

INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE (2016)

- Rated PG - 13 for sequences of sci - fi action and destruction, and for some language
- \$165,000,000 budget
- 2 hrs
- Directed by [Roland Emmerich](#)
- Produced by Lynn Harris, Matti Leshem, Douglas C. Merrifield
- The film was produced by Columbia Pictures, Sony Pictures

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Phil Svitek
- Marisa Serafini
- Demetri Panos
- Sara Stretton

DEVELOPMENT

- The possibility of a sequel to *Independence Day* had long been discussed, and the film's producer and writer, [Dean Devlin](#), once stated that the world's reaction to the [September 11 attacks](#) influenced him to strongly consider making a sequel to the film
- Soon after the success of the first film, 20th Century Fox paid [Dean Devlin](#) a large sum of money to write a script for a sequel. However, after completing the script, Devlin didn't turn in the script and instead gave the money back to the studio, as he felt the story didn't live up to the first film. It was only approximately 15 years later, that Devlin met up with [Roland Emmerich](#) to try again, having felt that they had "cracked" a story for a sequel
- Devlin began writing an outline for a script with Emmerich, but in May 2004, Emmerich said he and Devlin had attempted to "figure out a way how to continue the story", but that this ultimately did not work, and the pair abandoned the idea
- In October 2009, Emmerich said he once again had plans for a sequel, and had since considered the idea of making two sequels to form a trilogy
- On June 24, 2011, Devlin confirmed that he and Emmerich had found an idea for the sequels and had written a treatment for it
- In October 2011, however, discussions for [Will Smith](#) returning were halted, due to Fox's refusal to provide the \$50 million salary demanded by Smith for the two sequels
- Emmerich, however, made assurances that the films would be shot [back-to-back](#), regardless of Smith's involvement
 - *Resurgence* filmmakers were reported to be preparing versions of the film both with and without Will Smith. "In the very beginning, [Will Smith] was on board. He was actually very excited to do it but it got a little bit unlucky there. Even I needed kind of like two years to get through two scripts. We wanted to make two scripts because when we have Will we want to have two right away. We sent him the scripts just when he was doing *After Earth* and wanted to create his own trilogy and had just done *Men in Black 3* which was not a good experience for him. So, he just opted out." - Emmerich
- In July 2012, Devlin reiterated that the *Independence Day* sequel was still in development, and the script would take place in 2012, 16 years after the original film's events

- In March 2013, Emmerich stated that the titles of the new films would be *ID Forever Part I* and *ID Forever Part II*
- The films will take place twenty years after the original, when reinforcements of the original alien race arrive at Earth after finally receiving a distress call
- The new films will focus on the next generation of heroes, including the stepson of Smith's character in the original film
- In May 2013, Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin mentioned that [wormholes](#) would be used as a plot device in *ID Forever*
- "We did a lot of research into the moon's surface and how the many layers of lunar soils would crumble," adds Rowe. "I studied geology in school so I geeked out on this and made sure we were visually correct"
- On May 29, 2014, it was announced that the script for the first sequel written by Emmerich and Devlin would be rewritten by Carter Blanchard
- On November 26, 2014, Deadline confirmed that Fox had greenlit the single film, and they were in talks with Emmerich to direct the film, while casting was reported to begin after Emmerich's confirmation
- The full title, *Independence Day: Resurgence*, was revealed on June 22, 2015
 - *Returns*, *Retaliation*, *Rises*, and *Requiem* were all considered too along with the title before settling with *Resurgence*

WRITING (Nicolas Wright, James A. Woods)

- Screenwriter [Nicolas Wright](#) said that he and writing partner [James A. Woods](#) wanted to capture the first film's "innocent and honest humor and tone as much as possible," noting that since ID4's release, many other big studio franchises "have jumped on that kind of humor. They have a great rhythm, intense action punctuated with humor, and then underlined with emotion." Woods added: "The dramatic moments and spectacle land that much better if they're supported by humor and great characters."
-

