

Allegiant (2016) - RT: 2 hr 00 min

- Released March 18th, 2016
- Robert Schwentke directed
- \$110 Million budget
- Summit Entertainment
- Distributed by Lionsgate
- Based on Veronica Roth's book
- First of 2 parts

QUICK OVERALL THOUGHTS

- PHIL:
 - I still like it better than Hunger Games because it's different
- SARA:
- CORTEZ:

DEVELOPMENT

- In December 2013, Summit Entertainment announced that the film adaptation of *Allegiant*, the third and final novel in the *Divergent* trilogy, would be released in March 2016, serving as the finale of the series, which at the time was planned as a trilogy
- On April 11, 2014, the studio decided to split the novel into a two-part film, much like the *Harry Potter*, *Twilight*, and *Hunger Games* franchises did with the finales of their series
- Lionsgate Motion Picture Group co-chairmen Rob Friedman and Patrick Wachsberger said in a statement that, "Veronica Roth brings her captivating story to a masterful conclusion in 'Allegiant,' a rich, action-packed book with material that is ideally suited to two strong and fulfilling movies. The storytelling arc and world of the characters lend themselves perfectly to two films, a storytelling strategy that has worked very well for us on the two 'Twilight Breaking Dawn' films and about which we're tremendously enthusiastic for the two upcoming 'Mockingjay' films of 'The Hunger Games' franchise"
- On July 9, 2014, Noah Oppenheim was announced as the screenwriter for the first part of the *Allegiant* adaptation
- On December 5, 2014, it was announced that Robert Schwentke would return to direct *Part 1*

WRITING (Noah Oppenheim, Adam Cooper, Bill Collage)

- Noah wrote *Maze Runner* as well
- Bill and Adam wrote *Tower Heist*, *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, *Transporter Refueled*, *Assassin's Creed*
- The writing credits in early promotional material read: "Screenplay by Noah Oppenheim and Adam Cooper & Bill Collage and Stephen Chbosky". Oppenheim and Cooper & Collage received final credit following an arbitration conducted by the Writers Guild of America

STORY/CAST

- POINT OF DISCUSSION: YA plot points too similar to the genre
 - *The Hunger Games* became a runaway hit and is a dystopia, so *Divergent* is a dystopia. *Harry Potter* fans love talking about which Hogwarts house they'd belong to, so *Divergent* gives us the faction system. But *Divergent* fails to include the political commentary that gives a dystopia its power or the world building that gives personality sorting room to breathe
- POINT OF DISCUSSION: Tris/Four love story
- POINT OF DISCUSSION: Saving Caleb
- POINT OF DISCUSSION: The fringe, David, Providence
- POINT OF DISCUSSION: What is the goal? / Classic "meet the new boss" scenario
- In March 2015, it was confirmed that Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Ansel Elgort, Zoë Kravitz, Maggie Q, Naomi Watts, Miles Teller, Keiynan Lonsdale, and Octavia Spencer would all reprise their roles from the previous films
- **Shailene Woodley (Tris)**
 - *Fault In Our Stars*, *Secret Life of the American Teenager*, *Spectacular Now*, *Descendants*
 - Worked with Miles Teller before as lovers (*Spectacular Now*)
 - Worked with Ansel Elgort before as lovers (*Fault in Our Stars*)
 - Actress Shailene Woodley was born in Simi Valley, California, to Lori (Victor), a middle school counselor, and Lonnie Woodley, a school principal
 - When Woodley was four years old she began commercial modeling
 - She made her screen debut in 1999's *Replacing Dad* (1999)
 - More parts followed in *The District* (2000), *The O.C.* (2003) and *Crossing Jordan* (2001), amongst others
 - When Woodley was 15, she was diagnosed with Idiopathic Scoliosis and wore a chest-to-hips plastic brace for two years, which proved a successful treatment
 - She won an Independent Spirit Award and the 2012 MTV Movie Awards Breakthrough Performance Award, as well as a Golden Globe nomination
 - Her parents gave her three rules when she fell into the acting business: she had to stay the person she was, have fun, and do well in school
 - Was considered for the role of Katniss Everdeen in the 2012 film adaption of the book, *The Hunger Games* (2012), but Jennifer Lawrence was cast instead
 - Admires actresses Kate Winslet, Marion Cotillard, and Mélanie Laurent
 - Freshman year, upperclassmen would call me 'anorexic', so I'd go home and cry, wishing hard for the curves to appear
 - "It feels like summer camp - and I never went to summer camp! That's the only analogy (I can think of). It's the same group of 200 people who spend four months of the year together, and then go off and live their own journeys and have their own chapters of life unfold, and then you all come

back together and you get to catch up and relearn who that person is. It's fantastic,"

