

STAR WARS VIII: THE LAST JEDI (2017)

- Released on December 15th, 2017
- 2 Hours 32 minutes
- \$19,400,000 (estimated) budget
- Directed by Rian Johnson
- Written by Rian Johnson
- Lucasfilm, Ram Bergman Productions, Walt Disney Pictures
- Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi action and violence.

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Demetri Panos
- Marisa Serafini
- Phil Svitek

DEVELOPMENT

- In October 2012, Star Wars creator George Lucas sold his production company [Lucasfilm](#), and with it the [Star Wars franchise](#), to [The Walt Disney Company](#)
- Disney announced a [new trilogy of Star Wars films](#)
- [J. J. Abrams](#) was named director of the first episode in the trilogy, [The Force Awakens](#), in January 2013
- In June 2014, director [Rian Johnson](#) was reported to be in talks to write and direct its sequel, dubbed Episode VIII, and to write a [treatment](#) for the third film, [Episode IX](#), with [Ram Bergman](#) producing both films
- Johnson confirmed in August 2014 that he would direct Episode VIII
- In September, filmmaker [Terry Gilliam](#) asked Johnson about what it felt like to take over something that was made famous by another filmmaker, to which Johnson responded:
 - I'm just starting into it, but so far, honestly, it's the most fun I've ever had writing. It's just joyous. But also for me personally, I grew up not just watching those movies but playing with those toys, so as a little kid, the first movies I was making in my head were set in this world. A big part of it is that direct connection, almost like an automatic jacking back into childhood in a weird way. But I don't know, ask me again in a few years and we'll be able to talk about that
- According to Johnson, the story begins immediately after the last scene of The Force Awakens
- He felt it was difficult to work on the film while The Force Awakens was being finished
- In December 2015, Lucasfilm president [Kathleen Kennedy](#) stated that "we haven't mapped out every single detail [of the sequel trilogy] yet". She said that Abrams was collaborating with Johnson and that Johnson would in turn work with (then) Episode IX director [Colin Trevorrow](#) to ensure a smooth transition
- Abrams is an executive producer along with Jason McGatlin and Tom Karnowski
- Lucasfilm announced the film's title, Star Wars: The Last Jedi, on January 23, 2017

WRITING (Rian Johnson)

- [Lawrence Kasdan](#) initially wrote a story outline for the film, but was called away to work on [Star Wars: The Force Awakens](#) (2015) when problems arose with that film's initial script. When [Rian Johnson](#) signed on as director, he requested to be allowed to scrap Kasdan's story and write his own script from scratch, to which the producers consented, as Kasdan's outline no longer matched up with the finished storyline of the previous film

- He had his story group watch films such as [Twelve O'Clock High](#), [The Bridge on the River Kwai](#), [Gunga Din](#), [Three Outlaw Samurai](#), [Sahara](#), and [Letter Never Sent](#) for inspiration while developing ideas
- [Carrie Fisher](#) was also a well-known writer, whose services were often called upon to act as script doctor for other films. She later began declining such assignments when producers would solicit her story ideas, then hire someone else to actually change the script, and use her ideas without paying her. However, director [Rian Johnson](#) revealed that Fisher helped with the writing of the script for this film

STORY/TOPICS

- Rey/Luke's Training
- Rey's Parents
- Who is Snoke?
- Kylo Ren's Intent
- Leia
 - This is the first live-action movie in the franchise to break with the tradition to have a member of the Skywalker family in the closing shot. All previous movies included either Anakin, Luke and/or Leia in the final shot. Although Luke and Leia feature in the final scene, the closing shot only shows one of the young slave boys on the casino planet Canto Bight
- Holdo's Plan
- Fate of Rebels
- What It Means to be a Hero
- Rose/Finn
- Grey Areas (Weapon Suppliers)
- Knights of Ren?
- Pasma Dead?
- Battle of Maz?

CAST:

- [Joonas Suotamo](#) appears as [Chewbacca](#), taking over the role from [Peter Mayhew](#) after previously serving as his body double for The Force Awakens
- Mayhew, who was 73 years old and suffering from chronic knee and back pain, is credited as "Chewbacca consultant."
- [Billie Lourd](#), [Mike Quinn](#), and [Timothy D. Rose](#) reprise their roles as Lieutenant Connix, [Nien Nunb](#), and [Admiral Ackbar](#) respectively from previous films
- Amanda Lawrence appears as Commander D'Acy, and [Mark Lewis Jones](#) and [Adrian Edmondson](#) play Captains Canady and Peavey respectively.
- [BB-8](#) is controlled by puppeteers Dave Chapman and Brian Herring, with initial voice work by [Ben Schwartz](#) and final sound effects voiced by [Bill Hader](#) modulated through a synthesizer
- [Jimmy Vee](#) portrays [R2-D2](#)
- [Veronica Ngô](#) portrays Rose's sister Paige Tico, a Resistance gunner who sacrifices her life to destroy a First Order dreadnought
- [Justin Theroux](#) plays the master codebreaker, while [Lily Cole](#) plays his companion
- [Joseph Gordon-Levitt](#) has a voice cameo as Slown Lo
- [Warwick Davis](#) plays Wodibin