STORY/CAST

- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:**
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:**
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:**
- Early on, both Emmerich and Devlin hoped that Smith would return. However, in June 2013, Emmerich announced that Smith would not be returning, noting that "he's too expensive."
- Smith later stated that he declined the role due to scheduling conflicts with [Suicide Squad](#), also in production at the time
- Later in June, it was officially confirmed that both Goldblum and Pullman would return in the sequel, and that a [gay](#) character would be featured
- On January 27, 2015, casting began with Fox offering the lead role to [Liam Hemsworth](#)
- [Charlotte Gainsbourg](#) was in talks to join the film's cast, revealed by THR on March 20, 2015
- Newcomer [Travis Tope](#) was set on March 25, 2015 to play the role of Charlie
- On March 3, 2015, Emmerich confirmed via Twitter that [Vivica A. Fox](#) would reprise the role of Jasmine Dubrow, her character from the previous film

- That same day, [Jessie Usher](#) was added to the cast to portray the role of the stepson of Smith's character
- [Jeff Goldblum](#) and [Bill Pullman](#) were also set to reprise their roles from the previous film
- [Maika Monroe](#) signed on to star in the film on April 27, 2015
- She would play the daughter of the former President after [Mae Whitman](#), who played the character in the original movie, was not offered a role nor was it discussed with her

JEFF GOLDBLUM (David Levinson)

-

LIAM HEMSWORTH (Jake Morrison)

- Only 6 when the first movie came out
- [Jake's] parents were killed in the first attack. So he grew up in an orphanage, joined the military, became a fighter pilot and ended up in the best of the best fighter pilots and makes a bad decision and ends up being demoted to the moon where he drives what is essentially the same as a forklift
- Actor [Liam Hemsworth](#) has said in interviews that during production he experienced dreams and nightmares of himself and co-star [Jeff Goldblum](#) being chased by aliens

JESSIE T. USHER (Dylan Hiller)

- "I met one of the producers at the gym, and he told me the sequel was going to happen. And of course I was excited about it—it changed the game 20 years ago, back in 1996. Just the idea of being a part of it was mindboggling. I had a meeting with [director] Roland Emmerich. I sat down with the producer I'd met, Harald Kloser, and they told me what they'd been up to for the last five or six years, the pre-production of this thing. I was going to do whatever it took to be a part of it, but after that conversation, they just basically expressed that they felt like I was the guy. So we moved forward from there."
- "Preparation is key in this business. Regardless of meeting Harald at the gym—I could meet a million producers, especially being in Los Angeles, you meet them all the time—if you're not prepared for the opportunities as they come up...they won't want to work with you. They won't feel like you can handle the workload. After my meeting with Roland and Harald, they actually went out and looked at 'Survivor's Remorse,' so they'd seen a couple episodes and knew what I was capable of. And it was because of that that I didn't even need to audition before they offered me the role. They could tell from the material. If you're not prepared on that level, you just won't be able to grow in this industry."

BILL PULLMAN (President Whitmore)

- To prepare for his role as President Thomas J. Whitmore in the original [Independence Day](#) (1996) film, [Bill Pullman](#) read [Bob Woodward's](#) [The Commanders](#) and watched the documentary film [The War Room](#) (1993). The character is reprised in [Independence Day: Resurgence](#) (2016) and is referred to as former President Whitmore. In the final battle on the first movie, [Bill Pullman](#) refers to himself as "Eagle 1". In the science fiction spoof [Spaceballs](#) (1987), also from the 20th Century Fox studio, his character called himself "Eagle 5"

SELA WARD (President Lanford)