- **Theo James (Four)**
 - *Underworld: Awakening, War on Everyone*
 - Theo James was born on December 16, 1984 in Oxford, Oxfordshire, England
 - "I know I often get a job because of how I look. I hope that I keep the job because of how I act"
 - Went on record to say how comfortable he feels acting alongside Woodley
- **Jeff Daniels (David - Bureau of Genetic Welfare)**
 - *The Martian, Steve Jobs, Newsroom, Good Night and Good Luck, Dumb and Dumber, Speed*
 - On April 28, 2015, it was reported that Jeff Daniels had joined the cast as David, the leader of the Bureau of Genetic Welfare
 - Actor Jeff Daniels was born in Athens, Georgia, but was raised in Chelsea, Michigan
 - Daniels went on to prove himself to be one of Hollywood's most reliable and versatile actors with roles in successes such as Terms of Endearment (1983), The Purple Rose of Cairo (1985), Something Wild (1986), Arachnophobia (1990), Dumb & Dumber (1994), Pleasantville (1998), The Hours (2002) and Good Night, and Good Luck. (2005), to name a few
 - Alongside screen work, Daniels has many stage credits to his name and is the founder of The Purple Rose Theater Company in Chelsea, Michigan
 - He is also a musician and songwriter and has recorded two albums
 - Was considered for the role of Joey Gladstone on Full House (1987)
 - Was supposed to be fatherly at beginning
 - He was called into the role
 - Jeff had no clue how to act initially for the future
 - Gave advice: "Always go beyond the wall"
- **Miles Teller (Peter)**
 - *Whiplash, Fantastic Four, Spectacular Now, Two Night Stand, That Awkward Moment, 21 & Over, Project X, Footloose*
 - According to Nicole Kidman, he blushed and quivered during his audition for Rabbit Hole (2010), which got him the part, since "he was real"
 - Good friends with Shailene Woodley. They co-starred in both The Spectacular Now (2013) and Divergent (2014) and attended the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards (2013) together
 - Originally considered to turn down the lead in Whiplash (2014), because he wished to take a few month off. However, his manager was excited about the script and encouraged Teller to do the film
 - "Honestly, I'm not a big movie buff in general. The only movies I own is probably the 'Indiana Jones' trilogy."
- **Ansel Elgort Caleb - brother)**
 - *Fault In Our Stars, Carrie, Paper Towns*

- His father is of Russian Jewish heritage, while his mother has English, German, and Norwegian ancestry
- He has a reputation for revealing plot-spoilers about his movies in interviews
- Also records EDM under the moniker Ansølo. Has thus far released three singles, *Unite* (2014), *Totem* (2014), and *To Life* (2015). *To Life* has a Bar Mitzvah theme
- **Zoë Kravitz (Christina)**
 - *Mad Max: Fury Road, After Earth, X-Men First Class, Californication*
 - Zoe Isabella Kravitz, the daughter of singer/actor Lenny Kravitz and actress Lisa Bonet
- **Maggie Q (Tori Wu)**
 - *Nikita, Live Free or Die Hard, Mission Impossible III*
- **Ray Stevenson (Marcus Eaton - Four's dad)**
 - *Thor, Book of Eli, Black Sails, Transporter Refueled*
 - Is the third actor to play Punisher in living motion picture. All three actors that played Punisher are of different nationality. The first one Dolph Lundgren is Swedish, second Thomas Jane is American and Ray Stevenson is British
 - Has a passion for art, especially in water color painting
 - Did not start acting until he was twenty-five
- **Daniel Dae Kim (Jack Kang - Candor leader)**
 - *Lost, Spider-man 2, Crash, Hawaii Five-O*
 - While getting small parts in plays and writing and performing in an improv comedy group, he seriously considered a career in investment banking
- **Bill Skarsgård (Matthew)**
 - *Hemlock Grove, Behind Blue Skies, Simple Simon*
 - I have three older brothers, and each one of them has chosen one of my parents education. Two of them are actors, and the third is a doctor as my mother is. I wasn't sure of what i wanted to do, until Arn
 - On May 1, 2015, it was announced that Bill Skarsgard had joined the cast as Matthew
- **Octavia Spencer (Johanna - Amity)**
 - *Zootopia, Mom, Snowpiercer, Fruitvale Station, The Help*
 - Spencer is a native of Montgomery, Alabama, which she claims is the proverbial buckle of the Bible belt
 - She's the sixth of seven siblings and holds a BS in Liberal Arts from Auburn University
 - A "closet" lover of acting, this practical Alabamian knew that she'd someday work in the film industry, but never dreamed it would be in front of the camera
 - In 1995, acclaimed director Joel Schumacher changed all that by giving her a small part opposite Sandra Bullock in the hit film *A Time to Kill*, and Spencer was on her way
- **Naomi Watts (Evelyn)**

