Arts & Humanities

7 New Movies from Columbia Alumni Filmmakers

Stream or see in theaters these notable releases from Columbia directors, screenwriters, and producers.

By
Julia Joy
|
Winter 2025-26



Rebecca Ferguson in *House of Dynamite*. (Eros Hoagland / Netflix)

A House of Dynamite

Government officials respond to a nuclear-missile attack in *A House of Dynamite*, a tense political thriller directed and produced by Oscar-winning filmmaker Kathryn Bigelow ’81SOA.



Adam Driver and Mayim Bialik in *Father Mother Sister Brother*. (© Vague Notion 2024 / Frederick Elmes)

Father Mother Sister Brother

Indie icon Jim Jarmusch ’75CC won the Golden Lion at the 2025 Venice International Film Festival for *Father Mother Sister Brother*, which he wrote and directed. The dramady’s ensemble cast includes Tom Waits, Adam Driver, Mayim Bialik, and Cate Blanchett.



A scene from *Forastera*.

Forastera

Lucía Aleñar Iglesias ’21SOA wrote and directed *Forastera*, a Spanish drama about a grieving family on vacation in Mallorca, based on a short film she made as a Columbia student. Marta Cruañas Compés ’20SOA produced the film.



Indy the dog in *Good Boy*. (IFC / Shudder)

Good Boy

Director and screenwriter Ben Leonberg ’15SOA recently made his feature-film debut with *Good Boy*, a supernatural horror flick starring his own dog, Indy.



Netflix

The Twits

Known for his work on Disney hits like *Wreck-It Ralph* and *Zootopia*, Phil Johnston ’04SOA cowrote and directed *The Twits*, an animated adaptation of Roald Dahl’s 1980 children’s book.



Watermelon Pictures

Palestine 36

Annemarie Jacir ’02SOA is the screenwriter and director of *Palestine 36*, a historical drama about the 1936–39 Arab revolt in British-controlled Mandatory Palestine. The film is Palestine’s entry for best international feature film at the 2026 Academy Awards.



Jennifer Lopez in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. (Roadside Attractions)

Kiss of the Spider Woman

Several Columbians contributed to *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, which updates the 1992 stage musical for film and stars Jennifer Lopez. Bill Condon ’76CC wrote the screenplay and directed, Terrence McNally ’60CC authored the original book, and John Kander ’54GSAS and former Columbia student Fred Ebb wrote the music and lyrics.

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