EASTER EGGS / TRIVIA

- The movie has been given a \$200,000,000 budget, \$125,000,000 more than its predecessor, [Independence Day](#) (1996), which had a \$75,000,000 budget and had a box office result of \$817,400,000, making it the highest grossing movie of 1996
- The announcement of the recasting of [Bill Pullman's](#) daughter, played by [Mae Whitman](#) in [Independence Day](#) (1996), to [Maika Monroe](#) was met with much outrage. Fans expressed dismay over the decision across the social media. Most notably, [Anna Kendrick](#), a close friend of Whitman, spoke out against the recasting on Twitter. The speculation being that producers believed Whitman was not "conventionally pretty" enough to reprise her role. Whitman, who has had a very solid acting career including her lead role in 2015's surprise comedy hit [The DUFF](#) (2015), has remained mostly silent on the matter
- [Jeff Goldblum](#) (David Levinson), [Judd Hirsch](#) (Julius Levinson), [Bill Pullman](#) (President Thomas J. Whitmore), [Brent Spiner](#) (Dr. Brackish Okun), [Vivica A. Fox](#) (Jasmine Dubrow-Hiller), [John Storey](#) (Dr. Isaacs) and [Robert Loggia](#) (General Grey) are the only actors to reprise their roles from [Independence Day](#) (1996)
- Planets where the ESD (Earth Space Defense Program) have space stations include Earth, the Moon, Mars, and Rhea, the latter which is the second largest moon of Saturn
- The making of the movie had to shut down for about four days due to financing problems where the production ran out of money according to an interview with star [Liam Hemsworth](#)
- Actress [Susan Sarandon](#) turned down a prominent role because she found the script incomprehensible. This part is considered to be of President Elizabeth Lanford which in the end was cast with actress [Sela Ward](#). Reportedly, Sarandon said: "When I read the script, I couldn't understand what was going on. I just couldn't understand it. Seriously. A lot of the people from the original one were not going to be doing it, and I read it and I just thought, 'No. I can't. I just can't.'" Sarandon added: "But seriously, I read that and I did not have the faintest idea . . . And I read that part and thought, 'It's not so great, actually. It's not so interesting'." However, five actors from the original [Independence Day](#)(1996) do actually reprise their roles in [Independence Day: Resurgence](#) (2016)
- According to a back-story established by the cast and crew in [Independence Day](#) (1996), Dr. Okun ([Brent Spiner](#)) was recruited by the military out of Berkeley in the 1960s, and due to the top-secret nature of his work, had been isolated at Area 51 since. Although never revealed in the original film, his first name was established as Brackish, a word meaning "unappealing" or "repulsive"
- The name of the NASA astronaut costume outfits seen in the movie are known as "Aeromax" spacesuits
- Speaking with [Yahoo Movies](#) during CinemaCon earlier this year, Spiner recalled how "people jumped" to the conclusion that Dr. Okun was killed off. "They always jump to 'You must be dead' if you're lying on the ground. But they're wrong."

DIRECTING (Roland Emmerich)

- First sequel movie of director [Roland Emmerich](#)
- Director [Roland Emmerich](#) humbly credits advances in computer generated imagery in helping him create the spectacular scenes in the movie, with producer [Dean Devlin](#) adding: "The beauty of what Roland did in the first film is that he has married old-fashioned visual effects techniques with digital techniques. Today, the only limits are your imagination, and Roland has an incredible visual imagination."

PRODUCTION (Markus Förderer)

