

## Overview

- Released July 22
- Directed by Justin Lin
- First movie in this series NOT directed by JJ Abrams
- Distributed by Paramount
- 185 million dollar budget
- Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi action and violence

## Quick Thoughts

- Phil Svitek
- Demetri Panos
- John Comerford
- Marisa Serafini

## Development

- With Abrams returning as only a producer of the third film, while focusing on directing *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, writer Roberto Orci was set to replace him as director in May 2014
- However, in December, Orci's role was changed to producer only as well, with Edgar Wright considered to replace him, along with a shortlist of directors, including Rupert Wyatt, Morten Tyldum, Daniel Espinosa, Justin Lin and Duncan Jones
- Also, *Star Trek* actor and film director Jonathan Frakes expressed interest in the job
- At the end of the month, Lin was announced as director of the third installment

## Writing

- In 2013, Orci had begun writing the script with Patrick McKay and John D. Payne, with Payne saying of the script in March, "We really want to get back to the sense of exploration and wonder. The kind of optimistic sense of the future that *Star Trek* has always kind of had at its core. It's the Chicago Bulls in space, in terms of these people who are all awesome at their job."
- With a massive lack of belief in his own skill and talent, Pegg claims he quit working on the project, which he also starred in as Mr Scott. Thankfully, the film's executive producer JJ Abrams was on hand to talk him out of his rut everytime. "I quit like three times, I think. Every time, JJ Abrams said, 'Oh come on, Simon.'"
- In January 2015, after Orci's departure, Simon Pegg and Doug Jung were hired to rewrite the screenplay, with Pegg saying on the previous draft, Paramount "had a script for *Star Trek* that wasn't really working for them. I think the studio was worried that it might have been a little bit too *Star Trek-y*."
- Pegg had been asked to make the new film "more inclusive", stating that the solution was to "make a western or a thriller or a heist movie, then populate that with *Star Trek* characters so it's more inclusive to an audience that might be a little bit reticent."

- Orci, Payne and McKay are given official "written by" credit, alongside Pegg and Jung, although Pegg clarified that neither he nor Jung had read the existing script before crafting their own for the film
- Pegg noted that the villain would be an original one, rather than a known antagonist from past stories in the *Star Trek* franchise
- This is the first non-comedy film that Simon Pegg has written
- The film went from writing to production in two-and-a-half months – a speed Lin claims “has never been done before” on a film of this size – and the process was sometimes painful. Never more so than a disagreement over whether the Enterprise should be destroyed
  - “We had a stand-up row on the phone,” chuckles Simon Pegg, co-writer on the film (as well as starring as Chief Engineer Scotty). “A proper shouty row with each other. Me saying ‘no’ [to destroying the Enterprise], and him saying ‘yes’”
  - Pegg argued that it had been done before, in earlier films *The Search For Spock* and *Generations*. “But the more I thought about it, and the more we talked about it, the more I realised what Justin wanted to do is remove the connective tissue that necessitates the crew stay together, and see if they stay together”
  - Lin admits that some of their meetings were “painful”, noting that “Simon comes from a traditional way of making movies, where you write, and then you keep working on it, and only when you're ready do you shoot. Here, I come in, pitching all these crazy ideas: "we're gonna take out the Enterprise in the first act! Here's Krall!" It was a very painful way to get to know each other. But looking back, I have fond memories of the process.”
- “You're sensitive when you're writing your own character that you're giving yourself too much or too little,” he explains. Having a co-writer in Doug Jung helped the process, he says, emphasising that “I really want to make sure everyone knows how much Doug contributed to it, because I'll get a lot of the focus because I'm on the screen as well.”
- According to director Justin Lin, destroying what Star Trek was allowed him and the screenwriting team of Simon Pegg and Doug Jung to bring the film series back to its television roots. By taking everything away from Kirk, Spock, Bones, and the rest of the crew, the filmmakers put the fate of the series' basic worldview in the hands of its characters — either to prove that it still had relevance in 2016, or kill it off completely.
  - "Before I said yes, I had to really understand what we were going to do, even on a thematic level. I thought, okay, it's going to be 50 years [since the show started]. It would be great if we can somehow come up with a journey for these characters to deconstruct *Trek*, to deconstruct a lot of the ideals of the Federation. By doing that, maybe by the end, we can reaffirm why there is so much passion and so much love for this franchise."
  - "It was like, 'Let's ask some questions that haven't been asked before,'" explains Pegg, particularly when it came to the universe's United Federation of Planets — perhaps the biggest symbol of the show's utopian ideals. "It felt good to question whether they weren't just a version of the Borg in a way. Whether they were just a force of assimilation, not a force of collectivism and goodness."
  - "We liked the idea of old god versus new," says Pegg. "Of narrow-minded thinking, or fear of collectivism, versus the Federation model, which is to embrace

and expand in a non-aggressive way. That seemed like the obvious thing to do for this 50th anniversary iteration of the story."

