

# Pretty Lethal

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***Pretty Lethal*** is a 2026 [action thriller film](#) directed by [Vicky Jewson](#) and written by Kate Freund. The film stars [Iris Apatow](#), [Lana Condor](#), [Millicent Simmonds](#), [Avantika](#), [Maddie Ziegler](#), and [Uma Thurman](#). In this film, a dysfunctional [ballet](#) troupe is forced to take shelter when their bus breaks down enroute to a prestigious competition and must use their training to fight back when a gang of armed men target them.

The premiered at the [South by Southwest Film & TV Festival](#) on March 13, 2026, and was released worldwide by [Amazon Prime Video](#) on March 25.

## Plot [ edit ]

A [Los Angeles](#)-based ballet troupe, consisting of principal dancer Bones, bratty socialite Princess, deeply religious Grace, kind-hearted Zoe, and her [hearing-impaired](#) sister Chloe, are invited to attend a prestigious international competition in [Budapest](#) with their teacher, Thorna Devonport. A series of mix-ups at the airport result in the troupe having to take a run-down bus to the competition; when it breaks down, they leave on foot to find a cab. A local man invites them to enter the Teremok Inn, run by Devora Kasimer, a former *prima ballerina* and head of a small crime family. At Devora's suggestion, the girls change out of their rain-soaked clothes into their [tutus](#).

While taking Chloe to the ladies' room, Thorna sees Devora torturing a man in her office. She tries to round up the girls so they can leave, but Pasha Marcovic, Devora's criminal associate, impulsively shoots her in the head after she knees him for making drunken advances. When Princess threatens to call the police, Devora has the girls locked in the inn's

## Pretty Lethal



Release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<a href="#">Vicky Jewson</a>
<b>Written by</b>	<a href="#">Kate Freund</a>
<b>Produced by</b>	<a href="#">Kelly McCormick</a> <a href="#">Mike Karz</a> <a href="#">William Bindley</a> <a href="#">Piers Tempest</a>
<b>Starring</b>	<a href="#">Iris Apatow</a> <a href="#">Lana Condor</a> <a href="#">Millicent Simmonds</a> <a href="#">Avantika</a> <a href="#">Maddie Ziegler</a> <a href="#">Uma Thurman</a>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<a href="#">Bridger Nielson</a>
<b>Edited by</b>	<a href="#">Richard Smither</a>
<b>Music by</b>	<a href="#">Paul Leonard-Morgan</a> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Production companies</b>	<a href="#">87North Productions</a> <a href="#">Gulfstream Pictures</a>

basement and burns their passports and cellphones. Bones tries to flee but gets knocked out and dragged downstairs.

Angered by Pasha's actions, Devora refuses to pay [protection](#) until she meets his father, gangster Lothar "The Butcher" Marcovic, and hires a [cleaner](#), Doktor, to dispose of the girls' corpses after she kills them. Bones awakens to find Grace drugged up and escapes her binds. The doorman, Osip, arrives to rape Grace; Bones uses her ingenuity to kill him and rounds up the troupe. Pasha sends his bodyguards to kill the girls in secret. By weaponizing their ballet gear and using dance positions as improvised [martial arts](#), they are able to cut down their attackers. Princess splits off from the group in a selfish attempt to save herself but returns after seeing Doktor chopping up Thorna's body.

Devora orders her henchmen to find and kill the girls, before forcing Pasha to call his father for help. With Bones leading, the girls perform *The Nutcracker* with blades stuck in their [pointe shoes](#), resulting in a gruesome hand-to-hand fight that leaves all of the men dead. Devora retrieves a stash of [C-4 explosives](#). Bones gets the other girls out but is captured by Devora, who shoots Pasha in the leg, revealing that his father was responsible for her [prosthetic leg](#) due to her father's inability to pay off a debt, thus ruining her ballet career. As Lothar closes in on Teremok, Devora dresses up as the Sugar Plum Fairy while Princess saves Bones from having her leg amputated by Doktor, and they find Pasha.

As Lothar and his men arrive, Grace, Zoe, and Chloe return back inside to find Bones and Princess, discovering the inn rigged to blow. As the five ballerinas are reunited, Devora appears with a remote trigger for the C-4. Sympathetic to Devora's tragedy, Bones pleads with her to spare them, dancer to dancer. Devora takes Pasha as a hostage and allows the girls to flee while Lothar and his men storm the hotel. Seeking revenge, Devora reveals to Lothar who she really is before setting off the explosives, killing her, Lothar, Pasha, and Marcovic's men in the process, just as the girls escape in the nick of time. The troupe commandeers some of Lothar's motorcycles and ride off, passing the broken-down bus and arriving in Budapest. They reach the theatre where they perform their [repertoire](#) as a team in Thorna's memory.

<b>Distributed by</b>	Amazon MGM Studios (via <a href="#">Prime Video</a> )
<b>Release dates</b>	March 13, 2026 ( <a href="#">SXSW</a> ) March 25, 2026 (worldwide)
<b>Running time</b>	88 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Countries</b>	United States United Kingdom <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language</b>	English

## Cast [\[ edit \]](#)

- [Iris Apatow](#) as Zoe
- [Lana Condor](#) as Princess
- [Millicent Simmonds](#) as Chloe
- [Avantika](#) as Grace
- [Maddie Ziegler](#) as Bones
- [Michael Culkin](#) as Lothar Marcovic
- [Lydia Leonard](#) as Thorna Devonport
- [Uma Thurman](#) as Devora Kasimer
- Julian Krenn as Yuri

- Miklós Béres as Osip
- Krisztián Csákvári as Artyom Kasimer
- Kate Freund as Sona
- Tamás Szabó Sipos as Pasha Marcovic
- Balázs Megyeri as Saber Kasimer
- Gábor Nagypál as Doktor

## Production [ [edit](#) ]

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The film was first announced as *Ballerina Overdrive* in February 2023, with [Vicky Jewson](#) set to direct and [Lena Headey](#), [Yara Shahidi](#), [Isabela Merced](#), [Lana Condor](#), [Millicent Simmonds](#) and [Iris Apatow](#) cast to star. Filming was expected to occur in [Serbia](#) in the spring of 2023.<sup>[2]</sup>

Production was delayed to August 2024, commencing in [Budapest](#), with Headey, Shahidi and Merced having exited the film. [Maddie Ziegler](#), [Avantika](#) and [Uma Thurman](#) were added to the cast in their place.<sup>[3][4]</sup> Filming concluded in October.<sup>[5]</sup>

The film was later retitled *Pretty Lethal*.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Release [ [edit](#) ]

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In November 2024, it was revealed that international sales agent The Veterans had sold all international distribution rights to [Amazon MGM Studios](#).<sup>[7]</sup> In September 2025, Amazon MGM was reported to be nearing a deal for U.S. distribution rights for \$11-12 million, giving them worldwide rights to the film.<sup>[8]</sup>

It premiered at the 2026 [SXSW Festival](#) on March 13, 2026,<sup>[6]</sup> and was released worldwide on [Amazon Prime Video](#) on March 25, 2026.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Reception [ [edit](#) ]

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On the [review aggregator](#) website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), 62% of 53 critics' reviews are positive. The website's consensus reads: "Starting off with a fun hook and diluting it with a plethora of clichés, *Pretty Lethal* doesn't reach its full operatic potential but doles out enough balletic action to remain reasonably en pointe."<sup>[10]</sup>

## References [ [edit](#) ]

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## External links  [edit]

- Pretty Lethal* at IMDb ↗

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