- The movie is shot in anamorphic Panavision, and shot digitally, unlike the original movie which was shot in Super-35
- Hendriks monitored the images as they were captured by digital Red Dragon cameras. “My function was to warn Förderer if he was about to go into the danger zone of underexposure,” Hendriks says.
- “Roland likes dark and moody scenes,” Förderer acknowledges. “Usually directors say to their DPs, ‘Make it brighter so I can see the actors’ faces.’ But Roland would always say, ‘Make it darker.’ ”
- Emmerich liked the young cinematographer’s work and offered him the DP role on the sequel to his epic space-invader drama. Förderer wasn’t intimidated by the scope of the project. “At the end of the day,” he says, “you do the same things. You make choices about which cameras and lenses to use, about whether to shoot close-ups, medium or wide, and about how to light it.”
- Förderer worked with a camera team of 13 people; the entire grip and electric department numbered about 50. They decided not to use a second unit. “If you light for it, it’s way faster to shoot all the elements yourself,” he explains. “You work a couple of hours longer at the end of the day to shoot your own inserts.”
- Anywhere from one to four cameras were used at a time, depending on the scene. In addition to Dragons, they used some newer Red Weapon cameras — which are more compact and lightweight, making them easier to handle in small spaces such as cockpits — and shot almost the entire film with Hawk anamorphic lenses
- Filming began on April 20, 2015, and wrapped on August 22, 2015
- Some scenes were also filmed in West Wendover, Nevada, [London](#), at the [Burj Khalifa](#) in Dubai, and [Singapore's Marina Bay Sands](#)
- Due to the availability of regional filming, the producers decided to shoot the film largely in [New Mexico](#)
 - Moreover, the state offers a 25% movie [tax credit](#)
- However, while location filming did take place in rural New Mexico and further north on the [Utah](#) and [Nevada](#) border, most of the shooting was studio-based
- Albuquerque Studios was a major venue for the film in which *[Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials](#)* and *[The Lone Ranger](#)* were also filmed
- Emmerich decided to return to the [Bonneville Salt Flats](#) in [Utah](#), which he said he fell in love with while looking for a unique location for shooting the first film
 - However, problems cropped up as Emmerich was slightly disappointed by the nature and color of the area
 - This was because prior to the arrival of the crew, a windstorm had occurred around the area, which blew a lot of dirt into the salt and subsequently turned it into a shade of beige
- The filmmakers refrained from shooting in [India](#) or portraying any prominent Indian monuments as being damaged to avoid potential protests and legal action from Indian religious groups and activists
- Producer and co-writer [Dean Devlin](#) said: "The most rewarding part of the project is being on set with these actors again and seeing that they are not just as good as they were then; they've gotten even better. When you're writing the script, you wonder, 'What's it going to be like twenty years later?' Then, our returnees work on this film, and they just light up the screen and our new team shines, as well. It's the perfect mix."

VFX (MPC VFX Supervisor Sue Rowe, [Volker Engel](#), VFX Producer is [Marc Weigert](#).)

- To help craft the film's visual effects, Emmerich brought in visual effects supervisor [Volker Engel](#) and producer [Marc Weigert](#) from [Uncharted Territory, LLC](#)
- Previously worked in several of Emmerich's other films such as [the first film](#), along with [Godzilla](#), [The Day After Tomorrow](#), and [2012](#)
- In the first film, which depends heavily on miniature models and practical effects, there were just 430 VFX shots. In the follow-up, using the latest digital technology, the number of shots climbed to a whopping 1,750
- "The first film was produced at the brink of the digital revolution — 95 percent was shot using miniatures with motion-control cameras and combined digitally in post-production," Engel, the VFX supervisor on both films, says. He singled out "the destruction of the White House as the toughest effect — and it became the signature shot of the movie. Our pyrotechnician, the late Joe Viskocil, and our miniature supervisor Mike Joyce did a fantastic job in preparing a 15-foot wide and 5-foot high miniature of the building — basically a plaster shell attached to a metal body, with individual floors and a lot of furniture and other details on the inside."
- On *Resurgence*, the work was radically different. "We still started with storyboards, but they were just the basis for very elaborate previs sequences," Engel says. "Our Uncharted Territory [Engel's production/VFX banner] team also built dozens of CG props, planes and set-extensions so that during the shoot Roland was able to use Ncam real-time compositing to frame his shots. We provided editorial with the Ncam composites and lots of additional postvis, so they would have material to [use in editing]."
- About nine visual effects companies made the visual effects seen in the movie. These are [in alphabetical order]: Cinesite, Digital Domain, Image Engine, LUXX Studios, MPC, Scanline VFX, Trixter, Uncharted Territory, and Weta Digital
- Scanline had a team go to the city and take thousands of reference photographs. Specific areas were also surveyed with industrial LIDAR scanners so that the studio could reconstruct buildings in CG, then destroy them. Artists built the CG elements from the surveys and photographs in ways that could enable them to be artfully shattered and torn apart.
- Scanline's Flowline software allows effects artists at the studio to see very fast renders with all the physically correct (although somewhat artistically directed) movements of the water, its translucency, and the resulting foam.
- For scenes of the actors fleeing the chaos, live-action plates were shot against blue screen, with just partial sets and the actors on wires to simulate the moon's gravity. "As soon as the explosions start we switch to CG digital doubles," outlines MPC visual effects supervisor Sue Rowe. "During the shoot we scanned and photographed the actors in detail so we could replicate them in the CG suits."
- In one particular sequence, a group of fighter pilots crash land on a murky and atmospheric environment while attacking the alien mothership. They have to wade through waist-high water amidst towering alien plant life. That was full-CG," says Image Engine visual effects supervisor Martyn Culpitt. "And the foliage had over 500,000 plants of varying scale and size. These were also simulated in pools of water, surrounded by fog, and were enveloped in volumetric lights with insects flying around. The actors had to move through all of this, while also interacting with CG alien soldiers.

