

# CHARLOTTE



GOOD DEED ENTERTAINMENT



**Starring:** KEIRA KNIGHTLEY (*The Imitation Game*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*)  
**With:** BRENDA BLEYTHYN, JIM BROADBENT, SAM CLAFLIN, EDDIE MARSAN, HELEN MCCRORY, SOPHIE OKONEDO, & MARK STRONG  
**And:** MARION COTILLARD in the French Version

**Directors:** ERIC WARIN and TAHIR RANA  
**Writers:** ERIK RUTHERFORD and DAVID BEZMOZGIS  
**Producers:** JULIA ROSENBERG, JÉRÔME DOPFFER, ERIC GOOSSENS, and ANTON ROEBBEN  
**Companies:** JANUARY FILMS, LES PRODUCTIONS BALTHAZAR, WALKING THE DOG  
**Composer:** MICHELINO BISCEGLIA

**Run Time:** 92 Minutes  
**Trailer:** [Official Trailer](#)  
**Website:** <https://gooddeedentertainment.com/charlotte/>  
**Key Still Set:** [Key Still Set](#)  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CharlotteMovie2022>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/charlottethemovie/>  
Hashtag: #CharlotteMovie

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## Logline

The true story of Charlotte Salomon, a young German-Jewish artist who comes of age on the eve of the Second World War and defies incredible odds to create a timeless masterpiece.

## Synopsis

*Charlotte* is an animated drama that tells the true story of Charlotte Salomon, a young German-Jewish painter who comes of age in Berlin on the eve of the Second World War. Fiercely imaginative and deeply gifted, she dreams of becoming an artist. Her first love applauds her talent, which emboldens her resolve. But the world around her is changing quickly and dangerously, limiting her options and derailing her dream. When anti-Semitic policies inspire violent mobs, she leaves Berlin for the safety of the South of France. There she begins to paint again, and finds new love. But her work is interrupted, this time by a family tragedy that reveals an even darker secret. Believing that only the extraordinary will save her, she embarks on the monumental adventure of painting her life story.

## About Charlotte Salomon

Charlotte Salomon (1917-1943) is the author of *Life? Or Theatre?*, an autobiographical collection of paintings that has been exhibited around the world, including London's Royal Academy, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and the Art Gallery of Ontario. *Life? Or Theatre?* is housed the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam, and the collection is overseen and managed by the Charlotte Salomon Foundation. Other works can be found at Israel's Yad Vashem.

*Life? Or Theatre?* has inspired a live action film (1981), a documentary feature (2011), an opera (2014), a prize-winning novel (2014), an award-winning ballet (2015), and several plays.

## Directors

### Eric Warin, Co-Director

With a degree in Fine Arts, specializing in Film, Eric Warin began his career as an animator and storyboard artist for series television. He then moved into film by creating 400 characters for the Tour de France sequence of Sylvain Chomet's beloved *Les Triplettes de Belleville*. As a director, his 3-D animated short film *Alex and the Ghost* was a festival darling that won multiple awards. His feature film *Leap!*, which he co-developed and co-directed, was released theatrically worldwide to phenomenal critical praise and commercial success and currently enjoys top viewing on Netflix.

### Tahir Rana, Co-Director

Tahir Rana is an Emmy-nominated director in animation. He started his career at Dreamworks Animation and has since been Head of Story and Director for celebrated series television, including *Angry Birds* currently in production for Netflix. With his core group of collaborators, Tahir researched and came up

with an innovative use of classical and 2D computer-assisted animation for the realistic look for the film. *Charlotte* is his first feature film.

## Behind the Scenes

“There absolutely was a concerted effort to pay homage to Charlotte,” says Toronto-based co-director **Tahir Rana** (*Angry Birds*). “All throughout the process, what was in the back of my mind was ‘I have to do good by Charlotte’. I think we all felt that, and that was sort of a guiding principle throughout this journey. No matter how challenging it got, we just thought of Charlotte, and what she went through”

Rana, who forged his career in children’s animation, says he jumped on the chance to work on *Charlotte*. “I don’t remember seeing anything quite like it,” he explains. “I think more and more filmmakers are embracing animation to tell more and more of these adult stories. I think it’s such a great vehicle to convey emotion and mood.”

Animation’s toolkit is so varied, so flexible, says Rana, that it brings a certain ‘magic’ to dramatic storytelling. “With animation, it’s a different kind of immersion where you kind of accept the world of colours and music and sound and expression, and you just become completely lost in it.”

Creating an entire world, however, demands an almost endless number of decisions. Opting to make *Charlotte* in 2D, the more traditional technique where almost everything is drawn, was another way to stay true to Salomon. “Charlotte’s artwork was graphic in a sense, where she didn’t try to replicate a shadow and depth and form in a three dimensional way,” he says. “So 2D just felt like it fit really well.”

Even some of the subtlest details in the film are inspired by Salomon’s painting, says Rana. “Charlotte didn’t use the color black in her artwork. She used dark blues and other dark colors, but never black. So there’s actually no black in our film, which is very unusual for animation.”

## Music Composition

“They say music is kind of the third character in a film,” says Belgian composer **Michelino Bisceglia** (*100 Up, Hannah*), citing Fellini. But Bisceglia insists he doesn’t let that go to his head.

Rather, measure was the objective when scoring *Charlotte*. “I knew musically this really needed to be at a certain level, a certain quality of music, which is not obvious,” he says.