- [Gareth Edwards](#), director of the Star Wars Anthology film [Rogue One](#), has a [cameo appearance](#) as a Resistance Soldier, as does [Gary Barlow](#)
- Directors [Edgar Wright](#) and [Joe Cornish](#) also cameo in the film
- [Hermione Corfield](#) appears as Tallie Lintra, a Resistance A-Wing pilot and squad leader [Noah Segan](#) and Jamie Christopher appear as Resistance pilots Starck and Tubbs
- Hamill's children, Griffin, Nathan, and Chelsea, cameo as Resistance soldiers
- [Prince William, Duke of Cambridge](#), [Prince Harry](#) and [Tom Hardy](#) all filmed cameo appearances as [stormtroopers](#)
- In September 2015, Disney shortlisted the female cast members to [Gina Rodriguez](#), [Tatiana Maslany](#), and [Olivia Cooke](#)
- Later that month, Benicio del Toro confirmed that he would play the villain in the film, and [Mark Hamill](#) was also confirmed
- In October 2015, [Gugu Mbatha-Raw](#) was rumored to have been cast in the film.^[59] In November, Jimmy Vee was cast as R2-D2
- In November, Kennedy announced at the London premiere for The Force Awakens that the entire cast would return for Episode VIII, along with "a handful" of new cast members
- In February 2016, at the start of filming, it was confirmed that [Laura Dern](#) and Kelly Marie Tran had been cast in unspecified roles
- In April 2017, at [Star Wars Celebration Orlando](#), Lucasfilm announced that Tran plays Resistance maintenance worker Rose Tico, which Johnson described as the film's largest new role
- To maintain [Frank Oz](#)'s return as Yoda a secret, producers excluded Oz's name in the [billing](#) for the film's marketing and ensured that Oz stay on set during filming

MAIN CAST:

- [Mark Hamill](#) as [Luke Skywalker](#), a former powerful [Jedi Master](#) who has been in self-imposed exile on the planet [Ahch-To](#)
 - He is the son of [Anakin Skywalker](#) and [Padmé Amidala](#)
 - Hamill also plays Dobbu Scay, named after the film's editor, [Bob Ducsay](#). During the Canto Bight scene, the character mistakes BB-8 as a slot machine
 - After reading the script for the film, [Mark Hamill](#) told director [Rian Johnson](#), "I pretty much fundamentally disagree with every choice you've made for this character [Luke Skywalker]. Now, having said that, I have gotten it off my chest, and my job now is to take what you've created and do my best to realize your vision."
 - After first completing the arduous 600-foot climb on Ireland's Skellig Michael island, [Mark Hamill](#) had hoped that he could avoid having to repeat the trek for additional scenes if he could somehow remain on the summit overnight, thus forfeiting the luxury of room service at his hotel. He suggested sleeping in a tent and 'staying in character.' However, after some inquiries were made with the Irish authorities, he was told by producer [Kathleen Kennedy](#) that he was not permitted to pitch a tent because the location is a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- [Carrie Fisher](#) as [General Leia Organa](#), twin sister to Luke, former princess of [Alderaan](#), and a leading general in the Resistance
 - She is the daughter of [Anakin Skywalker](#) and [Padmé Amidala](#)
 - The Last Jedi was the final film that Fisher worked on. She died on December 27, 2016, after completing her work on the film
 - After the breakthrough CGI that was displayed in Rogue One for recreating long gone actors, the filmmakers of this film saw fit to issue statements ahead of release, shutting down any speculations (or worries) on the possibility of such a technology being used for

the late Carrie Fisher. In short, all her scenes (barring the stunts) are categorically hers, including the dialogue

