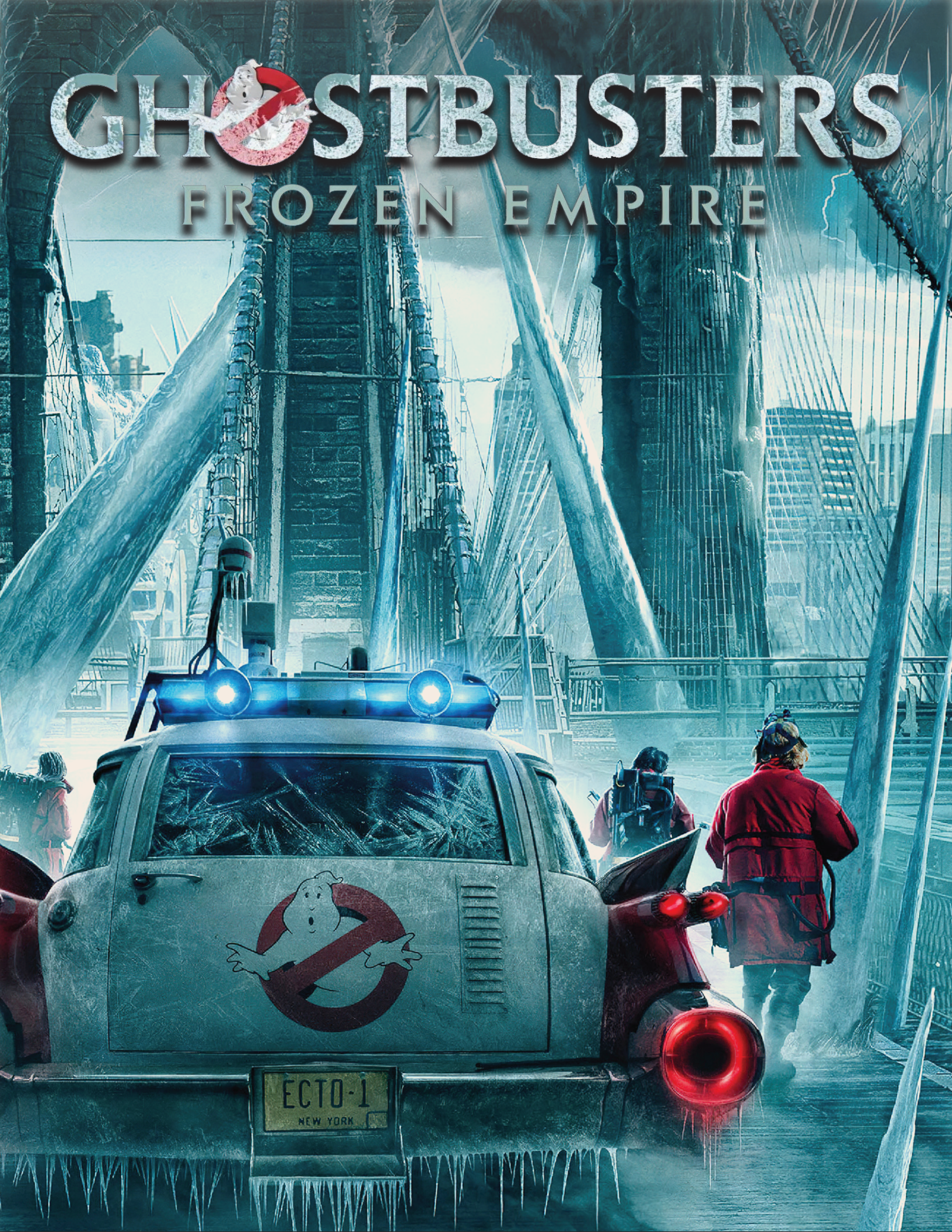
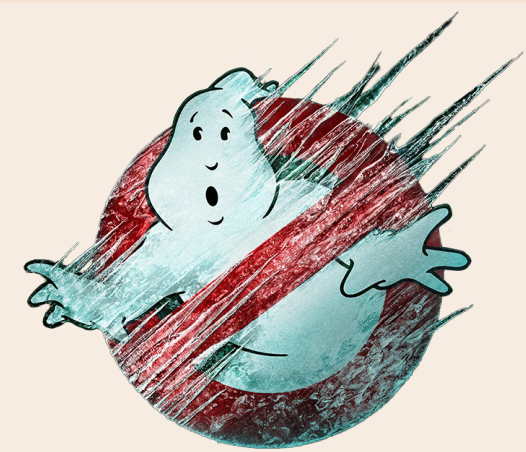


