

# The Florida Project

Cert 15 USA 2017 111 mins

## Crew

Director Sean Baker  
 Screenplay Sean Baker /Chris Bergoch  
 Cinematographer Alexis Zabe  
 Film Editor Sean Baker  
 Original music Lorne Balfe

## Cast

Brooklynn Prince Moonee  
 Bria Vinaite Halley  
 Willem Dafoe Bobby Hicks  
 Valeria Cotto Jancey  
 Mela Murder Ashley  
 Christopher Rivera Scooty  
 Aiden Malik Dicky  
 Caleb Landry Jones Jack Hicks

## Synopsis

*Orlando, Florida, the present. Six-year-old Moonee and her explosive young mother Halley live on the poverty line in a rundown motel in the shadows of Disneyland.*

*Moonee and her rag-tag group of close friends run amok during the summer holidays, frequently getting under the feet of Bobby, the tough-but-tender motel manager.*

*But while the children's lives are filled with wonder, possibilities and a sense of adventure, their parents and the adults around them struggle with hard times....*



## Booking Information

**Distributor:** Altitude Film Distribution

**DVD bookings:**

**CINEMA for ALL Booking Scheme**

see page 8 for more information

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

**Available:** now



## Reviews

*The Florida Project* is a song of innocence and of experience: mainly the former. It is a glorious film in which warmth and compassion win out over miserabilism or irony, painted in bright blocks of sunlit colour like a child's storybook and often happening in those electrically charged magic-hour urban sunsets that the director Sean Baker also gave us in his zero-budget breakthrough *Tangerine*.

This also has the best child acting I have seen for years; in its humour and its unforced and almost miraculous naturalism it reminded me of British examples like Ken Loach's *Kes* or Bryan Forbes's *Whistle Down the Wind*. Steven Spielberg once said: "If you over-rehearse kids, you risk a bad case of the cutes." But these kids don't look cute or over-rehearsed or rehearsed at all; they look as if everything they do and every word that comes out of their mouths is unscripted and real. Yet what they do also has the intelligence and artistry of acting. In his own grownup role, Willem Dafoe gives a performance of quiet excellence and integrity.

....As director, editor and co-writer (with Chris Bergoch), Baker creates a story that is utterly absorbing and moves with its own easy, ambient swing: it is superbly shot by cinematographer Alexis Zabe, a longtime collaborator of Carlos Reygadas. Baker has the gift of seeing things from a child's view. There is a kind of genius in that.

*Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian, November 2017*

If Ken Loach finally retires he's got a worthy successor in American director Sean Baker. His last film, *Tangerine*, was shot entirely on an iPhone in a style he called "pop vérité", a bright, breezy spin on Loach's dour and very British social realism.

*The Florida Project* has a bigger budget and is shot on better cameras but Baker's method is more or less the same. Once again, he recruits non-professional actors to share stories from the dark side of the American dream....This beautifully shot, smartly-written and wonderfully-cast drama is grim and joyful in equal measures.

*Andy Lea, Daily Express, December 2017*

## FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival in the Directors Fortnight. Amongst many other awards and accolades for the film, Willem Dafoe received Best Supporting Actor nominations at the Academy Awards, Golden Globes and BAFTA Awards for his role.
- ☆ The motel settings are genuine businesses. They continued operating during filming, and some real-life residents and staff are seen in the film.
- ☆ The final scene was filmed "very clandestinely" at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom Park using an iPhone 6S Plus, without the resort's knowledge.