- It was understood in the script, though not necessarily in the final film, that General Leia Organa had begun training as a Jedi shortly after the events of [Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi](#) (1983). Motherhood, and later, discord in the Galactic Senate caused her to cut short her tutoring. This explains how she is able to use the Force to create a bubble of air around her and return to her ship after the bridge of the Raddus is destroyed. An entry in the canonical tie-in Visual Dictionary confirmed this as well
- The film is dedicated in her memory
- [Adam Driver](#) as [Kylo Ren](#), Supreme Leader Snoke's servant, who is strong with the dark side of the [Force](#) and leader to the Knights of Ren
 - He was born Ben Solo, the son of [Han Solo](#) and Leia Organa, nephew of Luke Skywalker, and the grandson of Anakin Skywalker and Padmé Amidala
 - Director [Rian Johnson](#) admits that he moved Kylo Ren's facial injury. In *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015), Rey slices his face with her light saber, giving him a laceration that goes across the bridge of his nose. In this film, the injury has scabbed over, but is now over his right eye. Johnson says a scab over his nose did not look right. Coincidentally, the placement of the scar matches a similar injury on Anakin Skywalker, in *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith* (2005)
 - During the space battle, Kylo Ren spins his fighter exactly the same way Anakin does in *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace* (1999), saying, "Let's try spinning; that's a good trick."
- [Daisy Ridley](#) as [Rey](#), a highly Force-sensitive scavenger from the desert planet [Jakku](#), who joined the Resistance and goes to find Luke Skywalker
 - Daisy Ridley took her father to the set in Ireland, where the ending scene of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) was about to be recreated. When her father met Mark Hamill, he asked him, "Who do you play, then?" Ridley admitted she was not sure if her father was joking or not
 - According to stunt coordinator [Liang Yang](#), the lightsaber movements [Daisy Ridley](#) performed usually take three days to learn. However, Ridley was able to learn them in only one and a half hours
- [John Boyega](#) as [Finn](#), a former [stormtrooper](#) of the [First Order](#) who defected to the Resistance
- [Oscar Isaac](#) as [Poe Dameron](#), a high-ranking [X-wing fighter](#) pilot in the Resistance
- [Andy Serkis](#) as [Supreme Leader Snoke](#), the mysterious leader of the First Order and Kylo Ren's master
 - Snoke's death marks the second time a character is cut in half in a Star Wars movie, after Darth Maul's death in "The Phantom Menace" (It is the third time if you count Obi-Wan's death in "A New Hope," but his body disappears instantly. Both Maul and Snoke's deaths are more graphic, with both halves of their bodies physically separating)
- [Lupita Nyong'o](#) as [Maz Kanata](#), a pirate and ally of the Resistance
- [Domhnall Gleeson](#) as [General Hux](#), the former head of the First Order's Starkiller Base
- [Anthony Daniels](#) as [C-3PO](#), a humanoid protocol droid in the service of Leia Organa
- [Gwendoline Christie](#) as [Captain Phasma](#), the commander of the First Order's stormtroopers
- [Kelly Marie Tran](#) as [Rose Tico](#), a member of the Resistance who works in maintenance
 - [Kelly Marie Tran](#) did not tell anyone she was doing the movie and lied that she was doing an indie film in Canada. At one point, she got some maple syrup to bring back to her parents so they would believe she was actually in Canada
- [Laura Dern](#) as [Vice Admiral Amilyn Holdo](#), an officer in the Resistance

- [Frank Oz](#) as [Yoda](#), the deceased former Grand Master of the Jedi, and Luke's wise former mentor, who appears as a Force-ghost
 - Rian Johnson stated in an interview that the puppet of Yoda used in The Last Jedi was made by going to the archives from The Empire Strikes Back. They used the original mold, then next they went to the woman who painted the original puppet and then lastly went to Frank Oz to complete a customized puppet of Yoda to recreate the model from the Empire Strikes Back
- [Benicio del Toro](#) as [DJ](#), an underworld codebreaker
 - Del Toro likens his character to a knife, saying "if you grab him by the blade, he'll cut you. If you grab him by the handle, he can be very, very useful."
 - According to Rian Johnson, DJ stands for Don't Join, a phrase he got from an early record advertisement for Elvis Costello. DJ explains his neutral stance to Finn by saying "Don't Join" is his philosophy in life