The search to strike the right balance led Bisceglia to delve into everything Salomon. The former concert pianist turned composer spent hours online, devouring anything he could find about her. He bought *Life? Or Theatre?*, went to museums in London and New York, and soon became another devotee driven to pay tribute.

“I did a lot to try to get into her mind, to try to meet her somewhere, and the only way to meet her was to see the paintings,” he says. “As an artist, that’s actually what our calling is: to create, and to leave something behind. That’s what we have, that’s our calling, and that’s my contribution to this project.”

Bisceglia often starts scoring even before seeing any pictures. “Imagination and intuition are very strong elements to use,” he explains. “While I was reading the script, I was already feeling a kind of a time in the script. Timing is kind of how fast, how slow things go. For certain scenes, I really had a kind of flash about what the music had to be.”

His initial ideas recorded, then scrawled out on paper, Bisceglia’s drafts eventually turned into themes that guided the scoring through to recording at Belgium’s venerable Galaxy Studio. “There was no question. I really wanted to record in this studio with the best orchestra that we have, the best musicians, the best engineering, and the best sounding hall,” says Bisceglia. “I had the feeling that this was maybe going to be the most important project that I’ve ever done.”

## CREDITS

### CAST (In Order of Appearance)

Charlotte Salomon	KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
Dr. Moridis	HENRY CZERNY
Young Charlotte	SADIE DEOGRADES
Grossmama	BRENDA BLETHYN
Lead Brown Shirt	SCOTT McCORD
Dr. Kurt Singer	JULIAN RICHINGS
Paula Lindberg-Salomon	HELEN McCRORY
Albert Salomon	EDDIE MARSAN
Grosspapa	JIM BROADBENT
Otilie Moore	SOPHIE OKONEDO
Vatican Guard	TONY NAPPO
Alfred Wolfsohn	MARK STRONG
Barbara	PIPPA BENNETT-WARNER
Mr. Schmidt	R. H. THOMSON
Secretary	MARILLA WEX
Professor Koch	RAOUL BHANEJA
Manfred	SCOTT McCORD

Security Guard	HENRY CZERNY
Brown Shirt #1	JEAN-MICHEL LE GAL
Brown Shirt Squad Leader	RAOUL BHANEJAEM
Brown Shirt #2	SCOTT McCORD
Looter #1	RAOUL BHANEJA
Looter #2	R. H. THOMSON
Augusta	HANNEKE TALBOT
Policeman #1	JULIAN RICHINGS
Policeman #2	HENRY CZERNY
Alexander Nagler	SAM CLAFLIN
Mr. Brahvi	TONY NAPPO
Administrator	JEAN-MICHEL LE GAL
Soldier #1	RAOUL BHANEJASS
Soldier #2	JULIAN RICHINGS

**CHARLOTTE PRODUCTION**

Producer	JULIA ROSENBERG
Supervising Line Producer	CHRISTINA ROTSAERT
Line Producer	GRAHAM MOLOY
Associate Line Producer	HARRY LINDEN
Assistant Production Manager	KELVIN LO
Screen Story by	ERIK RUTHERFORD
Screenplay by	ERIK RUTHERFORD
	DAVID BEZMOZGIS
Art Director	JEFFREY STEWART TIMMINS
Animation Directors	MEL OLM
CAMERON HOOD	
Production Manager	BELINDA FAIRFOUL

GOOD DEED ENTERTAINMENT AND SIERRA / AFFINITY PRESENT  
A JANUARY FILMS LES PRODUCTIONS BALTHAZAR WALKING THE DOG PRODUCTION  
STARRING KEIRA KNIGHTLEY IN

**“CHARLOTTE”**

BRENDA BLETHYN JIM BROADBENT SAM CLAFLIN EDDIE MARSAN HELEN MCCRORY SOPHIE OKONEDO MARK STRONG

CASTING BY KATE RINGSSELL CDG CSA. MUSIC BY MICHELINO BISCEGLIA

EDITORS RODERICK DEOGRADES SAM PATTERSON CHARACTER DESIGNER UWE HEIDSCHÖTTER

PRODUCTION DESIGNER FRANÇOIS MORET EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KEIRA KNIGHTLEY MARION COTILLARD SYLVIA GEIST

ROBERT LANTOS MORGAN EMMERY JEAN-CHARLES LEVY CÉDRIC ILAND BASTIEN SIRODOT

JIM STERNBERG JOE IACONO MARK MUSSELMAN HEATHER WALKER NANCY GRANT XAVIER DOLAN

CO-PRODUCERS PATRICK PUZENAT THIERRY DECHILLY CHRISTINA ROTSAERT

PRODUCERS JÉRÔME DOPFFER ERIC GOOSSENS ANTON ROEBBEN

BASED ON “LIFE? OR THEATRE?” BY CHARLOTTE SALOMON

SCREEN STORY BY ERIK RUTHERFORD SCREENPLAY BY ERIK RUTHERFORD AND DAVID BEZMOZGIS

PRODUCED BY JULIA ROSENBERG DIRECTED BY ERIC WARIN & TAHIR RANA

PRODUCED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF TELEFILM CANADA – TRINITY MEDIA FINANCING – UMEDIA – SERENDIPITY POINT FILMS –  
CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINÉMA ET DE L’IMAGE ANIMÉE – EURIMAGES – CRAVE – CBC FILMS –  
ONTARIO CREATES – SCREEN FLANDERS – RÉGION NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE – FLANDERS AUDIOVISUAL FUND (VAF) – EM STUDIO –  
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