- One of the reasons "Into Darkness" failed is because there was no new story. Instead, director Abrams served up an absolutely terrible retread of the 1982 Trek classic, "The Wrath of Khan". "Star Trek Beyond" is a new story, yet feels completely familiar.

### Story/Cast

- Was it too episodic?
  - By creating a movie that feels more like an episode of the original show, with its five-year mission and themes intact, Lin and his writers have also performed a sort of soft reboot. And to Pegg, the closer it feels to the television series, the better
    - "When we spoke about [writing *Beyond*], it was, 'Let's make it as if an episode of the original series had been injected with gamma radiation,'" he says. "The crew happen upon a mysterious planet. They're on the surface. They meet an adversary. They learn a lesson. It's what the original series episodes were constituted by, but with the trappings of a gigantic, summer blockbuster. Which is what the movies always were, really."
- In a world of Star Wars, do we need another movie about wars in space? Or should Star Trek adjust?
- The existential crisis of Spock and Kirk
- The ideology of Krall vs Kirk (metaphor for today?)
  - "I can't believe how apposite this film has become," laughs Pegg, noting how it arrived almost in tandem with the UK's EU referendum
- The Abronath is the McGuffin of the film
  - "It's something that does something. It's the allspark! It's that square glowing thing in *Avengers*. It's every fucking thing!"
  - Lin says that some of the backstory to the ancient weapon was given in a "pre-prologue", which was dropped early in the film's development. "It was going to explain the Abronath, with all the Altamidians. Ultimately it didn't make sense to do it, but it's still in my head..."
- The first film's major cast members signed on for two sequels as part of their original deals
- In 2014, early in the film's development, William Shatner said that he was contacted by producer Abrams to see if he would be interested in a possible role, but as the process continued and the script changed hands, the role never materialized
- In March 2015, Idris Elba was in early talks to play the villain, and he was confirmed for the role in the following months
- In April, Sofia Boutella joined the cast in a lead role, and in early July, Deep Roy was confirmed to reprise his role of Keenser
- That month, Joe Taslim was added to the cast opposite Elba's villain, and by August, Lydia Wilson joined as well
- In March 2016, Shohreh Aghdashloo was cast as the High Command of the Federation for reshoots on the film

- Anton Yelchin (Pavel Chekov) died tragically almost a month prior to the film's release
- This Anton Yelchin's final "Star Trek" film before his death on June 19, 2016 at the age of 27. However, this will not be his final film role. His other films We Don't Belong Here(2016), Porto (2016), Thoroughbred (2017) and Rememory will be released posthumously as well
- **Chris Pine (James Kirk)**
  - Known for This Is War, Horrible Bosses 2, Hitman: Agent 47, Wonder Woman, Z for Zachariah, Into the Woods, Bottle Shock, Just My Luck
  - Close friends with his Star Trek (2009) co-stars Karl Urban, Zachary Quinto, 'John Cho', 'Simon Pegg' and 'Anton Yelchin' ( who passed away 06/19/2016)
  - According to Idris Elba in a Facebook live chat with Zoe Saldana, the black eye that Chris Pine has in the final fight scene with Idris Elba is not makeup, it's a real black eye that Pine got when they got a little too rough during filming
  - "What he's lost are those motivating factors that compelled him and propelled him in the beginning," explains Pine. "He's a man now. He's raged. He's done well. And then it's like he says to himself: 'And now what? If I don't have these things propelling me, do I even want to be here, still?'"
  - "When I was a younger actor, I was pretty much solely motivated by validation," Pine explains. "I just wanted to be told I was good and handsome and a part of the gang. It was pretty simple animal-social stuff. I don't care as much about those things anymore. Things have changed. I, like Kirk, have to find new things to compel and propel me into the future of my career."
- **Zachary Quinto (Commander Spock)**
  - Known for Snowden, Hannibal, Heros, American Horror Story, What's Your Number?
  - Became good friends with Leonard Nimoy while playing Nimoy's iconic role as Spock in the Star Trek (2009) remake
  - "I have a dualistic self. There are two sides of my personality: one is outgoing and gregarious; the other is introspective and thoughtful. I am an intellectually minded person and also very compassionate, which are qualities Spock possesses as well."
  - According to Zachary Quinto, while he greatly enjoys the character Spock, he has made mention that he is ready to move on from the role and venture into other projects. He has stated though that he fully plans to finish out his contractual obligations in playing the role of Spock and seeing where his character's journey goes in the trilogy. Quinto (just like the rest of his main co-stars) signed on for a three picture deal, which makes this film his last contractual commitment towards the role of Spock. However, he has since signed on for a fourth movie
  - Zachary Quinto used real emotion for the scenes which Spock mourns and talks about Ambassador Spock as he reflected on the passing on Leonard Nimoy
- **Karl Urban (Dr. Bones McCoy)**
  - Known for Bourne Supremacy, Dredd, The Loft, Almost Human, Riddick, Doom

