



# William Friedkin

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**William David Friedkin** (/ˈfriːdkɪn/; August 29, 1935 – August 7, 2023) was an American film, television and opera director, producer, and screenwriter who was closely identified with the "[New Hollywood](#)" movement of the 1970s.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Beginning his career in documentaries in the early 1960s, he is best known for his crime thriller film *[The French Connection](#)* (1971), which won five [Academy Awards](#), including [Best Picture](#) and [Best Director](#), and the horror film *[The Exorcist](#)* (1973), which earned him another Academy Award nomination for Best Director.

Friedkin's other films in the 1970s and 1980s include the drama *[The Boys in the Band](#)* (1970), considered a milestone of [queer cinema](#); the originally deprecated, now lauded thriller *[Sorcerer](#)* (1977); the crime comedy drama *[The Brink's Job](#)* (1978); the controversial thriller *[Cruising](#)* (1980);<sup>[3][4]</sup> and the neo-noir thriller *[To Live and Die in L.A.](#)* (1985). Although Friedkin's works suffered an overall commercial and critical decline in the late 1980s, his last three feature films, all based on plays, were positively received by critics: the psychological horror film *[Bug](#)* (2006), the crime film *[Killer Joe](#)* (2011), and the legal drama film *[The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial](#)* (2023), released two months after his death. He also worked extensively as an opera director from 1998 until his death, and directed various television films and series episodes for television.

## Early life and education [\[ edit \]](#)

Friedkin was born in Chicago, Illinois, on August 29, 1935, the son of Rachael (née Green) and Louis Friedkin. His father was a semi-professional softball player, merchant seaman, and men's clothing salesman. His mother, whom Friedkin called "a saint," was a nurse.<sup>[5][6]</sup> His parents were [Jewish emigrants](#)

### William Friedkin



Friedkin in 2017

<b>Born</b>	William David Friedkin <div>August 29, 1935</div> <div>Chicago, Illinois, U.S.</div>
<b>Died</b>	August 7, 2023 (aged 87) <div>Los Angeles, California, U.S.</div>
<b>Education</b>	<a href="#">Senn High School</a>
<b>Occupations</b>	Director <span> </span> <b><span>·</span></b> <span> </span> producer <span> </span> <b><span>·</span></b> <span> </span> screenwriter
<b>Years active</b>	1962–2023
<b>Spouses</b>	<div><a href="#">Jeanne Moreau</a><div><span>​</span>(<span>m.</span> 1977<span>;</span> <span>div.</span> 1979)</div></div> <div><a href="#">Lesley-Anne Down</a><div><span>​</span>(<span>m.</span> 1982<span>;</span> <span>div.</span> 1985)</div></div> <div><a href="#">Kelly Lange</a><div><span>​</span>(<span>m.</span> 1987<span>;</span> <span>div.</span> 1990)</div></div> <div><a href="#">Sherry Lansing</a><div><span>​</span>(<span>m.</span> 1991)</div></div>
<b>Children</b>	2
<b>Signature</b>	

from Ukraine, in the Russian empire.<sup>[7]</sup> His grandparents, parents, and other relatives fled Russia during a particularly violent anti-Jewish pogrom in 1903.<sup>[8]</sup> Friedkin's father was somewhat uninterested in making money, and the family was generally lower middle class while he was growing up. According to film historian Peter Biskind, "Friedkin viewed his father with a mixture of affection and contempt for not making more of himself."<sup>[5]</sup>

William Friedkin

After attending public schools in Chicago, Friedkin enrolled at Senn High School, where he played basketball well enough to consider turning professional.<sup>[9]</sup> He was not a serious student and barely received grades good enough to graduate,<sup>[10]</sup> which he did at the age of 16.<sup>[11]</sup> He said this was because of social promotion and not because he was bright.<sup>[12]</sup>

Friedkin began going to movies as a teenager,<sup>[9]</sup> and cited *Citizen Kane* as one of his key influences. Several sources claim that Friedkin saw this motion picture as a teenager,<sup>[13]</sup> but Friedkin himself said that he did not see the film until 1960, when he was 25 years old. Only then, Friedkin said, did he become a true cineaste.<sup>[14]</sup> Among the movies that he also saw as a teenager and young adult were *Les Diaboliques*, *The Wages of Fear* (which many consider he remade as *Sorcerer*), and *Psycho* (which he viewed repeatedly, like *Citizen Kane*). Televised documentaries such as 1960's *Harvest of Shame* were also important to his developing sense of cinema.<sup>[9]</sup>