- *J. Edgar, Eastern Promises, King Kong, The Ring, Mulholland Drive*
- Best friends with Nicole Kidman, since a casting call for commercial when they were girls

EASTER EGGS/TRIVIA

- Original factions are: Abnegation (the selfless), Amity (the peaceful), Candor (the honest), Dauntless (the brave), and Erudite (the intellectual)
- Kate Winslet was so keen to return in any capacity as either a "flashback or sim[ulation]" that she got her agents to get in contact with producers to specify her availability. However it was the producers who turned down the opportunity for the sake of time and storyline constraints
- Max isn't in the novel, because he was killed in The previous book. But he is killed in Allegiant (2016)
- When Tris goes to Providence, she is dressed similarly to Jeanine
- Tris and Christina aren't in Erudite cells like they were at the start of the book
- Evelyn has a lecture about why its essential that they stay behind the wall and from what we see in the background are the faction bowls on a table behind her, which tells that this might be the same incident that happened in the book where the faction less destroyed the bowls
- So the obvious different from the book is that this scene is during the day and not at night. Not a big deal, but the night escape was much more intense since they literally couldn't see anything
- They were obviously inspired by the book's cover with red and orange clouds which are beyond the wall
- Planes look different and more futuristic
- The Allegiant film won't be introducing you to Cara, Matthew, Nita, Amar, David, and the rest of the Bureau of Genetic Welfare - probably because there just ain't time. Instead, loads of 'em get the chop, and some are lumped with others into super-roles.
- Matthew is just a driver. You don't meet Tori's brother, so after she dies while trying to escape Chicago, no one ever really mourns her (soz). Amar, Four's teacher in Dauntless before he staged his own death, never makes an appearance either - meaning we never see the unsure, young side of Four.
- In the books, brainy Tris wises up to David's plan and tries to stop him, but the film sees David actually convince Evelyn to release the memory serum to the town instead of just himself. She has a crisis of confidence though and changes her mind, and actually, her whole rise to power is completely different on screen.
- When the Divergent series met Hollywood, this one was always gonna happen, just to jazz things up a bit and make him the typical 'hot action man' kind of guy. Rather than spend his time plotting and discovering the O'Hare landscape, Four jumps in true Dauntless style to kill soldiers all over the place. He's beautiful and badass and basically Hollywood-ised - not really the guy we meet in the books. Sidenote: he never even asks Tris to call him Tobias in the films. Eh?

- In the book, the group are sent to stay in an old airport conference room, and over time they drift apart from each other. But in the film, they're thrust into society and put straight to work, presumably to keep things more fast paced.
- Caleb, Christina, and Peter all take on waaay more significant roles in the bureau. Christina and Tris don't have time to fight about their differences. Tris relies on the brother she can't stand to be around much sooner than she does in the book. Tris, Four, Christina, Peter, and Caleb never chill - literally ever.
- The area outside Chicago was described a kind of desolate wasteland, but instead it's some kind of weird, Mars-inspired, dystopian world. The fictional O'Hare looks nothing like the IRL airport either. As for the Fringe, it looks like a number of smallish tent cities, and not an overgrown wilderness. It's obviously CGI central, a ton of new gadgets and devices too, that aren't really explained or necessary - they're just reeeal jazzy and fun to play with.
- Veronica Roth won't admit whether Tris and Four DID IT, but it definitely reads like they did. Well, that already happened in the second film *Insurgent*, so this time the pair have shedloads of up-close moments to make the movie half crazy action, half steamy romance. They've also ditched the hardcore break up which features in the book - but maybe that's just because no one sane would break up with Theo James. No one.
- Tris and Four go back to Chicago - much sooner than they do in the book, where Tris never goes back because her 'home' doesn't exist for her anymore. Instead of coolly figuring out all the lies and motives of the Bureau, she and Four rush in to save their city, do more arse-kicking and save Evelyn.
- Peter - In the books, we wanted to rip the pages out and shove them down his gob, but the movie has given Peter a slightly different angle. His allegiance to the powers that be shift significantly, and there's a sense he'd want to use the memory serum to give himself a fresh start - he actually seems pretty terrified by the prospect of using it.