- Originally from Wellington, New Zealand, Karl Urban now lives in Auckland
- Often plays wisecracking, highly adept characters
- In an interview, Karl Urban stated that he almost did not return to the role of Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy. What convinced him to stay was a discussion with director Justin Lin
- **Zoe Saldana (Lt. Uhura)**
  - Known for Book of Life, Nina, Colombiana, Vantage Point, Avatar, Guardians of the Galaxy
  - When she was 10 years old, she and her family moved to the Dominican Republic where they would live for the next seven years. While living in the Dominican Republic, Zoe discovered a keen interest in performance dance and began her training at the prestigious ECOS Espacio de Danza Dance Academy where she learned ballet as well as other dance forms
  - According to many of her co-stars, producers and directors, the sky is no limit for this young star who has incredible range, intense concentration, and a steely determination to be involved with projects that challenge her professionally with wide-ranging subject matters and characters
  - Had not seen the original Star Trek (1966) series before she was cast in Star Trek (2009)
  - Likes to play strong female characters. And said in an interview with a Danish film-site that she was really looking forward to evolving her character of Uhura into a stronger, kick-ass lady in future Star Trek (2009) sequels
  - Says she's a sci-fi geek who just happens to dress nice
  - Returned to work 7 months after giving birth to her twins Cy and Bowie to begin filming Star Trek Beyond (2016)
  - "I tend to be very picky, so I look for the perfect man! So if Spock and Kirk can mix, they'd become my perfect man. That's the kind of guy I'd go for. I don't only go for muscles, I don't only go for brains. You just need to have a little bit of a bad boy and a geek and then you've got the perfect guy."
  - Zoe Saldana: It feels wonderful. Every time I was able to come back I couldn't believe it. I kept telling myself, "This doesn't happen to everybody." And yet everybody wishes they could relive, they can interact the cast and the crew again they have grown to love and respect who are worthy of their time. And here we are coming back for a third time. It's a blessing.
  - ZS: For me it was the training. It was the first film I did after I became a mom. So that was a little challenging for me. And I am so happy that I came back to work on Star Trek for the third time. So I was coming into a family that were so happy to know that I had this new addition to my family. They were very tolerant and patient and complementing. The one thing a woman can never get enough of are compliments after she's transformed her body to bring life to this earth and to have your friends say "You look great; you look beautiful" is very appreciative.
- **John Cho (Sulu)**
  - Known for American Beauty, Harold & Kumar series, Selfie, Flashforward

- A screen acting career began with small roles in projects such as Wag the Dog (1997) and Bowfinger (1999). His breakthrough came when he appeared in the teen romance comedy American Pie (1999) and helped coin the phrase "MILF"
- John immigrated to Los Angeles, California in 1978, when he was just six years old
- "It's difficult having to hustle for jobs. Not knowing when the next job is coming in. It's hard. There are not enough roles out there. I try not to get wrapped up in it or I'll get depressed."
- Writer Simon Pegg and director Justin Lin made the decision of making Sulu gay as a nod to original actor George Takei, who has since become a prominent LGBT rights activist. However, Takei has since stated his disagreement with this decision as that was not Gene Roddenberry's intention for the character Hikaru Sulu
  - In a July 2016 interview in New York Magazine, John Cho said that it was important to him for Sulu's husband, Ben, to be Asian also: "Early on I said to Justin, 'Dude, it would be important to me to have an Asian husband.'...Basically it was a little Valentine to the gay Asian friends that I grew up with. This may be presumptuous, but I always felt the Asian gay men that I knew had much heavier cultural-shame issues. This is probably more so for my generation than for yours [meaning New York interviewer E. Alex Jung], but I felt like those guys didn't date Asian men because of that cultural shame. So I wanted it to seem really normal in the future. I thought that would be the most normal thing, that there was zero shame in the future. I don't know if that hit or not, but it was something that I felt in my gut and asked for that....Justin was [receptive]. There was talk of, 'Should he have a human husband?' So it went that far. I wanted that relationship to feel super familiar, you know what I'm saying? I didn't want to push the difference envelope; I just wanted it to be very, very traditional looking....There was something about this pairing that would seem very old-fashioned, and then something about it to gay men that would be radical." Cho also said that it was very hard to find an East Asian actor in Dubai (where they were shooting) who would agree to play a gay man: "We had a guy and then his parents really objected. Basically, we couldn't find an Asian actor willing to play gay in Dubai is my understanding." So they ended up enlisting the co-screenwriter Doug Jung, who is not a professional actor, to play the role.
- **Simon Pegg (Scotty)**
  - Known for World's End, Hot Fuzz, Shaun of the Dead, Mission Impossible, Ice Age, Adventures of Tintin
  - Often works with [Nick Frost](#) and [Edgar Wright](#)
  - Often plays losers and underachievers
  - Is a huge Star Wars fan and his work often includes references to the Star Wars saga

