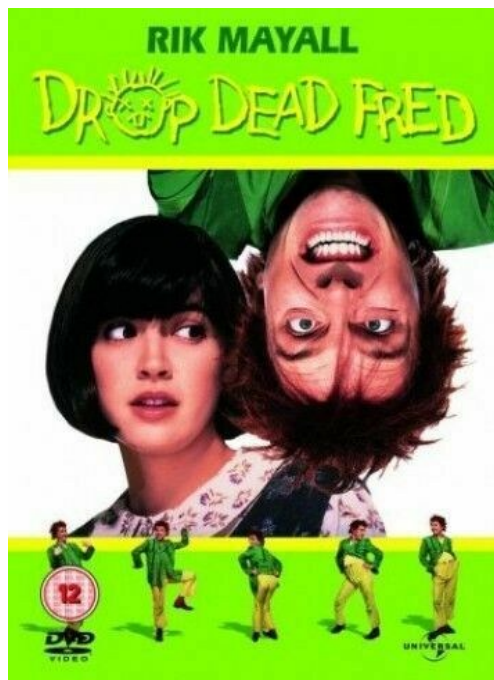


# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **Drop Dead Fred**



[1 Disc]

Library Image

ISBN: 5050582200157

## Information

Release Title: **Drop Dead Fred** - 11<sup>th</sup> October 1991 (United Kingdom)

Publication:

Origin: United States, United Kingdom

Release date: United States – 24<sup>th</sup> May 1991

AKA: Also known as: Yok Oi Fred

Genres: Comedy, Drama, Fantasy

Disc Nos. 1

Certification: 12

Duration: 1hr 43m

Region Code:

Region:

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

Filming locations: Paisley Park Studios - 7801 Audubon Road, Chanhassen, Minnesota, USA

Sound mix: Dolby

Aspect Ratio: 1.78:1

### Drop Dead Fred



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<a href="#">Ate de Jong</a>
Screenplay by	<a href="#">Carlos Davis</a> <a href="#">Anthony Fingleton</a>
Story by	<a href="#">Elizabeth Livingston</a>
Produced by	<a href="#">Paul Webster</a>
Starring	<a href="#">Phoebe Cates</a> <a href="#">Rik Mayall</a> <a href="#">Marsha Mason</a> <a href="#">Tim Matheson</a> <a href="#">Carrie Fisher</a>
Cinematography	<a href="#">Peter Deming</a>
Edited by	<a href="#">Marshall Harvey</a>
Music by	<a href="#">Randy Edelman</a>
Production companies	<a href="#">PolyGram</a> <a href="#">Working Title Films</a>
Distributed by	<a href="#">New Line Cinema</a> (North America) <a href="#">Rank Film Distributors</a> (United Kingdom) <sup>[1]</sup> <a href="#">Manifesto Film Sales</a> (international)
Release dates	May 24, 1991 (United States) October 11, 1991 (United Kingdom)
Running time	101 minutes
Countries	<a href="#">United Kingdom</a> <a href="#">United States</a>
Language	<a href="#">English</a>
Budget	\$6.7 million (est.) or £3,650,000 <sup>[2]</sup>
Box office	\$14.8 million (domestic) <sup>[3]</sup>

# 1 - Title: Drop Dead Fred

## Storyline

Unassertive and repressed Minneapolis court reporter Elizabeth Cronin visits her husband Charles, whom she is separated from, on her lunch break. She attempts to reconcile despite his affair, but he reasserts his desire for a divorce, insisting he will move in with his mistress, Annabella.

Elizabeth calls her friend, Janie, at a public phone, seeking guidance. During the call, a man breaks into her car and steals her purse, and another steals the car itself; she has to run back to work, and is fired for returning to court late. As she leaves the courthouse, she runs into her childhood friend, Mickey Bunce. He recalls her imaginary friend, Drop Dead Fred, and how everybody else thought she was crazy. She recalls that, even though Fred caused havoc, he gave her happiness and a release from her oppressive and emotionally abusive mother, Polly.

Elizabeth returns home and sees that Polly let herself in, packed Elizabeth's bags, and is forcing her to move back into her childhood home. During her first night, she finds an old, taped shut jack-in-the-box and, upon opening it, releases Fred. He is confused and disgusted that she has grown up and, in an act of destruction, smears dog feces on Polly's white carpets and furniture.

Polly, noticing Elizabeth's behaviour, buys her a make-over and haircut to reattract Charles. Finding a love letter from him, she rushes to her apartment, only to learn it was from Fred. He explains that he can't leave until she is happy again; she insists her marriage will make her happy, so he agrees to help her win Charles back.

