

# Blue Ruin

Cert 15 USA 2013 90 mins

## Crew

Director/  
Screenplay      Jeremy Saulnier  
Cinematography      Jeremy Saulnier  
Film Editing      Julia Bloch  
Original music      Brooke Blair  
                                 Will Blair

## Cast

Macon Blair      Dwight  
Devin Rattray      Ben Gaffney  
Amy Hargreaves      Sam  
Bonnie Johnson      Margaret  
Kevin Kolack      Teddy Cleland  
Eve Plumb      Kris Cleland

## Synopsis

*Delaware, USA, the present. Dwight is living as a vagrant in an old car on the beach, scavenging in rubbish bins for food and money. A policewoman finds him to tell him that Wade Cleland, the man who murdered his parents, is to be released from prison.*

*Dwight fixes the car, and returns to his hometown in Virginia, where he watches as Wade is released from prison - and follows him. But Dwight's thirst for vengeance is thwarted by his incompetence as an assassin, his fears for his estranged family, and his revulsion for the task...*



## Booking Information

### Distributor/ DVD Bookings:

Picturehouse Entertainment  
Mike Matthews  
020 7734 4342  
sales@picturehouses.co.uk  
www.picturehouseentertainment.co.uk

**Available:** Now



## Reviews

The second film from director Jeremy Saulnier (*Murder Party*, 2007), *Blue Ruin* was a smash hit at Cannes in 2013. You can see why: it is aware of the commonest tropes of bloody thrillers and purposefully strikes out in other directions, providing relief from well-worn genre cliché.

.... *Blue Ruin* is often entirely dialogue free, while the skilful sound design provides at least as much atmosphere as the on point cinematography (Saulnier has worked extensively as a cinematographer on other directors' films). Where assassins are traditionally lithe, ruthless killers, *Blue Ruin's* avenging angel bumbles about like Harold Lloyd with a sawn-off shotgun. And where violence is sometimes used by screenwriters to provide a clean narrative full stop, *Blue Ruin* makes it clear that violence is like picking a hangnail - you will always, without fail, make things worse...

*Catherine Bray, Film4, May 2014*

.... Blair's engaging, soulful-eyed performance succeeds by locating the sweet spot between idiot and amateur, predator and prey. Repeatedly, Dwight plans ahead, takes calculated risks and still messes up, and much of the film's tension derives from his very fallibility, as well as his increasing awareness that none of this can possibly end well. If the climax goes inevitably over-the-top, it's nonetheless the sort of gruesome finish the story's steady, merciless buildup demands.

Carefully exploiting the audience's fear of what it can't (or can only partially) see, Saulnier's shallow-focus widescreen compositions amp up the suspense at key intervals, as do Julia Bloch's crisp editing, Matt Snedecor and Dan Flosdorf's meticulously layered sound design, and Brooke and Will Blair's ominous synth score.

While Dwight is often the camera's sole focus, warm character notes are provided by Amy Hargreaves as Dwight's sister, who is at once grateful for and angered by his reckless actions, and Devin Rattray as an old high-school friend whom Dwight enlists to help - one of his smarter decisions.

*Justin Chang, Variety, at Cannes Film Festival 2013*

## Awards, commendations, and so on...

Winner : **FIPRESCI Prize** Cannes Film Festival 2013  
8 other prizes & nominations at International Film Festivals  
Production was part-funded by crowdfunding via Kickstarter