Friedkin began working in the mail room at WBKB-TV immediately after high school.<sup>[15]</sup> Within two years (at the age of 18),<sup>[16]</sup> he started his directorial career doing live television shows and documentaries.<sup>[17]</sup> His efforts included *The People vs. Paul Crump* (1962), which won an award <sup>[which?]</sup> at the San Francisco International Film Festival and contributed to the commutation of Crump's death sentence.<sup>[16][18]</sup> Its success helped Friedkin get a job with producer David L. Wolper.<sup>[16]</sup> He also made the football-themed documentary *Mayhem on a Sunday Afternoon* (1965).<sup>[19]</sup>

## Career [ [edit](#) ]

### 1965–1979 [ [edit](#) ]

As mentioned in his voice-over commentary on the DVD re-release of Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, Friedkin directed one of the last episodes of *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour* in 1965, called "Off Season". Hitchcock admonished Friedkin for not wearing a tie while directing.<sup>[20]</sup>

In 1965, Friedkin moved to Hollywood and two years later released his first feature film, *Good Times* starring Sonny and Cher. He has referred to the film as "unwatchable".<sup>[21]</sup> Several other films followed: *The Birthday Party*, based on an unpublished screenplay by Harold Pinter, which he adapted from his own play; the musical comedy *The Night They Raided Minsky's*, starring Jason Robards and Britt Ekland; and the adaptation of Mart Crowley's play *The Boys in the Band*.<sup>[22]</sup>

His next film, *The French Connection*, was released to wide critical acclaim in 1971. Shot in a gritty style more suited for documentaries than Hollywood features, the film won five Academy Awards, including Best



From left: Friedkin, [Owen Roizman](#) and [William Peter Blatty](#) on set of *The Exorcist*

[Picture](#) and [Best Director](#).<sup>[23]</sup> Friedkin's next film was 1973's *The Exorcist*, based on [William Peter Blatty](#)'s best-selling novel, which revolutionized the horror genre and is considered by some critics to be one of the greatest horror movies of all time. *The Exorcist* was nominated for 10 [Academy Awards](#), including Best Picture and Best Director. It won for [Best Screenplay](#) and [Best Sound](#). Following these two pictures, Friedkin, along with [Francis Ford Coppola](#) and [Peter Bogdanovich](#), was deemed one of the premier directors of [New Hollywood](#). In 1973, the trio announced the formation of an independent production company at [Paramount Pictures](#), *The Directors Company*. Whereas Coppola directed *The Conversation* and Bogdanovich, the [Henry James](#) adaptation, *Daisy Miller*, Friedkin abruptly left the company, which was soon closed by Paramount.<sup>[24]</sup>

Friedkin's later movies did not achieve the same success. *Sorcerer* (1977), a \$22 million American [remake](#) of the French classic *The Wages of Fear*, co-produced by both Universal and Paramount, starring [Roy Scheider](#), was overshadowed by the [blockbuster](#) box-office success of *Star Wars*, which had been released exactly one week prior.<sup>[23]</sup> Friedkin considered it his finest film, and was personally devastated by its financial and critical failure (as mentioned by Friedkin himself in the 1999 documentary series *The Directors*). *Sorcerer* was shortly followed by the crime-comedy *The Brink's Job* (1978), based on the real-life [Great Brink's Robbery](#) in [Boston](#), Massachusetts, which was also unsuccessful at the box-office.<sup>[25]</sup>

## 1980–1999 [\[ edit \]](#)

In 1980, Friedkin directed an adaptation of the [Gerald Walker](#) crime thriller *Cruising*, starring [Al Pacino](#), which was protested during production and remains the subject of heated debate. It was critically assailed but performed moderately at the box office.<sup>[26]</sup>

Friedkin had a heart attack on March 6, 1981, due to a genetic defect in his [circumflex left coronary artery](#), and nearly died. He spent months in rehabilitation.<sup>[27]</sup> His next picture was 1983's *Deal of the Century*, a satire about [arms dealing](#) starring [Chevy Chase](#), [Gregory Hines](#), and [Sigourney Weaver](#).