DIRECTING (Robert Schwentke)

- *Time Traveller's Wife, RIPD, Insurgent*
- Born in Germany

PRODUCTION

- Filming began on May 18, 2015 in Atlanta, [Georgia](#)
- Concluded on August 23, 2015
- From June 11 to June 23, filming took place at the Lindale Mill in Lindale, Georgia, where the set was being built in late-May

CINEMATOGRAPHY (Florian Ballhaus)

- *Devil Wears Prada, RED, Time Traveller's Wife, Book Thief, Gambit, Marley & Me*
- German born
- Son of cinematographer Michael Ballhaus and Helga Ballhaus

EDITING (Stuart Levy)

- *Foxcatcher, Savages, Immortals*

SOUND/MUSIC (Joseph Trapanese)

- *Oblivion, TRON: Legacy, Nightcrawler, Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 1*
- Has love of classical music and electronic sound
- Performed in Carnegie Hall and other major New York concert venues with scoring films, contributing to theatrical productions, performing with jazz and Latin bands, and writing experimental and interactive music
- His orchestration of Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir" was featured in the halftime show of the NFL's Seattle Seahawks home opener on September 14th, 2008. It was performed by the Northwest Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Matt Messina and accompanied by Alice in Chains
- Collaborated with composers Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo (Daft Punk) for two years producing the score for "Tron: Legacy."
- In December 2015, it was confirmed that Joseph Trapanese would return to compose the score for the film
- The first track for the *Allegiant* soundtrack, "Scars", written by Tove Lo, Jakob Jerlström, Ludvig Söderberg, and performed by Tove Lo, was released as a single on February 19, 2016

MARKETING

- A teaser trailer was released on September 15, 2015
- Full length trailer on November 12, 2015
- Another full length trailer was released on January 22, 2016
- The movie's tag line is "Break the boundaries of your world."
- Unlike "The Divergent Series: Insurgent," this installment will not be released in 3D

BOX OFFICE/RECEPTION

- As of March 21, 2016, *Allegiant* has grossed \$31 million in North America and \$54 million in other territories for a worldwide total of \$85.1 million
 - *Allegiant* took the top spot in its opening day in France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden
- Was projected the film to make around \$28–30 million in its opening weekend from 3,740 theaters, which would make it the lowest opening among the franchise
- On its opening day, it made \$11.9 million (including previews), down 43.6% from *Insurgent*, becoming the first film in the series failing to open above \$20 million
 - In comparison, the third *Hunger Games* film, *Mockingjay – Part 1* fell only 21% from its prequel
- Due to its underperformance, *The Hollywood Reporter* called it "the second big-budget miss for Lionsgate this year after *Gods of Egypt*."
- Many critics have blamed the underperformance of the film due to Lionsgate's decision to split the last novel into two pictures

- Made on total budget of \$183.6 million, including net production budget, advertising and promotion costs
 - Deadline.com projects to film to make a mere profit of \$3.5 million should it earn a net total of \$187.1 million from various platforms (including theatrical revenues, TV rights and DVD sales)
 - By comparison, *Divergent* made a net profit of \$71.8 million and *Insurgent* \$30.6 million
- On Rotten Tomatoes, the film has a rating of 10%, based on 129 reviews
 - Consensus reads, "*Allegiant* improves on previous entries in *The Divergent Series* on a few superficial levels, but they aren't enough to counteract a sense of growing boredom with a franchise that's gone on too long."
- Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "B"

SEQUEL

- 4th and final film in series will be *Ascendant*
- As a result of poor performance on *Allegiant*, Lionsgate will cut the budget of the fourth and final movie in the series, *Ascendant*
- Despite the box office struggles of *Allegiant*, Lionsgate, still plans to debut the film on June 9, 2017, where it will face stiff competition from Paramount's *World War Z 2* and Universal's reboot of *The Mummy*
- It was originally scheduled to be released on March 24, 2017, but in December 2015, Lionsgate placed the upcoming reboot of *Power Rangers* in *Ascendant*'s former release date
- Lionsgate announced that Lee Toland Krieger would replace Schwentke as the director of the film
- **SPOILER TALK!: Tris dies in book (petition to not have that happen)**
 - "The Divergent Series: *Ascendant*." Tagline is "The End Is Never What You Expect"
 - "What does this mean? Well, basically, it means there are going to be some changes. But it's really too early to know exactly what those changes will be or the extent of them," Roth wrote on her Tumblr account.
 - "I know changes always make fans of the books – and the author! – nervous, but hopefully the characters we know (and love. Or sometimes love to hate?) will still be intact, which is really the important thing. I am eager to see how these movies turn out, along with you guys," the author added.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- PHIL:
 - Worth seeing as a whole on Blu-Ray certainly
- SARA
- CORTEZ