- ALIEN QUEEN: These shots were handled by Weta Digital, which actually had to make two creatures: the huge 4-limbed 140-foot tall Queen we first meet inside the mothership, and the even bigger 220-foot tall creature she becomes when she climbs into her bio-mechanical exosuit. One Shot: She is chasing a school bus. Although a helicopter shot of the bus was filmed for real, Weta Digital ended up creating the shot entirely with CG, complete with digital doubles for inside the vehicle and several effects simulations for ground destruction and the Queen's shield.
- The Weta team ended up doing more than 230 VFX shots just for the final battle scene alone.

EDITING (Adam Wolfe)

- Because of an accelerated production schedule, two colorists worked on "Resurgence." Florian "Utsi" Martin, who had earlier collaborated with both Emmerich and Förderer, helped fashion the film's look during the first few weeks of the digital intermediate process. Walter Volpatto, a colorist based at Fotokem in Burbank who had worked on "Stonewall," crafted specific scenes for "Resurgence"; once Martin left, he finished the color for several versions of the film, including its 3D iteration
- Volpatto appreciates the film's somber tone. "I think Markus plays the shadows very well," he says. "He is not afraid at all to use backlight. The movie has a dark sci-fi look, bold, but there's still plenty of cinematic imagery to look at."
- Förderer stayed in the suite with Volpatto throughout many of the sessions, while Emmerich came in about every other day for reviews and notes. "Markus and Roland shared the same vision for the movie," Volpatto says. "This made my job very easy."

SOUND/MUSIC (Harald Kloser, Thomas Wanker)

- [David Arnold](#), composer of the score to the first film, said on his Twitter account he was not asked to score to the sequel and that since the studio owns his themes for the first film, the new composers could use them
- Kloser is also producing the project with Emmerich and Dean Devlin (*Stargate*, *Godzilla*, *The Patriot*). David Arnold composed the music for the 1996 original movie and received a Grammy Award for his work on the project. Kloser and Wanker have previously composed the music for Emmerich's *The Day After Tomorrow*, *10'000 BC*, *2012*, *Anonymous* and *White House Down*. *Independence Day Resurgence* will be released on June 24, 2016 by 20th Century Fox.

PROMOTION

- [Titan Books](#) published several tie-in books for the film, including novels and comics
- The first, an omnibus which collects Stephen Molstad's three *Independence Day* novels, *Silent Zone*, *War in the Desert*, and the novelization of *Independence Day*, was released on March 19, 2016
- The second, *Independence Day: Crucible*, was written by Greg Keyes. *Crucible* serves as a prequel to the film and was published on May 24, 2016
- A novelization of *Independence Day: Resurgence* by Alex Irvine followed on June 21 before the film's release
- Titan Comics started a six issue comic book mini-series, written by [Victor Gischler](#), with art by Tazio Bettin, which serves as a prequel set between the first and second films, and which began its run on March 23 and ended on June 15
- On December 13, 2015, the first trailer was released by 20th Century Fox

- A TV spot was shown during [Super Bowl 50](#) on February 7, 2016
- A commercial for the U.S. Army aired promoting the film by presenting itself as a commercial for the ESD, or Earth Space Defense, a fictional military faction dedicated to defending the Earth against any further alien invasion
- In June 2016, 20th Century Fox's British division collaborated with [Manchester United](#), of which 20th Century Fox is the official film partner, for a commercial featuring Jeff Goldblum and Angelababy, and guest-starring United players [Chris Smalling](#), [Daley Blind](#), [Ashley Young](#), [Juan Mata](#) and captain [Wayne Rooney](#) as fighter pilots
- In Japan, 20th Century Fox collaborated with [Sunrise](#) to cross-promote the film with *Mobile Suit Gundam Unicorn*
- One of the film's posters has the [Statue of Liberty](#) replaced with the RX-0 Unicorn Gundam aiming at the alien mothership, while a TV spot features commentary by *Gundam Unicorn* characters [Banagher Links](#) and [Full Frontal](#)
- An interactive website to market the upcoming film *Independence Day: Resurgence* may have accidentally brought back some disastrous memories for some users