In 1985, Friedkin directed the music video for [Barbra Streisand](#)'s rendition of the *West Side Story* song "[Somewhere](#)",<sup>[28]</sup> which she recorded for her twenty-fourth studio LP, *The Broadway Album*. He later appears as Streisand's interviewer (uncredited) on the television special, "Putting It Together: The Making of the Broadway Album".<sup>[29]</sup>

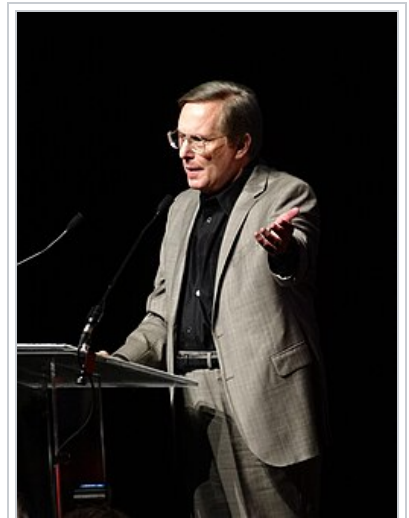
The action/crime movie *To Live and Die in L.A.* (1985), starring [William Petersen](#) and [Willem Dafoe](#), was a critical favorite and drew comparisons to Friedkin's own *The French Connection* (particularly for its car chase sequence), while his courtroom drama/thriller *Rampage* (1987) received a fairly positive review from [Roger Ebert](#).<sup>[30]</sup> He next directed the cult classic horror film *The Guardian* (1990) and the thriller *Jade* (1995),

starring [Linda Fiorentino](#). Though the latter received an unfavorable response from critics and audiences, he said it was one of the favorite films he directed.<sup>[31]</sup>

## 2000–2023 <sup>[ edit ]</sup>

In 2000, *The Exorcist* was re-released in theaters with extra footage and grossed \$40 million in the U.S. alone. Friedkin directed the 2006 film *Bug* due to a positive experience watching [the stage version](#) in 2004. He was surprised to find that he was, metaphorically, on the same page as the playwright and felt that he could relate well to the story.<sup>[32]</sup> The film won the [FIPRESCI](#) prize at the [Cannes Film Festival](#). Later, Friedkin directed an episode of the TV series *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* titled "Cockroaches", which re-teamed him with *To Live and Die in L.A.* star [William Petersen](#).<sup>[33]</sup> He directed again for CSI's 200th episode, "Mascara".<sup>[34]</sup>

In 2011, Friedkin directed *Killer Joe*, a black comedy written by [Tracy Letts](#) based on [Letts' play](#), and starring [Matthew McConaughey](#), [Emile Hirsch](#), [Juno Temple](#), [Gina Gershon](#), and [Thomas Haden Church](#). *Killer Joe* premiered at the [68th Venice International Film Festival](#), prior to its North American debut at the [2011 Toronto International Film Festival](#). It opened in U.S. theaters in July 2012, to some favorable reviews from critics but did poorly at the box office, possibly because of its restrictive NC-17 rating. In April 2013, Friedkin published a memoir, *The Friedkin Connection*.<sup>[35]</sup> He was presented with a lifetime achievement award at the [70th Venice International Film Festival](#) in September.<sup>[36]</sup> In 2017, Friedkin directed the documentary *The Devil and Father Amorth* about the ninth [exorcism](#) of a woman in the Italian village of [Alatri](#).<sup>[37]</sup> In August 2022, it was announced officially that Friedkin would be returning to film directing to helm [an adaptation](#) of the two-act play *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* with [Kiefer Sutherland](#) starring as Lt. Commander Queeg.<sup>[38]</sup> The film was completed before Friedkin's death, and debuted in September 2023 in the out-of-competition category at the [Venice Film Festival](#).<sup>[39]</sup>



Friedkin at the [2012 Deauville American Film Festival](#)