- **Anton Yelchin (Chekov)**

- Known for Fright Night, Terminator Salvation, Green Room, Smurfs
- He was born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Russia, USSR, to a Jewish family. His parents, Irina Korina and Viktor Yelchin, were a successful pair of professional figure skaters in Leningrad, and his grandfather was also a professional sportsman, a soccer player. Anton was a six-month-old baby when he emigrated to the United States, where his parents settled in California, and eventually developed coaching careers. He demonstrated his strong personality from the early age of four, and declined his parent's tutelage in figure skating, because he was fond of acting, and he knew exactly what he wanted to do in his life.
- Yelchin attended acting classes in Los Angeles, and eventually was noticed by casting agents. In 2000, at the age of ten, he made his debut on television, appearing as Robbie Edelstein in the medical drama ER (1994). At the age of 11, he shot to fame as Bobby Garfield, co-starring opposite Anthony Hopkins in Hearts in Atlantis (2001), and earning himself the 2002 Young Artist Award for Best Performance in a Feature Film as Leading Young Actor
- Outside of his acting profession, Anton loved reading, and was also fond of playing chess. He wrote music and performed with a band, where he also played piano and guitar
- “Guilt is a very important part of my personality... There are two things at work here, history and genetics. The history of Eastern European Jews, Ashkenazi Jews, has not been very pleasant. And I'm not just talking about World War II, but centuries and centuries of oppression and pogroms. If you are a product of that environment, it is a very big part of who you are. That's not to say it's all you are, but it is a part.”
- Lin, who quietly admits that “it's still very raw,” confirmed the subtle little clink of whisky that Kirk and Bones offer a third glass was a late-addition tribute to their fallen comrade. “When it happened, we were two weeks from finishing. We went back into it, and I just felt like it was appropriate. It was a good send-off.”

- **Idris Elba (Krall)**

- He worked as a disc jockey in nightclubs under the nickname DJ Big Driis at age 19
- His first acting roles were on the soap opera Family Affairs (1997) and the television serial Ultraviolet (1998)
- His best known roles are as drug baron Russell "Stringer" Bell on the HBO series The Wire (2002) and as DCI John Luther on the BBC One series Luther (2010). He later starred in the films Daddy's Little Girls (2007), Prom Night (2008), RocknRolla (2008), The Unborn (2009) and Obsessed(2009). He also appeared in the films American Gangster (2007), Takers (2010), Thor(2011), Prometheus (2012), Pacific Rim (2013) and Thor: The Dark World (2013)
- Did Jungle Book, Finding Dory and Zootopia this year

- "... For me, it's entertainment. Every single film I've done, it's about the character. I chose these roles, whether it's Obsessed (2009), whether it's The Gospel (2005). Not everything is going to be as powerful as some of the more iconic roles. I mean, my two biggest performances to date: One film is called Sometimes in April (2005), which is a really important film about the Rwandan Genocide, and people don't ever speak about that role, or that film and what it meant to the people of Rwanda. And I have a film that's out now, a small film called Legacy: Black Ops (2010) [he stars as a former black-ops soldier who was captured and tortured, and returns home to struggle with his paranoia and anxiety and a political conspiracy], but not one bit of acclaim. We actually sent a screener to Roger Ebert this week because he expressed his wish to see it. Not to say he's given his iconic two thumbs up, yet. But I really hope that he does. Michael Moore saw it and loved it. It's a film that critically, in the festival world, has done really well, but again, it's a tiny film and no one wants to write about it because no one really wants to support small-timey films. This character holes himself up in a room for a week, and in this room, he starts to unravel who he is and where he's been. You start to understand that this is a man who's not very well. And then you realize that you're not sure if some of the things we're seeing are real, and in the end, there's a twist. I'm so proud of it, because we made it for no money. [He was also an executive producer on the film.] But I'm also proud of it because it actually does resonate for people who have someone like that in their family, someone who worked in the armed forces and the person that left and the soldier that came back are different. I get criticized for taking roles in films like Ghost Rider 2, but if you look at my résumé, dude, I've mixed it up as much as I can. [laughs] I love to play different roles. That's just the kind of actor I am."
- In that context, Edison represents a kind of cautionary tale, and his metamorphosis into Krall makes him the literal manifestation of the fears and frustrations that run through the mind of a starship captain far away from the safe confines of Earth
- **Sofia Boutella (Jaylah)**
  - Simon Pegg, who revealed in a press conference on Thursday that the character Jaylah, was inspired by Jennifer Lawrence in the film Winter's Bone (2010). "We were trying to create this very independent character. But we didn't have a name for it," Pegg said. "So we just called it 'Jennifer-Lawrence-In-Winter's-Bone.'" "That's a long name," the writer and actor joked. "So it started getting tiring always saying, well Jennifer-Lawrence-In-Winter's-Bone is fighting here. So then we started calling her J-Law. And then she became Jaylah."
  - "I stopped the whole process, I flew her in - makeup test," Lin said. "It was so early on. That was unique in that we were able to build the character with Sofia in mind."
  - Boutella's resume includes roles in a Michael Jackson video and as a backup dancer for Madonna



