Aaron Glascock, Howell Gibbens, David E. Stone, Solange S. Schwalbe

2000 People's Choice Awards

- **Won** – Favorite All-Around Motion Picture
- **Won** – Favorite Dramatic Motion Picture

2001 Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (Nebula Award)

- Nominated – Best Script – Frank Darabont

2000 Screen Actors Guild Awards

- Nominated – Outstanding Performance by a Cast
- Nominated – Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role – Michael Clarke Duncan

Others

The film is recognized by American Film Institute in these lists:

- 2006: AFI's 100 Years...100 Cheers – Nominated^[12]

References

1. "The Green Mile (1999)" (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120689/>). IMDb. Retrieved January 12, 2016.

2. Box Office Information for *The Green Mile*. (<http://www.the-numbers.com/movies/1999/GMILE.php>) The Numbers. Retrieved September 12, 2012.
3. "About the Film" (<http://thegreenmile.warnerbros.com/cmp/cast-fr.html>). Retrieved November 1, 2011.
4. Darabont, Frank (Director) (December 10, 1999). *The Green Mile* (Motion picture). United States: Warner Bros.
5. Doty, Meriah (September 4, 2012). "Bruce Willis helped Michael Clarke Duncan get his Oscar caliber role" (<https://movies.yahoo.com/blogs/movie-talk/bruce-willis-helped-michael-clarke-duncan-oscar-caliber-042008924.html>). Yahoo! Movies.
6. "The Green Mile" (http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/green_mile/). December 10, 1999. Retrieved September 22, 2014.
7. "The Green Mile" (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/the-green-mile>). *metacritic*. December 10, 1999. Retrieved September 25, 2015.
8. "The Green Mile" (<http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/the-green-mile-1999>). *Roger Ebert dot com*. December 10, 1999.
9. Mendez, Dawn (January 23, 2009). "The 'Magic Negro' " (https://www.forbes.com/2009/01/23/obama-magic-negro-oped-cx_dm_0123mendez.html). *Forbes*. Retrieved October 26, 2009.
10. "The 72nd Academy Awards (2000) Nominees and Winners" (<http://www.oscars.org/awards/academyawards/legacy/ceremony/72nd-winners.html>). *oscars.org*. Retrieved November 19, 2011.
11. Lyman, Rick (March 28, 2000). "Oscar Victory Finally Lifts the Cloud for DreamWorks" (<https://www.nytimes.com/library/film/oscars2000.html>). *The New York Times*. Retrieved November 4, 2011.
12. "AFI's 100 Years...100 Cheers Nominees" (<http://www.afi.com/Docs/100Years/cheers300.pdf>) (PDF). Retrieved August 14, 2016.

External links

- [Official website](http://www.warnerbros.com/green-mile) (<http://www.warnerbros.com/green-mile>)
- *The Green Mile* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120689/>) at IMDb
- *The Green Mile* (<https://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/title/333049/enwp>) at the TCM Movie Database
- *The Green Mile* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v181271>) at AllMovie
- *The Green Mile* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/green_mile) at Rotten Tomatoes



Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Green_Mile_\(film\)&oldid=808545402](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Green_Mile_(film)&oldid=808545402)"

▪