## Influences <sup>[ edit ]</sup>

Friedkin cited [Jean-Luc Godard](#), [Federico Fellini](#), [François Truffaut](#), and [Akira Kurosawa](#) as influences.<sup>[40]</sup> Friedkin named [Woody Allen](#) as "the greatest living filmmaker".<sup>[41]</sup>

In regard to influences of specific films on his films, Friedkin noted that *The French Connection*[s] documentary-like realism was the direct result of the influence of having seen [Z](#), a French film by [Costa-Gavras](#):

After I saw *Z*, I realized how I could shoot *The French Connection*. Because he shot *Z* like a documentary. It was a fiction film but it was made like it was actually happening. Like the camera didn't know what was gonna happen next. And that is an induced technique. It looks like he



## Personal life [[edit](#)]

## Death [[edit](#)]

## Work [\[ edit \]](#)

## Film [\[ edit \]](#)

Year	Title	Director	Writer	Producer	Ref(s)
1967	<i>Good Times</i>	Yes	Uncredited	No	[57]
1968	<i>The Birthday Party</i>	Yes	No	No	[58]
	<i>The Night They Raided Minsky's</i>	Yes	No	No	[57]
1970	<i>The Boys in the Band</i>	Yes	No	No	[57]
1971	<i>The French Connection</i>	Yes	Uncredited	No	[57]
1973	<i>The Exorcist</i>	Yes	No	No	[57]

1977	<i>Sorcerer</i>	Yes	Uncredited	Yes	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1978	<i>The Brink's Job</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1980	<i>Cruising</i>	Yes	Yes	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1983	<i>Deal of the Century</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1985	<i>To Live and Die in L.A.</i>	Yes	Yes	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1987	<i>Rampage</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1990	<i>The Guardian</i>	Yes	Yes	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1994	<i>Blue Chips</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1995	<i>Jade</i>	Yes	Uncredited	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
2000	<i>Rules of Engagement</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
2003	<i>The Hunted</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
2006	<i>Bug</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
2011	<i>Killer Joe</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
2023	<i>The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial</i>	Yes	Yes	No	<a href="#">[58]</a>

### Documentary films

Year	Title	Director	Writer	Producer	Ref(s)
1962	<i>The People vs. Paul Crump</i>	Yes	No	Yes	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1965	<i>The Bold Men</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
	<i>Mayhem on a Sunday Afternoon</i>	Yes	No	Yes	<a href="#">[59]</a>
1966	<i>The Thin Blue Line</i>	Yes	Story	Yes	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1975	<i>Fritz Lang Interviewed by William Friedkin</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
1986	<i>Putting It Together: The Making of the Broadway Album</i>	Uncredited	No	No	<a href="#">[57]</a>
2007	<i>The Painter's Voice</i>	Yes	No	No	<a href="#">[60]</a>
2017	<i>The Devil and Father Amorth</i>	Yes	Yes	No	<a href="#">[58]</a>

### Music videos

Year	Title	Artist	Ref(s)
1984	"Self Control"	Laura Branigan	<a href="#">[61]</a>
1985	"Somewhere"	Barbra Streisand	<a href="#">[62]</a>
1998	"Ce que je sais"	Johnny Hallyday	<a href="#">[63]</a>

Television [ edit ]

TV series

Year	Title	Episode	Ref(s)
1965	<i>The Alfred Hitchcock Hour</i>	"Off Season" (S3 E29)	[58]
1967	<i>The Pickle Brothers</i>	TV pilot (S1 E1)	[57]
1985	<i>The Twilight Zone</i>	"Nightcrawlers" (S1 E4c)	[64]
1992	<i>Tales from the Crypt</i>	"On a Deadman's Chest" (S4 E3)	[58]
2007	<i>CSI: Crime Scene Investigation</i>	"Cockroaches" (S8 E9)	[58]
2009		"Mascara" (S9 E18)	[58]

TV movies

Year	Title	Director	Writer	Executive producer	Ref(s)
1986	<i>C.A.T. Squad</i>	Yes	No	Yes	[57]
1988	<i>C.A.T. Squad: Python Wolf</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	[57]
1994	<i>Jailbreakers</i>	Yes	No	No	[57]
1997	<i>12 Angry Men</i>	Yes	No	No	[58]

Stage [ edit ]

