

TULLY (2018)

- Released May 4th, 2018
- 1 hr 36 minutes
- ??? million budget
- Directed by Jason Reitman
- Written by Diablo Cody
- Bron Studios, Right Way Productions, Denver and Delilah Productions
- Rated R for language and some sexuality/nudity
- Premiered at Sundance 2018

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Marisa Serafini
- Phil Svitek

DEVELOPMENT

- Third collaboration with Reitman & Cody
- Cody phoned up Reitman and pitched him the simple, sublime logline of a movie “about a mother who has three kids and just had the third child and is suffering from postpartum.”
- Reitman and Cody gave out a questionnaire to their friends and cast to collect some sincere details about home life. Reitman said the answers came back specific from how couples’ marriages go quiet after having a baby, to accidentally dropping phones on a baby.
- Diablo Cody (*Juno*) was supposed to be writing a movie about Barbie for Sony and Amy Schumer. She had just delivered her third child “I was supposed to be writing this big-budget, four-quadrant Hollywood movie, and I was failing at it. I could not even get a page written, which has never happened to me. I just hit this wall of exhaustion...” What helped for Cody... was that she turned to storytelling to mend her wounds. “I used it as a form of therapy—fantasizing about what it might be like if somebody could magically appear and take care of me.”
- "Writing a smaller movie like 'Tully' and putting it in theaters is risky," she said. "But I was willing to take that risk." - Cody

WRITING (Diablo Cody)

- Real name is Brook Busey-Maurio
- Creator behind TV series "United States of Tara" and co-creator of "One Mississippi."
- “[Cody] had two sentences of a movie and six weeks later a script showed up, and that was the shooting draft.” - Reitman
- “Cody isn’t the type of writer that works with index cards rather “she knows what the first scene is and starts writing; she walks in the woods and comes out on the other side.” - Reitman
- **THE ENDING:**

- “We knew [the twist]. It was written with that intent: Diablo called Jason up and said, “What if you were going through something really hard in your life, and your younger self could come rescue you?” - Theron

STORY/TOPICS

- Postpartum Depression/Mania
- Family Dynamics
- Judgemental Society (Teacher/Friends)
- Older/Younger Self

CAST:

CHARLIZE THERON (Marlo)

- “She’s perfectly willing to come across as completely unlikable and flawed and to give you no other angle than it’s 100% real.” -Reitman
- Gaining some 50 pounds to play the part, Theron connected easily to the main character, appreciating the depths Cody went to convey the irreparable changes that come with motherhood.
- “I had just finished *Atomic Blonde*, and I was so ready to rock a bikini that summer. I was in the best shape of my life,” she said. “And I had that body for about three seconds until Jason called, and I was like, ‘Waaahh. Can we shoot this after the summer?’”
- “The one thing that’s always bothered me [about motherhood] is you can’t just talk honestly about the experience without shame being attached to it,” said Theron
- “For a lot of women, their first love is their best friend, and I think we don’t talk about that enough. There’s this idea that women can’t get along and have to be in competition with each other, and I wonder how much of that has just been placed out there recklessly without any thought, because it’s not the truth.” - Theron

MACKENZIE DAVIS (Tully)

- “It feels very different from other roles I’ve played. I felt so comfortable playing this part in a way that was really satisfying.” -Davis
- “It’s interesting to see a story about love that isn’t about sexual love — it’s about people being kind to each other.” -Davis
- **PLAYING YOUNGER TULLY:**
 - “Wondered if [playing younger version] wasn’t happening enough And then it just sort of settled into this place where it was about this relationship with these two women and the realer and more connected this relationship was the more authentically the story was told.”
 - “Any of the other sort of bells and whistles didn’t matter as much as, ‘I am here with you. Let’s listen to each other’.”
 - “I really wanted to mimic some of Charlize’s mannerisms and find gestures that we could share, but Jason rightfully suggested against all of that. There’s enough

information in the story, and it's nicer not to treat it as a mystery where you go, "Wait a second..." -Davis

- "We were definitely concerned and careful and wanted to handle it correctly. But I really trusted Jason and he knew exactly what he was doing." -Davis

MARK DUPLASS (Craig)

- Mark Duplass was born on December 7, 1976 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA as Mark David Duplass. He is an actor and producer, known for Safety Not Guaranteed (2012), Creep (2014) and The One I Love (2014). He has been married to Katie Aselton since August 26, 2006. They have two children.

