

The Peanut Butter Falcon 2019

97 minutes

Directed by **Tyler Nilson and Michael Schwartz**

Starring: Shia LaBeouf, Zack Gottsagen, Dakota Johnson

Zak, a 22-year-old with Down syndrome, lives in an assisted living facility in North Carolina, where he is cared for by Eleanor. He dreams of becoming a professional wrestler and attending the wrestling school of his hero, the Salt Water Redneck, whose videos he watches obsessively. After a failed escape attempt, Zak sneaks out of the home late at night with the assistance of his elderly roommate, Carl. He stows away on a small fishing boat for the night.

Tyler, a thief and fisherman, has a confrontation with the crabbers, Duncan and Ratboy. Tyler escapes on his aging boat, which Zak happens to be hiding on. He discovers Zak on board and attempts to leave him behind once they reach shore. However, he witnesses a thirteen-year-old bullying Zak to jump in the water even though he can't swim. Tyler intervenes and permits Zak to come with him and agrees to accompany Zak to the wrestling school en route to his ultimate destination in Florida.

Duncan and Ratboy spread the word in their ongoing search for Tyler while Eleanor searches for Zak. During their travels, Tyler teaches Zak how to swim and fire a gun and encourages his self-confidence. They celebrate that night by getting drunk on the beach, and Zak invents a wrestling persona for himself: The Peanut Butter Falcon. The pair had been eating peanut butter extensively because it was the one grocery item that was affordable. The next morning Eleanor discovers their camp and attempts to persuade Zak to come back with her. Tyler convinces her to accompany them on their journey instead, which she agrees to do on the condition that they return to the home after reaching the wrestling school. They sail the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and Tyler and Eleanor argue over how much freedom Zak ought to have.

The three arrive in the wrestling school's town and search for Salt Water Redneck's home. They discover the school has been closed for over a decade. and the Redneck, now known as Clint, is no longer a wrestler. Zak is disappointed but shakes Clint's hand, and they leave. Eleanor learns that because of his escape, Zak will be transferred to a more secure facility, which is also a recovery home for drug addicts upon his return, while Tyler wants Eleanor to come with him to Florida. They are approached by Clint, now dressed as the Salt Water Redneck. Moved by Tyler's earlier speech, he agrees to take on Zak as a protégé.

Critics comments:

One of the most admirable things about *The Peanut Butter Falcon* is how it came to be created in the first place. The film's directors, having discovered Zack Gottsagen and his acting talent, knew that it would be difficult for him as an actor with Down syndrome to find roles in order to fulfill his dream of becoming an actor. So they decided to write a movie based around a character that he could play, and that's how he came to be the star of *The Peanut Butter Falcon*. It's my hope that after his impressive debut, he'll continue to get roles in Hollywood. (*5 Minute Movie Guy*)