

THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON

USA 2019 // 97 MINS // ENGLISH



SYNOPSIS

A modern Mark Twain style adventure story, *The Peanut Butter Falcon* tells the story of Zak, a young man with Down syndrome, who runs away from a residential nursing home to follow his dream of attending the professional wrestling school of his idol, The Salt Water Redneck. A strange turn of events pairs him on the road with Tyler, a small-time outlaw on the run, who becomes Zak's unlikely coach and ally. Together they wind through deltas, elude capture, drink whisky, find God, catch fish, and convince Eleanor, a kind nursing home employee charged with Zak's return, to join them on their journey.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

The Peanut Butter Falcon is a buddy movie, but it has the quality of a fable, even down to how it's shot by cinematographer Nigel Bluck. The film takes place in a very specific locale. You can smell the salt and pollen and mold in the air. The waves, cornfields, marshes, crab pots ... even the condition of Tyler's boat—comes from reality, not someone's idea of reality. It's a fable, but a fable grounded in details, the here-and-now. Except for the "names," the film seems to be populated by many non-professional actors, or at least people who actually live in the area. This makes a huge difference. Zac lives in the real world. Unlike so many disabled characters in film, Zac is not utilized as a symbol, a metaphor, or created to be "inspirational." He's the central figure, he's outspoken and strong, funny and vulnerable. He's never had a friend before. He's always wanted to be "bro dawgs" with someone. Watching the relationship develop with Tyler is one of the film's many pleasures. rogerebert.com

On paper, Tyler Nilson and Michael Schwartz's directorial debut sounds like it's been created via an algorithm that's been fed a plethora of 'inspirational' Sundance screenplays. Thankfully, the convincing and incredibly sweet central relationship between Shia LaBeouf's Tyler and Zak – played by Zack Gottsagen, an actor with Down's syndrome, who the filmmakers met at a camp for performers with disabilities, and who they wrote the story specifically for – propels the narrative along, despite myriad contrivances. *The Peanut Butter Falcon* is a film that considers the different ways strength can manifest itself. It's a cast made up of American indie movie royalty; alongside the aforementioned, John Hawkes pops up as a one-note villain hunting the travellers, and Jon Bernthal appears in distracting flashbacks. But it's all about the lead pairing. Gottsagen is endearingly funny and LaBeouf once again nails it as an appealing scruffbag. Together, they're a cockle-warming delight.

Katherine McLaughlin, The List



CAST

Character	Actor
Tyler	Shia LaBeouf
Eleanor	Dakota Johnson
Zak	Zack Gottsagen
Duncan	John Hawkes
Clint / The Salt Water Redneck	Thomas Haden Church
Carl	Bruce Dern
Mark	Jon Bernthal
Ratboy	Yelowolf
Sam	Jake Roberts
Jacob	Mick Foley

CREW

DIRECTED / WRITTEN BY	Tyler Nilson Michael Schwartz
FILM EDITING	Nat Fuller Kevin Tent
CINEMATOGRAPHY	Nigel Bluck

BOOKING INFORMATION

DISTRIBUTOR	Signature Entertainment
NON-THEATRICAL BOOKINGS	Troy Film Agency troyfilmagency@btinternet.com OR Cinema for All cinemaforall.org.uk/ booking-scheme/
AVAILABLE	22 nd November 2019