RON LIVINGSTON (Drew)

- Ronald Joseph Livingston was born on June 5, 1967 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Linda (Rinas), a Lutheran pastor, and Kurt Livingston, an aerospace engineer. He has three siblings, Nick, John Livingston, also an actor, and Jennifer Livingston, a TV news personality at CBS/WKBT in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He is of German, and smaller amounts of Welsh, Scottish, and English, ancestry.
- Livingston graduated from Marion High School, then attended Yale University with Paul Giamatti and Edward Norton. It was at Yale University that he earned his B.A. degree in Theatre Studies and English Literature. He began his acting career while still an undergraduate, getting his stage credits with the Williamstown Theatre Festival and Manhattan Class Company. In 1989, after graduating from Yale, Livingston moved to Chicago, where he acted in a number of stage productions, including shows at the Goodman Theatre and other venues. His film debut was in Dolly Parton's Straight Talk (1992). He accelerated his film career by moving to Los Angeles in 1993, gaining attention as one of the buddies in the popular hit Swingers (1996). His acting credits include the cult hit Office Space (1999), in which he starred opposite Jennifer Aniston, the mini-series Band of Brothers (2001), where he co-starred with Damian Lewis, eight episodes of Sex and the City (1998) (2002-2003), where he starred opposite Sarah Jessica Parker, and the Oscar-winning Adaptation. (2002), among his other works. He was nominated for a Golden Globe in 2002 for his performance in Band of Brothers (2001). He also appears as Sebastian Charles in the episode "TB or not TB" (2005) of Fox's popular series House (2004).
- In 2006, Livingston became a new spokesman for Sprint Nextel telecommunications company in their new "Power Up" campaign. He is starring as Matt Flannery, the FBI senior negotiator, in the FOX's popular television series Standoff (2006), since the series opened in September 2006.
- Livingston resides in Los Angeles, California. He married actress Rosemarie DeWitt in 2009. The couple have two children.

TRIVIA

- Release date was pushed back a week to avoid competition at the box office with Avengers: Infinity War

- This film reunites director Jason Reitman, writer Diablo Cody and star Charlize Theron, all of whom previously collaborated on Young Adult (2011)
- The film has been subject to some controversy surrounding its depiction of postnatal (or postpartum) depression and other mental illness. Those that take issue with the portrayal of these subjects do so because the conditions are never specifically named and because they feel that there isn't enough treatment shown on-screen. Those that champion the film feel that it is more accurate for not naming the condition, since postnatal (or postpartum) depression is severely under-diagnosed, and that the film actually does a service by causing debate about these under-discussed topics

DIRECTING (Jason Reitman)

- Oscar-nominated filmmaker
- "It was such a lovely feeling. Not in a dictatorial sense, but just being with someone who has a strong sense of the movie they are making. They are not just making it up as they go along." -Davis
- Jason Reitman was born on October 19, 1977 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He is a producer and director, known for Up in the Air (2009), Thank You for Smoking (2005) and Juno (2007). He was previously married to Michele Lee
- Comedy films touching on serious subjects (Media spin and the dangers of cigarettes in Thank You for Smoking (2005), teen pregnancy in Juno (2007), economic downturn in Up in the Air (2009)).
- [Ensemble cast] Frequently works with J.K. Simmons, 'Sam Elliott', Jason Bateman.
- Theme of generational gap between older and younger characters (Juno (2007), Up in the Air (2009)).
- Elaborate opening title sequences in all of his films
- Highly subjective narration by the main character
- Films typically revolve around characters who are brashly self-confident, but begin to rethink their lives and responsibilities.
- Often works with screenwriter Diablo Cody
- His films often revolve around characters who are unhappy with their lives
- Relationships between parents and children often play a big part in his films

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Eric Steelberg)

- Known for A Quiet Place, 500 Days of Summer, Up in the Air, Baywatch

EDITING/VFX (Stefan Grube)

- Stefan Grube is an editor and actor, known for 10 Cloverfield Lane (2016), Star Wars: The Force Awakens (2015) and Tully (2018)

SOUND/MUSIC (Rob Simonsen)