- Boutella is currently working on three films, including "The Mummy" with Tom Cruise and "The Coldest City" with Charlize Theron, both due out in 2017
- **Greg Grunberg (Finnegan)**
  - Greg Grunberg has become something of an Easter Egg for any project involving J.J. Abrams, the two men having grown up as childhood friends. Despite Abrams stepping away from the director's chair for this instalment, his lucky charm still appears, as Commander Finnegan, a Federation officer on Yorktown. It was a role Grunberg lobbied for himself
  - "I kept getting calls saying, 'what's Greg Grunberg doing?'" laughs Lin. "Finally I said, 'he's gonna be in charge of Yorktown'. Greg comes in and says 'I want to be Finnegan'. So we had to look up Finnegan..." As hardcore Trekkies will tell you, Finnegan first appears in *The Original Series* as a Starfleet Academy officer, known for his love of tormenting Kirk.

### **Easter Eggs/Symbols/Comparisons**

- Simon Pegg identified the space station as "Starbase Yorktown" in early interviews. "Yorktown" was the original name of the starship in Gene Roddenberry's early script treatments for the original Star Trek (1966) series, before this was changed to "Enterprise"
- The reference about the Franklin coming to be on the planet by "some green space hand" is a reference to episode 31 of the second season of Star Trek (1966). "Who Mourns for Adonais?"
- When Kirk and crew first enter Yorktown's reception area, an announcement can be heard over the intercom referring to a starship with registry number NCC-2893 just arriving. This is a reference to the USS Stargazer, NCC-2893, the first ship that Captain Jean-Luc Picard commanded in Star Trek: The Next Generation
- The Enterprise is on the 966th day of it's 5 year mission. 966 plays homage to when Star Trek (1966) first aired, September 1966
- Crew member James Kirk (coincidentally same name as Captain Kirk), is the lead FX technical director in this film
- In the end scene at Kirk's birthday party, they toast to "absent friends", referring to all the crew members who had died during the mission, and a reference to the same toast Kirk made in Star Trek 3: The Search For Spock
- McCoy and Kirk toast to "perfect eyesight and a full head of hair" a reference to Star Trek 2 where Kirk need for glasses due to old age as well as William Shatner's toupee
- The Enterprise undergoes a 'saucer separation' maneuver first introduced in the Star Trek: The Next Generation episode 'Encounter at Farpoint'. The separated saucer section then crash lands on a planet in a similar fashion to the Enterprise D in Star Trek: Generations
- Alice Eve doesn't return as Carol Marcus. During the film, she is not mentioned and her absence is unexplained. At the end of the previous film Star Trek: Into Darkness (2013), Carol Marcus became a member of the USS Enterprise crew and joined them on the 5 year mission

- The motorcycle sequence was a nod to *The Fast and the Furious* films. Justin Lin directed the later *The Fast and the Furious* (2001) films
- Kirk is beamed out of an attack in which his uniform is ripped. He comments, "I ripped my shirt again." This is a jestful jab directed at *The Original Series*, as William Shatner's Kirk had a habit of ripping his shirt at the slightest touch
- Great article on comparing *Star Trek Beyond* to series:  
<http://www.vox.com/2016/7/26/12280432/star-trek-beyond-review-kirk-krall>

## Directing

- [Justin Lin](#)'s first Sci-Fi directorial movie
- Justin Lin wanted to give the film more action which the previous film *Star Trek Into Darkness* (2013) lacked and he wanted to make *Star Trek Beyond* (2016) a straight forward action film with non stop action
- For "Star Trek Beyond," director Justin Lin —a Trekkie since youth — wanted a return to a simpler "Star Trek" with a more unified theme tuned into the multi-media franchise's 50th anniversary
- ZS: He's very hardworking, very dedicated, very professional, very focused and very driven. So that gave me a sense of security. That I am going to work relaxed and I felt myself in this director's hand because he knows where we're going. So I loved it when I can trust a director. In terms of him looking after the emotional beats and the arcs of each character. I was happy and proud when he got the job because he's a director I've been rooting for for a while and I always felt he had a lot more in him. and I am happy that *Star Trek* gave him another layer of his sense of direction that he shared with us.

