

# Moonlight

Cert 15 USA 2016 111 mins

## Crew

Director	Barry Jenkins
Screenplay	Barry Jenkins & Tarell McCraney
Cinematography	James Laxton
Film Editing	Nat Sanders & Joi McMillon
Original music	Nicholas Britell

## Cast

Trevante Rhodes	Adult Chiron ("Black")
Ashton Sanders	Teen Chiron
Alex Hibbert	Child Chiron ("Little")
André Holland	Adult Kevin
Jharrel Jerome	Teen Kevin
Jaden Piner	Child Kevin
Naomie Harris	Paula
Mahershala Ali	Juan
Janelle Monáe	Teresa

## Synopsis

*Miami, the present and recent past. We meet a young African American at three stages of his life growing up in a rough neighbourhood: as a child he is "Little", getting picked on and worrying about his crack-addicted mother; as a teenager, "Chiron", he struggles to find his identity and is viciously bullied by the gangs; and as a young adult, fresh out of jail, he is "Black", a streetwise drug-dealer, following in the footsteps of Juan, the only father figure he has ever known. But there is a constant in his troubled life, his friend Kevin...*



## Booking Information

Distributor: Altitude Film

DVD bookings:

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[www.cinemaforall.org.uk](http://www.cinemaforall.org.uk)

Available: Now



## Reviews

The combination of artistry and emotional directness in this film is overwhelming. Barry Jenkins writes and directs, having adapted Tarell Alvin McCraney's unproduced play 'In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue'. *Moonlight* is about a young African American man and his coming of age, presented as three stages in his life, like the panels of a triptych. The film has power and generosity, giving such full access to his thoughts and feelings that it's as if you are getting them delivered intravenously. It is the kind of film that leaves you feeling somehow mentally smarter and physically lighter.

....The casting of three different actors is a visible part of the film's theatrical inheritance: a formally stylised effect, with each new incarnation a jolt, and obviously different from the incremental, almost geological changes achieved in Richard Linklater's real-time movie *Boyhood*. But it is not there to distance you. Interestingly, Naomie Harris's performance is spread out over the movie's running time and the changes in her character's appearance are subtler and more naturalistic: she deteriorates with drug use but then achieves a kind of stability and dignity as an older woman. It is a great performance.

*Moonlight* is moving and mysterious: a dance to the music of time, in its way. But it also shows that the three stages can be considered in parallel, as well as in sequence: Little/Chiron/Black is a palimpsest of identities. *Moonlight* is a film about masculinity, the wounds and crises of which are the same for all sexualities, but conditioned by the background weather of race and class. "I cry so much sometimes I might turn to drops," confesses Chiron to Kevin, and, as for so many men, growing up for him is the search for ways to cauterise sadness, to anaesthetise it with rage. *Moonlight* finds a way to convert it into happiness.

*Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian, February 2017*

This is a deeply compassionate film that not only does astounding work on the 'being black, being gay' front, but is also about anybody who feels they exist outside the world they've been born into. A traditional narrative, that, but it's rarely been better told.

*Deborah Ross, The Spectator, February 2017*

## FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at the Telluride Film Festival in September 2016, and received wide acclaim upon its release. It won the Best Motion Picture (Drama) Golden Globe Award, and three Oscars - Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor for Ali and Best Adapted Screenplay. It is the first film with an all-black cast and the first LGBT film to win the Best Picture Oscar.
- ☆ Director Barry Jenkins and writer Tarell Alvin McCraney both grew up in Miami's Liberty City district, with mothers who struggled with drug addiction.