# GH<sup>0</sup>STBUSTERS

## FROZEN EMPIRE



# The *SPIRIT* of Cinema Returns...



Story by Amy Nicholson

How many spirits can “Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire” fit in a firehouse? This overstuffed, erratically funny entry in the 40-year franchise crams in four main characters from the original 1984 blockbuster, six characters from the 2021 Oklahoma-set spinoff, “Ghostbusters: Afterlife,” and introduces three new occultists along with an assortment of ghosts, poltergeists, horned phantoms and miniature marshmallow men. At one point, a dozen or so heroes amass at the old Ghostbusters headquarters in Manhattan to protect a storage trap of ghouls that has, like the movie itself, gotten perilously sardined.

In the scenes where the director, Gil Kenan, who wrote the script with Jason Reitman, ponders what it might feel like to let the dead dematerialize for good, the film seems to be asking its fan base if it’s ready to release Bill Murray’s weary parapsychologist, Peter Venkman, from haunting the series when his soul clearly isn’t in it.

“Afterlife” introduced the estranged daughter of Harold Ramis’s Egon Spengler, a single mother named Callie (Carrie Coon), and her teenage children,

Phoebe (Mckenna Grace) and Trevor (Finn Wolfhard). After the death of their paterfamilias, the family fended off his killer, the Sumerian deity Gozer, with a helpful boost from a high school physics teacher named Gary (Paul Rudd); two young pals, Lucky (Celeste O’Connor) and Podcast (Logan Kim) — yes, Podcast; and the first generation of Ghostbusters, Ray Stantz (Dan Aykroyd), Winston Zeddemore (Ernie Hudson), Dr. Venkman (Murray) and the sassy secretary, Janine (Annie Potts).

Now, the Oklahomies (even the unrelated children!) have relocated to Manhattan to speed around town harpooning wild ghosts from the Ectomobile, that beloved vintage hearse. In New York, the posse meets an ancient languages expert (Patton Oswalt), a paranormal engineer (James Acaster, a kooky English comic making his big-screen Hollywood debut) and an in-over-his-head huckster (Kumail Nanjiani) who inherits a nasty little spherical cryptogram with a very bad thing locked inside that’s yearning to unleash a fatal attack of the shivers — a neat idea that, in execution, just looks like a Roland Emmerich disaster movie.

My fingers have taken to their death bed simply typing out the basics. Yet, “Frozen Empire” is an eclectic, enjoyable barrage of nonsense — a circus act that kicks off with a Robert Frost poem and climaxes with Ray Parker Jr.’s titular synth banger. Each scene gets laughs. Strung together, they sputter along with the fragmentary logic of a dream: Characters vanish at key moments and then reappear unexpectedly covered in goo. A demon goes to a vape shop. Once, I could swear the fire station’s brass pole was smelted down. A few beats later it was back in place.

And the subplots are so gauzy and intangible that you’re not sure if they’re real. Is Phoebe, lonely and 15, trying to connect romantically with a pretty blond ghost (Emily Alyn Lind)? Are Callie and Gary actually dating or was that a buddy-buddy fist bump about the time they hooked up as demon dogs? Is 18-year-old Trevor’s entire story arc just that he wants to drive the Ectomobile?