## Production/Cinematography

- Stephen F. Windon was cinematographer
- From Australia
- Known for *Fast 5*, *Furious 7*, *Fast & Furious 6*
- Principal photography on the film began on June 25, 2015, in Vancouver, and Squamish, British Columbia, after several delays caused by multiple script rejections
- Additional filming locations were Seoul, South Korea and [Dubai, UAE](#)
- Principal filming ended on October 15, 2015
- In March 2016, production underwent reshoots, with Aghdashloo added to the cast
- The first production, since the original *Star Trek* (1966) series, where a bulk of the filming was shot outside of California, in fact off the Paramount Studios lot
- Claudio Miranda was hired as cinematographer by Roberto Orci when he was scheduled to direct but left the production after Orci stepped down and was replaced by [Stephen F. Windon](#)
- Victor Martinez did the concept art. On his Facebook page you can view all the designs that didn't make it on-screen  
(<http://io9.gizmodo.com/star-trek-beyond-concept-art-shows-off-starships-and-st-1784471143>) **USE PICS**

- The early ones are pretty easy to pick out, since they include “Federation Fighters” which were cut from the final film due to script changes and rewrites
- During pre-production of the film, director Justin Lin was surprised to learn that a mocked-up blueprint of the iconic ship had never been made – though a few fans have had a go. “Not one. In 50 years! I couldn’t believe it,” Lin says, slightly stunned. “I never knew where the turbolift went!”
- The swarm army commanded by Krall (Idris Elba) is a fearsome force, and even Pegg admits to being amazed by its size. Lin says he experimented with his visual effects supervisor Peter Chiang on its size, starting with around 2000 ships, then 4000. “In the third act we ended up doing 250,000 ships.”
  - The swarm is intended to reflect the insurgency-based warfare of the 21st century. “We were very aware that good sci-fi and good *Star Trek* has allegorical elements. The big battleships that have been built for war are still around – but the tactics have shifted too.”
  - Pegg - “That’s what the swarm is – sophisticated mining equipment. All those soldiers were just worker drones. Krall turned them into an army, and turned the swarm into a weapon. There’s all this great backstory to be explored in the novelisation!”
- Production designer Tom Sanders worked from real locations as starting points for the film’s two primary settings. “In *Star Trek*, you don’t have the option to just go shoot on a street corner on a whim,” director Justin Lin said, but he preferred working from actual places to avoid the feeling of artificial imagery. “I wanted it to feel tactile and real and not just two guys in front of a green screen.”
- The desolate planet Altamid, where the characters spend much of the film after crash-landing from the ruins of the *U.S.S. Enterprise*, was shot in a rock quarry in Vancouver, British Columbia. To the crew, the quarry seemed almost as dangerous as Altamid itself, due to intense heat and extremely sharp rocks. The sets for Krall’s complex were also constructed in the quarry, and Sanders took inspiration from the jagged rocks in designing Krall’s base. “I reverse engineered the design when I saw the mine outside Vancouver,” he said. “I wanted it to be this beautiful structure, a jewel in the midst of all this weird destruction and piles of rock.”
- The playful spirit of discovery and color that underlies Roddenberry’s original vision gave the production team plenty of material and motivation. As Hays summed it up, “So many other sci-fi movies take themselves so seriously; so apocalyptic and dark. I like that *Star Trek* presents a brighter future – you can have some fun with it.”

### **Wardrobe/Make-Up**

- The makeup and costume designers created over 50 distinct alien species for *Beyond* to honor *Star Trek*’s 50th anniversary. Making this many creatures required a large team of make-up artists, practical effects artists, painters and sculptors that spanned the globe from Burbank, California, to Vancouver, to Dubai. The alien prosthetics were all designed so that the actors would have as much movement as possible, but that’s not to

say that they were always comfortable – actor Idris Elba describes the experience as “claustrophobic.”