Operas

Year	Title and Composer	Country / Opera House	Ref(s)
1998	<i>Wozzeck</i> , Alban Berg	Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Theatre	[65]
2002	<i>Duke Bluebeard's Castle</i> , Béla Bartók	Los Angeles Opera	[66][67]
	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i> , Giacomo Puccini		[66][67]
2003	<i>La damnation de Faust</i> , Hector Berlioz		[68]
2004	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i> , Richard Strauss		[69][67]
2005	<i>Samson and Delilah</i> , Camille Saint-Saëns	June, New Israeli Opera October, Los Angeles Opera	[67]

	<i>Aida</i> , Giuseppe Verdi	Teatro Regio Torino	[70][71]
2006	<i>Salome</i> , Richard Strauss	Bavarian State Opera	[72]
	<i>Das Gehege</i> , Wolfgang Rihm		[73]
2008	<i>Il tabarro</i> , Giacomo Puccini	Los Angeles Opera	[74]
	<i>Suor Angelica</i> , Giacomo Puccini		[74]
2011	<i>The Makropulos Case</i> , Leoš Janáček	Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Theatre	[75]
2012	<i>The Tales of Hoffmann</i> , Jacques Offenbach	Theater an der Wien	[72]
2015	<i>Rigoletto</i> , Giuseppe Verdi	Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Theatre	[76]

### Plays

Year	Title	Theatre	Principal Cast	Ref(s)
1981	<i>Duet for One</i>	Royale Theatre	Max von Sydow, Anne Bancroft	[77][78]

### Unrealized projects   [[edit](#)]

Year	Title and description	Ref(s)
1960s	<i>Gunn</i>	[79]
	<i>Chastity</i>	[80]
	<i>They Shoot Horses, Don't They?</i>	[81]
	<i>The Murders on the Moor</i> , a film adaptation of <a href="#">Emlyn Williams'</a> novel <i>Beyond Belief: A Chronicle of Murder and Its Detection</i>	[82]
1970s	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Ross Thomas'</a> novel <i>The Brass Go-Between</i>	[83]
	<i>The Bunker Hill Boys</i> , a film for <a href="#">The Directors Company</a>	[84]
	Untitled <a href="#">sci-fi</a> film with <a href="#">Peter Gabriel</a>	[85][86]
	<i>The Devil's Triangle</i> , a <a href="#">UFO</a> thriller starring <a href="#">Marlon Brando</a> , <a href="#">Steve McQueen</a> and <a href="#">Charlton Heston</a>	[87]



	A <i>Safe Darkness</i> , a documentary about horror cinema featuring interviews with <a href="#">Fritz Lang</a> and <a href="#">Roman Polanski</a>	[88][82]
	<i>Born on the Fourth of July</i> starring <a href="#">Al Pacino</a> as <a href="#">Ron Kovic</a>	[89][90]
	A made-for-television film adaptation of <a href="#">Will Eisner</a> 's comic <i>The Spirit</i> written by <a href="#">Harlan Ellison</a>	[91]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Harlan Ellison</a> 's short story "The Whimper of Whipped Dogs"	[91]
	A 10-hour television adaptation of <a href="#">Thomas Thompson</a> 's novel <i>Blood and Money</i>	[92][93]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Ron Hansen</a> 's novel <i>Desperadoes</i> written by <a href="#">Walon Green</a>	[94]
1980s	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Jerry Hopkins</a> and <a href="#">Danny Sugerman</a> 's novel <i>No One Here Gets Out Alive</i>	[95]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Gay Talese</a> 's novel <i>Thy Neighbor's Wife</i>	[96]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Robin Cook</a> 's novel <i>Brain</i>	[97]
	<i>That Championship Season</i>	[98]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">William Peter Blatty</a> 's novel <i>Legion</i>	[99]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Frank De Felitta</a> 's novel <i>Sea Trial</i> starring <a href="#">Laura Branigan</a> and <a href="#">Michael Nouri</a>	[100][101]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Bob Fosse</a> and <a href="#">Fred Ebb</a> 's stage musical <i>Chicago</i> written by <a href="#">Arthur Laurents</a>	[102]
	<i>Judgement Day</i> , a film written by <a href="#">Pete Hamill</a> starring <a href="#">Gregory Peck</a>	[103][104]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Don Pendleton</a> 's <i>The Executioner</i> series written by <a href="#">Hilary Henkin</a> starring <a href="#">Sylvester Stallone</a> and <a href="#">Cynthia Rothrock</a>	[105][106]
	<i>The Gambler</i> , a film written by <a href="#">Edward Neumeier</a> and <a href="#">Michael Miner</a> starring <a href="#">Sylvester Stallone</a>	[106]
1990s	<i>Desperate Hours</i>	[107]
	Untitled <a href="#">biopic</a> about 1950s songwriting duo <a href="#">Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller</a>	[108][109]
	<i>Elsewhere</i> , a ghost story with <a href="#">William Peter Blatty</a>	[110][111]
	<i>The Diary of Jack the Ripper</i> , a biopic about <a href="#">James Maybrick</a> written by <a href="#">Chris DeVore</a> starring <a href="#">Anthony Hopkins</a>	[112][113]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">John Flood</a> 's novel <i>Bag Men</i> starring <a href="#">Michael Keaton</a>	[114]
	A <a href="#">remake</a> of the 1996 made-for-television film <i>Truth or Dare</i> written by <a href="#">William Davies</a>	[115]
	<i>Night Train</i> , a biopic about boxer <a href="#">Sonny Liston</a> written by <a href="#">Shane Salerno</a> and <a href="#">Tyger Williams</a> starring <a href="#">Ving Rhames</a>	[116][117][118]
	<i>Battle Grease</i> , a film about the account of the <a href="#">Florence Maybrick</a> murder trial	[119]