Grace, as Dr. Spengler’s geeky granddaughter, bears much of the mechanics. She can really act, and her Phoebe is quirky and cerebral with an intriguing tickle of goth. You can see hints



that the series would be game to have her shoulder the whole thing in a kiddie comedy spin on the “Conjuring” franchise, with Phoebe poking into fresh ghost stories while exploring her own attraction to the Great Beyond.

Perhaps that might have happened if the franchise hadn’t been scarred by the internet flame wars over the 2016 all-female reboot (which does not exist in this timeline). But the film seems spooked to stray from its touchstones: the particle streams, the New York Public Library, Slimer and Murray rattling their chains. At least it reworks them in ways that make us chuckle, like when tiny maggoty versions of the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man torture each other with cigarette lighters, or when Paul Rudd recites the Ghostbusters theme song with utter sincerity, as if he were convincing his therapist that busting does make him feel good.

Kenan and Reitman seem to accept that the core audience is over 30. No one younger would giggle as hard as I did at a Discman possessed by an evil Spin Doctors CD. Yet, the nostalgia works best when it captures the rude tone — not the totems — of classic 1980s comedies. The family has an incuriosity about one another’s lives that feels refreshing, a throwback to a time when parents could quip about their kids getting tattoos. And Kenan deftly modulates the tension, toggling between screeching bombast and an eerie hush.

It’s all pleasant enough in a warm-bath-of-ectoplasm kind of way that by the time things wound around to the familiar sight of the Ghostbusters engulfed in a throng of cheering civilians, I felt a flush of futility that I’d bothered to question any of the confusion that herded us toward the inevitable. At risk of provoking Benjamin Franklin’s ghost, nothing can be

said to be certain, except death and proton packs.

*Top image from left to right: Lucky (Celeste O’Connor), Trevor (Finn Wolfhard), Lars (James Acaster), Podcast (Logan Kim), and Ray (Dan Aykroyd) in “Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire.”*

*Winston (Ernie Hudson) and Peter (Bill Murray) in “Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire.”*



# Generations of Ghost Busting

## All Movies and TV Shows

1



**Ghostbusters (1984)**

First movie feat. Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, and Harold Ramis

Earned: \$282.2 mil

2



**The Real Ghostbusters (1986-1991)**

A Ghostbusters-themed animated cartoon series that followed the hit movie

3



**Ghostbusters II (1989)**

Second movie made 5 years after the original Ghostbusters

Earned: \$215.4 mil

4



**Extreme Ghostbusters (1997)**

Another animated Ghostbusters-themed TV series that ran for just one season

5



**Ghostbusters: Answer the Call (2016)**

An all-female remake of Ghostbusters

Earned: \$229.1 mil

6



**Ghostbusters: Afterlife (2021)**

Set 32 years after Ghostbusters II, follows family ties in Ghostbusting

Earned: \$204 mil

7



**Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (2024)**

Next-level ghostbusting in a frozen NYC. Currently in theaters

With the release of Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (2024), the franchise has surpassed the \$1 billion mark, currently sitting at **\$1.014 bil** in earnings



# Ten Facts on Ecto-1

Gathered by Melody Macready

The Ecto-1 is one of Hollywood's most famous cars and it has a fascinating history both on and off-screen of all three Ghostbusters movies. Here are some quick facts you may not know yet!

## 1. Two Cars Were Used For Ecto-1

### 2. Cadillac Miller-Meteor

The base for the Ecto-1 is a Cadillac Miller-Meteor, which was made and released in 1959. There were only 400 of the Miller-Meteor ever constructed, making it a rare breed of a car even back in 1984.

### 3. The Largest Tailfins On A Car

One of the Ecto-1's defining features is the tailfins sported on the back of the vehicle are the largest tailfins on any car, according to The Drive.