- The two most recognizable designs in the film are Elba’s “Krall,” the film’s antagonist, and Sofia Boutella’s “Jaylah,” the crew’s unexpected new ally. Elba described the process of getting into character as extensive, to say the least: the full prosthetic took five hours to put on and two to take off. But the real challenge was learning how to act in the prosthetics. “There was a learning curve for me as an actor because you can’t use the face you’re used to,” Elba explained in the press notes. “I had to take on a physicality that is not my own.”
- Boutella did not have it much easier. She said that “there were days where [she would] wake up at 12:30 AM to get make-up before a morning shoot.” But both actors claimed the inconvenience was an advantage – Elba said that his claustrophobia in the prosthetics intensified his performance, and Boutella said that the “meditative state” that she would go into during a long makeup application helped her get into character

### **Editing/VFX**

- Edited by Kelly Matsumoto, Greg D’Auria, Dylan Highsmith, Steven Sprung
- Greg is known for Django Unchained, Scream 2, Kill Bill
- Dylan is known for Furious 7, Fast & Furious 6
- Steven is known for TV shows like Entourage, Satisfaction, Crazy Ones
- Kelly is known for Fast & Furious 6, Fast Five, Mummy Returns, Van Helsing
- MATSUMOTO: There are a lot of action set pieces which Justin usually assigns before shooting. With the other smaller scenes it mainly comes down to who’s available and what makes the most sense. On this one, Dylan was on location and he needed to keep up with camera because the schedule and prep were so crunched.
- SPRUNG: The rest of us were here in LA. When dailies came in we’d watch them together as a group. If Justin didn’t have a specific request for who should take a particular scene or sequence, we would review the footage and decide how to distribute the workload. In most cases it’s a very organic process which moves according to our strengths, interest level and plain old logistics
- HIGHSMITH: One thing that would dictate it is if they were concerned to make sure they got everything because they had to wrap a set the next day. In that case I would take it, if only to do a first pass, because I was right there with Justin. He would generally stop by the cutting room after wrap and we’d go over the scenes and talk things through
- MATSUMOTO: Generally, we’ve gone through many iterations of the previs sequences and have a good idea of what the scenes should be stylistically. On this project Justin had to figure things out very quickly, so we all tried to be as fluid as possible in how to handle new ideas and changes and offer him changes to help speed up the process. Fortunately, one of Justin’s strengths is being able to brainstorm and adapt to new situations that add to the story. Even though Steven, Greg and I were based in L.A, we all went up to Vancouver at different points to go over our scenes in person, which was really helpful, especially since we were also doing VFX turnovers throughout the shoot

- According to director Justin Lin, they won't be releasing any deleted scenes when the movie comes out for home viewing for one simple reason. There aren't any
- Justin Lin tells Empire, the movie was on such a tight filming schedule that they simply didn't have the luxury to film anything that they weren't sure was going to make the final cut
  - "We were very surgical. It was a really tight schedule. The challenge became our friend at the end of the day. There were a couple of moments with Spock and Bones that I ended up taking out, but it's very slight. Everything you see in the film is pretty much what we shot"
- It was essentially 13 months from the beginning of shooting to the premiere
  - To put that in perspective, *Star Wars: Episode VIII* just wrapped filming this month and isn't schedule for release for nearly a year and a half, giving them plenty of time to do all the digital effects and other necessary post-production work
- Jason Matthew Smith, who played Cupcake in the original *Star Trek* reboot film. The actor told us that he filmed death scenes in both *Star Trek into Darkness* and *Star Trek Beyond*, but in both cases, they were edited from the film
- Production VFX supervisor and Double Negative co-founder Peter Chiang looked back to the 60s for The Enterprise, "with a thin neck and a thin nacelle," he said. "We view different attributes of The Enterprise through angles and shots and little openings that hadn't been explored before." Those new perspectives include: how the saucer separates from the neck, where Kelvin pods sit within the Bridge, and the Bridge view port area where escape pods are placed
- "The Enterprise gets methodically stripped away when attacked by the swarm ships," said Chiang. "We started using flocking, but there wasn't that control so we broke it down into much more balletic, programmed movements. But to achieve the intelligence of the take down, the swarm takes on different shapes: a drill bit to take out the deflector dish, chevrons to take the neck out and spiral chevrons to take the nacelle out."
- There's also a new Warp Speed design by Chiang. It's based on the concept of folding time with a warp bubble, rather than the iconic "Trek" stretch and streak look
- Yorktown: DNeg's art direction team took production designer Tom Sander's master plan featuring 40 Dubai building structures and modeled them with their City Engine software
  - This generated new buildings with multiple styles, and throughout they were able to take the Dubai plates and rendered arms into that environment. "When you looked out," said Chiang, "there would be other arms suggesting other worlds."
- **Video about VFX:**  
<https://www.wired.com/video/2016/07/design-fx-behind-the-scenes-of-star-trek-beyond-s-visual-effects/>

## Sound/Music

- In August 2015, composer Michael Giacchino confirmed that he would return to write the score