- Rob Simonsen has had a thread in the fabric of some of the most noteworthy and prestigious films of the past decade. He collaborated with director Bennett Miller to underline the unsettling atmosphere of the Oscar-nominated drama *Foxcatcher*, and spanned an eternity of star-crossed romance with *The Age of Adaline*, also co-writing the film's end credits song. He scored the Steve Carell-starring dramedy *The Way Way Back* with sensitivity, sympathized with the coming-of-age *The Spectacular Now*, and sweetened Zach Braff's coming-of-middle-age film *Wish I Was Here*. Also under his belt is the horror-comedy *The Master Cleanse*, Roland Emmerich's political drama *Stonewall*, and the Weinstein Company's *Burnt* starring Bradley Cooper, Uma Thurman and Sienna Miller. His work in television has included the Joss Whedon Fox drama *Dollhouse* and the CBS ratings juggernaut *Blue Bloods*, led by Tom Selleck.
- Prior to flying solo, under the apprenticeship of composer Mychael Danna, Simonsen contributed additional music to the scores for Ang Lee's *Life of Pi* and Bennett Miller's *Moneyball* - as well as Catherine Hardwick's *The Nativity Story*, Sony Pictures Animation *Surf's Up*, and Terry Gilliam's *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*. With Danna, he co-composed the score for Marc Webb's hugely popular indie romance *(500) Days of Summer*.
- Simonsen's compositional voice is the product of an education in jazz, electronic and traditional orchestral music. In 2013, he co-founded *The Echo Society*, a collective that provides a platform for composers to experiment and create for live performances around Los Angeles.

PROMOTION

- *Tully* first debuted as a secret screening at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2018.
- The movie's distributor, Focus Features, is certainly not looking for "Infinity War"-sized box office returns, instead taking a long-tail approach. The hope is to attract audiences that aren't into the MCU and other blockbusters in the weeks to come and are looking for something with a little more real-world substance.

CONTROVERSY

- Ann Smith, the president of Postpartum Support International, a nonprofit group, said her organization has been fielding complaints about the film since March, when spoilers began to circulate.
- Cody response "The mommy world is up in arms," she said, referring to survivors of perinatal mood disorders, which are diagnosed in one out of every seven women during pregnancy or postpartum. "I can see why there's a lot of anger out there, and I think they have a right to it."
- "Sometimes what you're desperate is for someone to say: 'Hey, I actually see what's going on here. This is serious, we need to deal with it and there's a name for it,'" Ms. Cody said. "And Marlo doesn't get that comfort in this film. Because the film is meant to be uncomfortable."

- Jason Cassidy, the president of marketing at Focus Features, the film's distributor in the United States, said, "It was our challenge when marketing the film to find that balance between telling the story of 'Tully' without giving away the ending."
- As the online debate brewed, Ms. Smith of Postpartum Support International found herself under pressure to respond. So this week her organization sent a filmmaker familiar with postpartum psychosis and a leading expert on the subject to view an advance screening. After watching it, they said the early scenes portrayed depression beautifully but they found the ending upsetting. These disorders "can be overwhelming, destructive to families and potentially life threatening if not treated," Ms. Smith said in a statement. She hopes the film prompts a nationwide discussion.
- *Dr. Lauren M. Osborne is an assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and of gynecology and obstetrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is an expert on the diagnosis and treatment of mood and anxiety disorders during pregnancy- (Came to the defense)* "Postpartum psychosis, which seems to fit Marlo's symptoms better than postpartum depression does, is a much less common disorder, affecting 0.1 percent of the population. Women with postpartum psychosis are sometimes depressed but more often exhibit mania, characterized by decreased need for sleep, grandiosity, and risky behavior, along with psychotic symptoms such as disorganization, confusion, and sometimes hallucinations and delusions.
- Postpartum psychosis is often a manifestation of bipolar disorder and is much more common in women with preexisting bipolar disorder than in the general population. It is considered one of the few true psychiatric emergencies, in large part because of the high rates of suicide (5 percent) and infanticide (4 percent), and it nearly always requires psychiatric hospitalization."

BOX OFFICE

- Total Lifetime Grosses (As of May 7th): \$3,282,610
- Domestic: \$3,282,610
 - + Foreign: \$ \$200,000
 - = Worldwide: \$3,482,610
- > View All Weekends
 - Widest Release: 1,353 theaters
 - In Release: 5 days / 0.7 weeks

RECEPTION

- RT: 87% Tatometer / 72% Audience
- IMDB: 7.2/10
- Cinemascore: NA