BOX OFFICE

- Domestic Summary
 - Opening Weekend: \$41,039,944
(#2 rank, 4,130 theaters, \$9,937 average)
- Widest Release: 4,130 theaters
- In Release: 6 days / 0.9 weeks
- The film was originally going to be released on July 3, 2015 but on November 12, 2013, it was announced that the first sequel had been rescheduled for a July 2016 release
- On October 14, 2014, Fox changed the release date to June 24, 2016
- It was released in certain formats such as [3D](#), [IMAX 3D](#) and premium large formats
- In the United States and Canada, *Independence Day: Resurgence* was released on June 24, 2016 and was projected to gross \$45–65 million in its opening weekend
- Internationally, the film fared better and was released across 58 countries – 70% of its total marketplace – where it earned a five-day total of \$100.1 million on 21,872 screens, which fell more or less in line with its \$100–150 million opening projections

RECEPTION

- Not screened in advance for critics
- [IMDB](#): 5.7
- [RT](#): [Tatometer](#) 32% , [Audience](#) 38%
- The site's critical consensus reads, "It's undeniably visually impressive, but like its predecessor, *Independence Day: Resurgence* lacks enough emotional heft to support its end-of-the-world narrative stakes."
- On [Metacritic](#), the film has a score of 32 out of 100, based on 38 critics, indicating "generally unfavorable reviews"
- [Cinemascore](#): B
- [Richard Roeper](#) gave the film one and a half out of four stars, writing, "The *Resurgence* blueprint calls for a scene in which characters have human, allegedly humorous and/or touching moments; a scene in which characters plot strategy against the aliens; and a big action sequence in which it's often difficult to tell the difference between the good-guy spaceships and the bad-guy spaceships. Rinse and repeat, rinse and repeat."

- Mike Ryan of *Uproxx* gave the film a negative review, saying, "This should be dumb fun. It's just dumb."
- Dave Palmer of *The Reel Deal* gave the film 2/10, saying, "The final shot of the film is a set up for another sequel, and I just pray to God aliens come and wipe us out before that day comes."
- Ignatiy Vishnevetsky of *The A.V. Club* criticized the film as an example of Hollywood's current business model of "preemptive franchising," stating that "The movie's dips into all-out space opera (interstellar travel, more alien species, etc.) are only meant to get the audience pumped for a movie that doesn't yet exist, making the undistinguished climax seem like a skirmish."
- Lucy O'Brien of *IGN* gave the film an 8/10, saying, "a silly, cheesy, spectacle-driven blockbuster with heart, *Independence Day: Resurgence* is a refreshing antidote to the grim and the serious sentiment we've seen trending in sci-fi flicks of recent years. While its plot is messy and it's stuffed with too many characters, I dare you not to leave the theatre with a guilt-free smile on your face."

SEQUELS

- In an interview with *Empire* magazine, director Emmerich revealed that a third film will be made, depending on the success of the second one. He also said that audiences would not have to wait as long as they did for the second in the series
- According to the director, the third film will be an intergalactic journey, maybe set a year or two later since he wants to maintain the same group of people, especially the young characters
- According to Vox Culture, with this movie, "20th Century Fox desperately hopes it can start its own Star Wars franchise to replace the one it lost to Disney"
- Questions that remain:
 - Why aren't David and Julius close anymore...and where the hell is Connie?
 - How was the African town affected by being the only place an alien ship landed as planned?
 - What is Moon Milk?
 - How has that Siri orb not learned better communication by now?
 - How did that enormous ship not fuck up our orbit?
 - Will we ever see a third film?
 - Are we heading for a Brent Spiner: Resurgence?

FINAL THOUGHTS