- "What was great about this film is that it presented new opportunities to present new music, including new characters and different situations," he says. Adding, "And it is the first of the new films that doesn't head back to Earth for any reason."
- Giacchino goes on to say he enjoys writing the music for those big action sequences but he really loves composing the small, personal moments. Like Kirk's birth in the first movie and his would-be death in the second. For this reason, his favorite character to compose for is the emotionally fraught Spock, played by Quinto
- Giacchino explains: "There is something really wonderful about that character — he is split between two worlds. Everyone one of us, in one way or another, is split between two worlds. We have our private inner selves and our outer selves."
- On June 26, 2016, Barbadian singer Rihanna released a teaser across her social media accounts for a single for the film entitled "Sledgehammer", and the song premiered the following day
- The song "Sabotage" by the hip hop group Beastie Boys was also heard in the Star Trek (2009) remake, played on a car stereo by young James T. Kirk
  - Lin says he had tried a few options as song choice. "I actually was trying to get Creedence Clearwater Revival in there. But it didn't feel right. The third track [we tried] was *Sabotage*. Once it got in there, it never changed. It was in the DNA of the franchise – it also calls back to Kirk's childhood."

## Promotion

- A teaser trailer for the film was released on December 14, 2015, and was criticized heavily for focusing too much on action, and for featuring the Beastie Boys song "Sabotage", which many considered out of place, despite its use in the first film of the rebooted series
  - Pegg expressed similar thoughts of dissatisfaction with the teaser, saying that he "didn't love it" because "I know there's a lot more to the film."
  - Pegg expressed particular disappointment that the original *Beyond* trailer uses *Sabotage*, as he felt "they blew that. That's our little funny secret weapon. I was kind of ticked off about it. It's the Ewoks against the Empire! It's defeating something technological with something very simple – with just a radio frequency."
- He considered the trailer to be the marketing team saying "Come and see this movie! It's full of action and fun!"
- A second trailer was released on May 20, 2016, to warmer reviews
- A third and final trailer was released on June 27, 2016, featuring Rihanna's single "Sledgehammer"
- In August 2014, it was announced that Paramount Pictures has pushed back the film's release in time for the 50th anniversary celebration of the late Gene Roddenberry's original series
- The limited edition poster which features Kirk, Spock and Jaylah is a homage to the original poster for Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979) with Kirk, Spock and Ilia

## Box Office

- The film was released in 2D, RealD3D and IMAX 3D
- In August 2014, it was announced that Paramount had pushed back the release of the film to 2016, for the 50th anniversary celebration of the debut of Gene Roddenberry's original sci-fi series
- In the United States and Canada, the film was projected to gross \$50–60 million in its opening weekend. It opened alongside two new wide releases – the animated *Ice Age: Collision Course* and the horror *Lights Out* – but critics noticed that the film did not face any direct competition with them
- It opened across 3,928 theaters, of which 391 were IMAX
- It earned \$59.3 million in its opening weekend, which is the third-biggest debut among the franchise but the lowest of the reboot series (behind *Star Trek* and *Star Trek Into Darkness* for both)
- Internationally, the film will receive a scattered release pattern and will be released across approximately 76 markets
- It opened in 37 markets in conjunction with its North American release in its first weekend, including in the U.K., Germany and Australia — territories where the franchise has traditionally performed extremely well

## Reception

- *Star Trek Beyond* has received positive reviews from critics
- On Rotten Tomatoes, the film has a rating of 84%, based on 201 reviews
- The site's critical consensus reads, "*Star Trek Beyond* continues the franchise's post-reboot hot streak with an epic sci-fi adventure that honors the series' sci-fi roots without skimping on the blockbuster action."
- On Metacritic, the film has a score of 68 out of 100, based on 50 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews"
- Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A–"
- Richard Roeper of *Chicago Sun-Times* gave the film three out of four stars, saying "What a load of fun. Even with its big-screen pyrotechnics and its feature-length running time, *Star Trek Beyond* plays like an extended version of one of the better episodes from the original series, and I mean that in the best possible way."
- Dave Robinson of outlet *Crash Landed* writes that "*Star Trek Beyond* fails to push *beyond* its own roots and becomes just another very safe sci-fi popcorn movie in an increasingly crowded market, that will likely have you leaving the theatre feeling exactly as you entered."

## Sequel/Legacy

- Paramount announced Payne and McKay will write the next installment
- Pine and Quinto have signed contracts to return as Kirk and Spock for a fourth film
- In July 2016, Abrams confirmed plans for a fourth film, and stated that Chris Hemsworth would return as Kirk's father, George, whom he played in the prologue of the first film

- Later that month, Paramount confirmed the return of Hemsworth, as well as most of the *Beyond* cast, producers Abrams and Lindsey Weber, and writers J. D. Payne and Patrick McKay
- That same month, Abrams said that Yelchin's role will not be recast
- A renegotiation of contracts has meant a larger pay deal for the returning actors, while also writing in the option of Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto returning for a fourth film
- Questions left:
  - What happened to the weapon?
  - How will they handle Chekov?
  - Will romance be rekindled?
  - What's next for Jaylah?

## **Final Thoughts**