2000s	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Larry Collins</a> ' novel <i><a href="#">O Jerusalem!</a></i> written by <a href="#">James Dearden</a>	[120]
	<i><a href="#">Shooter</a></i> starring <a href="#">Tommy Lee Jones</a>	[117]
	Untitled biopic about <a href="#">Howard Hughes</a> adapted from <a href="#">Richard Hack</a> 's biography <i><a href="#">Hughes: The Private Diaries, Memos and Letters</a></i>	[121]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Thomas Thompson</a> 's novel <i><a href="#">Serpentine</a></i>	[122][123][124]
	Untitled biopic about <a href="#">Giacomo Puccini</a> starring <a href="#">Plácido Domingo</a>	[125]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Robert Silverberg</a> 's novel <i><a href="#">The Book of Skulls</a></i> written by <a href="#">Jeff Davis</a> and <a href="#">Terry Hayes</a>	[126][124][127]
	<i><a href="#">The Man Who Kept Secrets</a></i> , a biopic about Hollywood lawyer <a href="#">Sidney Korshak</a>	[128]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Chris Greenhalgh</a> 's novel <i><a href="#">Coco and Igor</a></i> starring <a href="#">Mads Mikkelsen</a> and <a href="#">Marina Hands</a>	[129][130]
2010s	A film adaptation of <a href="#">William Peter Blatty</a> 's novel <i><a href="#">Dimitër</a></i>	[131]
	<i><a href="#">Trapped</a></i> , an <a href="#">indie</a> thriller set in Europe starring <a href="#">Demián Bichir</a>	[132][133][a]
	<i><a href="#">I Am Wrath</a></i> starring <a href="#">Nicolas Cage</a>	[135][136][137]
	<i><a href="#">Mae</a></i> , a biopic about actress <a href="#">Mae West</a> starring <a href="#">Natasha Lyonne</a> and <a href="#">Bette Midler</a>	[138][139][140]
	A TV pilot based on his film <i><a href="#">To Live and Die in L.A.</a></i> written by <a href="#">Robert Moresco</a>	[141][142][143]
	Untitled <i><a href="#">Killer Joe</a></i> spinoff TV series	[141][144]
	A film adaptation of <a href="#">Don Winslow</a> 's novel <i><a href="#">The Winter of Frankie Machine</a></i>	[145][146]