### 4. Ecto-1 Was Going To Be A Different Car

Dan Aykroyd originally intended for the Ecto-1 to be a 1975 Cadillac.

### 5. The Designer Was Not Properly Credited

The Ecto-1 was designed by Stephen Dane, and unfortunately, was given the wrong credit in the original Ghostbusters. Instead of Stephen, his name was spelled as Steven, and rather than being a designer or production designer, Dane was credited as a "Hardware Consultant."

### 6. Ecto-1 Caused People To Crash

When the Ecto-1 was seen driving through New York City, multiple people were so awe-struck in traffic that it caused several accidents!

### 7. The Ladder Was Moved

The car's ladder ended up being moved to the opposite side of the car in Ghostbusters: Afterlife.

### 8. It Almost Came In Black

Instead of the famous white with red accents, it was going to be all black with purple lights and accents. However, since so many scenes with Ecto-1 were shot at night, the final product was given the white and red color scheme that the car is so famous for.

### 9. That Was Real Smoke In Ghostbusters II

Ecto-1 had not been properly maintained so it began to smoke and break down on set.

### 10. The First Shot Of Ecto-1 Speeding off Is Doctored - it couldn't actually get up to speed

# Casting Call

Story by Maëlle Beauget-Uhl

How does a movie become iconic in the world of pop culture? It can be thanks to incredible sets, or to an amazing soundtrack. It can also be thanks to some of the props used in the movies, props that might become some of the most sought after merchandise once the movie comes out. And sometimes, a movie franchise will have all of these things and become incredibly popular all over the world: Ghostbusters can boast of having a legendary firehouse, proton packs, an emblematic no-ghost sign but also one of the best and most recognizable car in cinema history, Ecto-1 (and its even more recognizable siren).

While Ghostbusters: Afterlife introduced us to Egon Spengler's descendants, Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire mixes classic and new, nostalgia and revival. The movie has heart, soul, and a good dose of ghost busting. Directed by Gil Kenan and produced by Jason Reitman, the film, now out in theaters, brings the Spengler's back to New York, where it all began. Once again the Ghostbusters

will have to fight an evil force about to create a new ice age. So of course, when a ghost is threatening an entire city, who you gonna call?

"Ghostbusters, it transcends generations" told me Ernie

**"The movie has heart, soul, and a good dose of ghost busting"**

and it's not that many movies that does that. That's what I love about the franchise. I saw a lady with her family, and she had a little baby and he had the Ghostbusters suit on him. And I said 'Wow that is so special, where did you find that jumpsuit?' And she said 'I made it for his father when he was a baby, and now his baby is wearing it'."

While the new cast, which includes Paul Rudd, Carrie Coon, Mckenna Grace and Finn Wolfhard still can't realize they are now ghostbusters as well, it seems like filming inside the firehouse, felt as nostalgic and unbelievable for them as it was for the public, who grew up watching these movies: "It's unreal, because I have seen this place for decades, and it's so well known and iconic" told me Paul Rudd.

I asked the young cast how they were able to appropriate such a famous place, and make themselves at home. "It's a good question" said Wolfhard. "I think we're still trying to figure that out ourselves. Being in the firehouse was amazing, but the production design really helped us get into it, we had our own bedrooms, the way it was decorated kind of how we all wanted, it helped a lot."

# Cast of Frozen Empire

Paul Rudd as Gary Grooberson

Carrie Coon as Callie Spengler

Finn Wolfhard as Trevor Spengler

Mckenna Grace as Phoebe Spengler

Kumail Nanjiani as Nadeem

Logan Kim as Podcast

Celeste O'Connor as Lucky

Patton Oswalt as Dr. Hobart Wartzki

William Atherton as Mayor Walter Peck

# The Original Ghostbusters Cast Returns...



Bill Murray as Peter Venkman



Dan Aykroyd as Ray Stantz



Ernie Hudson as Winston Zedemore



Annie Potts as Janine Melnitz