Sneaking away from Fred at night, Elizabeth visits Janie on her houseboat, and begs to stay over. She wakes to find her hair cut and, once Janie leaves for work, discovers that Fred is there. She spots a speedboat that looks like Charles' and attempts to pursue it, but Fred's antics cause Janie's houseboat to sink. Elizabeth informs her, who copes by attacking an empty chair she believes to contain Fred.

Elizabeth meets Mickey for lunch, with Fred's actions causing her to smash tableware and throw food; despite her erratic behaviour, Mickey finds it amusing and joins in, resulting in them being ejected. She leaves and suffers a public outburst towards Fred, yelling and soon attacking him, only to realize she is assaulting a musician.

Frustrated with Elizabeth's worsening behaviour, Polly takes her to a specialist psychologist for an antipsychotic prescription; Fred is warned by other imaginary friends that it will kill him. Elizabeth is locked in her room, under guard of a violent orderly, and resigns to her fate. Fred reminds her of why he left: Polly, frustrated with young Elizabeth's behaviour, induced that he was hiding in the jack-in-the-box and taped it shut. She threatened to crush it and kill him if Elizabeth misbehaved again, traumatizing her. He then shows Elizabeth an old letter she wrote, wherein she promised to run away together if he returned; she breaks her window and escapes with Mickey's help.

Elizabeth goes to a party hosted by Charles, surprising him with her strange behaviour; he tells her he has left Annabella, and accepts guardianship over her from Polly. He pressures her into taking her medicine, causing visible pain in Fred. She visits Janie, finding her overjoyed and thanking Fred; his houseboat destruction has ultimately earned her a massive insurance pay-out. Elizabeth finds unexplained chaos following her but insists she is happy, silencing dissent from Fred with her medicine. Finally heeding a warning from him, she overhears Charles continuing his affair with Annabella.

Elizabeth tells Fred that she can't leave Charles because she is scared of being alone. He takes her to a dream world, in which she is able to reject Charles and stand up to Polly; declaring she is no longer afraid of her, she is able to free her imprisoned childhood self. Fred tells her that she has to return alone as she no longer needs him; he kisses and then embraces her as he disappears.

Awakening, Elizabeth dumps Charles and retrieves the jack-in-the-box from Polly's house. Polly pressures her into apologizing to Charles, but she stands up to her. Polly then blames her for her father leaving, but she rebuffs her and walks away. Polly begs her not to leave her alone, but she embraces her and encourages her to find a friend, before leaving.

In an epilogue, Elizabeth visits Mickey, and they agree to consider dating. His daughter, Natalie, causes her babysitter to quit with her misbehaviour. She insists it was Fred's fault; Elizabeth, surprised at the name, insists that she believes

her. She then coordinates with Fred to catch her babysitter in a rope trap. Elizabeth smiles at the chaos, recognizing the pinky swear Natalie is doing with seemingly nobody. [Wiki](#)

A young woman who is attempting to find her place in the world battles with her controlling mother and a womanizing husband, and finds comfort and confusion with the appearance of her childhood friend. It is a zappy movie that emphasizes self-actualization.—C. Marshall [IMDb](#)

## Cast

Phoebe Cates as Elizabeth Cronin  
Ashley Peldon as Young Elizabeth  
Rik Mayall as Drop Dead Fred  
Marsha Mason as Polly Cronin  
Ron Eldard as Michael "Mickey" Bunce  
Carrie Fisher as Janie Shagru  
Tim Matheson as Charles Gretterson  
Daniel Gerroll as Nigel Cronin  
Keith Charles as Murray  
Cheryl Hawker as Nurse  
Peter Breitmayer as Go to Hell Herman  
Clark Niederjohn as Velcro Head  
Tom Bethke as Graggy  
Elizabeth Gray as Namby Pamby  
Bridget Fonda as Annabella (uncredited)  
Eleanor Mondale as Attractive customer  
Bob Reid as Judge Dubben  
Peter Thoenke as Arsonist [Wiki](#)



## Parental Guidance

### Certification

Argentina:13 Australia:PG Brazil:Livre Canada:PG (Manitoba/Ontario) Canada:PG (Quebec) Denmark:A Finland:S France:Tous publics Germany:6 Hong Kong:I Hungary:G Malaysia:U Mexico:B Netherlands:AL New Zealand:PG Norway:12 (VOD) South Africa:PG South Korea:All (recommended rating) South Korea:18 (1993, video rating) South Korea:12 (1992, theatrical rating) Spain:A Sweden:15 Taiwan:GP Thailand:G United Kingdom:12 (DVD rating) United Kingdom:15 (VHS rating) United Kingdom:12 (theatrical rating) United States:PG-13 (certificate #31027) Ukraine:ZA

**Sex & Nudity** – Mild, **Violence & Gore**- Mild, **Profanity**- Moderate, **Alcohol, drugs & Smoking**- Mild, **Frightening & Intense Scenes** - Mild