An [LA Opera](#) production of [Wagner](#)'s *[Tannhäuser](#)* was announced by Friedkin, but a spokesperson revealed it had been delayed indefinitely.<sup>[67]</sup> Friedkin had also been set to direct the premiere of an opera titled *An Inconvenient Truth* to debut in 2011,<sup>[147]</sup> but he later departed from it when creative differences arose between him and the librettist.<sup>[148]</sup> In 2013, it was reported that he would helm a stage production of [Harold Pinter](#)'s *[The Birthday Party](#)* (which he had already directed as [a feature film in 1968](#)), for [Geffen Playhouse](#).<sup>[149]</sup> A cast including [Katie Amess](#), [Frances Barber](#), [Steven Berkoff](#), [Tim Roth](#) and [Nick Ullett](#) was assembled, but the production was soon postponed for an unknown reason, and never revived.<sup>[150]</sup>

## Awards and nominations  [edit]

Year	Award	Category	Title	Result	Ref(s)
1972	<a href="#">Academy Award</a>	<a href="#">Best Director</a>	<i><a href="#">The French Connection</a></i>	Won	[151]
	<a href="#">Directors Guild of America</a>	Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Motion Pictures		Won	[152]
	<a href="#">Golden Globes</a>	<a href="#">Best Director</a>		Won	[153]

1973	BAFTA Award	Best Direction		Nominated	<sup>[154]</sup>
1974	Academy Award	Best Director	<i>The Exorcist</i>	Nominated	<sup>[155]</sup>
	Directors Guild of America	Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Motion Pictures		Nominated	<sup>[156]</sup>
	Golden Globes	Best Director		Won	<sup>[157]</sup>
1981	Razzie Awards	Worst Director	<i>Cruising</i>	Nominated	<sup>[158]</sup>
		Worst Screenplay		Nominated	<sup>[158]</sup>
1986	Cognac Festival du Film Policier	Audience Award	<i>To Live and Die in L.A.</i>	Won	<sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>
1988	Deauville Film Festival	Critics Award	<i>Rampage</i>	Nominated	<sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>
1991	Saturn Award	George Pal Memorial Award		Won	<sup>[<i>citation needed</i>]</sup>
1993		Best Director	<i>Rampage</i>	Nominated	<sup>[159]</sup>
1998	Directors Guild of America	Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Dramatic Specials	<i>12 Angry Men</i>	Nominated	<sup>[160]</sup>
	Primetime Emmy Awards	Outstanding Directing for a Miniseries or a Movie		Nominated	<sup>[161]</sup>
1999	Saturn Award	President's Award		Won	<sup>[162]</sup>
	Empire Awards	Movie Masterpiece Award	<i>The Exorcist</i>	Won	<sup>[163]</sup>
2000	Palm Beach International Film Festival	Lifetime Achievement Award		Won	<sup>[164]</sup>
2006	Cannes Film Festival	FIPRESCI	<i>Bug</i>	Won	<sup>[165]</sup>
2007	Munich Film Festival	CineMerit Award		Won	<sup>[166]</sup>
	Sitges - Catalan International Film Festival	Time-Machine Honorary Award		Won	<sup>[167]</sup>
2009	Locarno International Film Festival	Leopard of Honor		Won	<sup>[168]</sup>
2011	Venice Film Festival	Golden Lion	<i>Killer Joe</i>	Nominated	<sup>[169]</sup>
		Golden Mouse		Won	<sup>[170]</sup>
2013	Belgian Film Critics Association	Grand Prix		Nominated	<sup>[171]</sup>

	Saturn Award	Best Director		Nominated	[172][173]
		Lifetime Award		Won	[174]
	Venice Film Festival	Special Lion for Lifetime Achievement		Won	[175]

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## Notes [\[ edit \]](#)

- a. <sup>^</sup> Friedkin said in a 2012 [Reddit AMA](#) that he was working on a thriller from an original story of his to be filmed in Europe in January 2013.<sup>[134]</sup>

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## External links [[edit](#)]

- [William Friedkin](#) at [IMDb](#)
- [William Friedkin](#) at the [TCM Movie Database](#)
- [William Friedkin](#) at the [Internet Broadway Database](#)
- [William Friedkin](#) discography at [Discogs](#)
- ["From 'Popeye' Doyle to Puccini: William Friedkin"](#) NPR's Robert Siegel interviews Friedkin, September 14, 2006
- [EXCL: Bug Director William Friedkin](#)
- [The Reeler](#) interview with Friedkin
- [William Friedkin papers](#) , Margaret Herrick Library, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences



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