SYMBOLISM/TRIVIA/EASTER EGGS

- General Leia Organa's Mon Calamari cruiser bears the name "Raddus," named for the character of Admiral Raddus in [Rogue One: A Star Wars Story](#) (2016)
- Han Solo's dice
- The closet Finn opens to get a blanket for Rose in the end is filled with the Jedi books from the temple
- This is the first "Star Wars" film to use a flashback structure. Previous entries had always used Force visions to allow exposition
- Luke Skywalker bears a strong resemblance to Obi-Wan Kenobi's appearance in the original Star Wars trilogy. In fact, Mark Hamill reprised his role in 2015 at the age of 64, while Alec Guinness was 63 when he was first cast as Obi-Wan Kenobi
- With a running time of 152 minutes, this is the longest movie of the Star Wars saga. The previous record was held by [Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones](#) (2002), with 142 minutes
- In late 2017, director [Rian Johnson](#) shot down Internet rumors that [Billy Dee Williams](#) would reprise his role of Lando Calrissian in this film, stating, "He's not in the film, and it was never really something that came up. I mean, I loved that character. It would have been fun to see him, but it's just not something that ever really had a place in the story."
- Another giveaway that Luke Skywalker's presence on Crait is an illusion is that unlike every other creature on the planet, his steps do not stir up the red soil just under the salty surface of the planet
- It is not revealed until the final scenes that Ahch-To is part of a binary solar system. As Luke is dying he watches the binary sunset, just as he did on Tatooine in Revenge Of The Sith (as a baby) and A New Hope (as a young man wishing for a life of adventure)
- The climax, in which Rey and Kylo Ren are brought before Snoke, parallels both the climax of Return of the Jedi and the beginning of Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith. In the latter, Kylo Ren's grandfather Anakin Skywalker kills Count Dooku, while in this film, Ren kills Snoke. Dooku and Snoke were played by Christopher Lee and Andy Serkis, who appeared together in the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings films

DIRECTING (Rian Johnson)

- Known for Brick and 3 memorable Breaking Bad episodes
- [Rian Johnson](#) was offered the chance to direct the next film in the saga, [Star Wars: Episode IX](#) (2019) based on executive reactions to early versions of this film. Johnson turned down the offer

due to the film's tight production schedule. Lucasfilm then offered him a three picture deal to create his own trilogy set in the "Star Wars" universe

- "My entire pitch to [Lucasfilm president] Kathleen Kennedy and Disney was "Let's tell a new Star Wars story. Let's tell one story over three movies, where we go new places and meet new people. It's a brand new story that feels like a great Star Wars story." - Johnson

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Steve Yedlin)

- Second unit photography began during pre-production at [Skellig Michael](#) in [Ireland](#) on September 14, 2015, due to the difficulties of filming at that location during other seasons
 - It would have lasted four days, but filming was canceled for the first day due to poor weather and rough conditions
- In November 2014, Ivan Dunleavy, chief executive of [Pinewood Studios](#), confirmed that the film would be shot at Pinewood, with filming also occurring in Mexico
- In September 2015, del Toro revealed that principal photography would begin in March 2016; however, Kennedy later stated that filming would begin in January 2016
- The production began work on the [007 Stage](#) at Pinewood Studios on November 15, 2015
- [Rick Heinrichs](#) served as production designer
 - Production designer Rick Heinrichs said in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter that the original screenplay by writer-director Rian Johnson was so ambitious that it had double the number of sets you might expect on a film like this. "The original script had about 160 sets in it, a ridiculous amount of sets. I didn't say that to Rian, because I figured on something this big he'll find that out on his own. It's a 100-day shooting schedule," says Heinrichs. "So there's more than one set a day you have to prepare for." In the end, the production settled on 125 sets on 14 stages at Pinewood Studios. "The truth is we ended up combining things and trying to be smart about how we're going to do it," says Heinrichs. "He did do some trimming and cutting. It forced him to actually cut the shoe leather, as they say, and combine things in the script as well and reduce a number of things that way."
- In January 2016, production of Episode VIII was delayed until February 2016, due to script rewrites
 - Additionally, filming was potentially in danger of being delayed further due to an upcoming strike between the [Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television](#) and the [Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematograph and Theatre Union](#)
- On February 10, 2016, Disney CEO [Bob Iger](#) confirmed that principal photography had begun, under the working title Space Bear
- Additional filming took place in [Dubrovnik](#) from March 9 to 16, 2016, as well as in Ireland in May
- [Malin Head](#) in [County Donegal](#) and a mountain headland, Ceann Sibeal in [County Kerry](#), served as additional filming locations
- Location filming for the battle scenes on the planet Crait took place in July 2016 at the [Salar de Uyuni salt flats](#) in [Bolivia](#)
- Principal photography [wrapped](#) on July 22, 2016, though as of early September 2016, Nyong'o had not filmed her scenes
- In February 2017, it was announced that sequences from the film were shot in [IMAX](#)
- Production designer Rick Heinrichs said the original screenplay called for 160 sets, double what might be expected, but that Johnson did some "trimming and cutting"
- Ultimately 125 sets were created on 14 [sound stages](#) at Pinewood Studios

- According to creature designer [Neal Scanlan](#), "there are more practical effects in this film than any Star Wars film", as the film implements 180 to 200 creatures created with practical effects, some of which were cut from the final edit.
- For [Yoda's](#) appearance in the film as a [Force ghost](#), the character was created using puppetry, as was done in the original Star Wars trilogy (as opposed to [computer-generated imagery](#), which was used to create Yoda in most of the [prequel trilogy](#))
- Planet Crait: "I really like the battle with the red spewing up from the white to convey the violence." - Johnson

EDITING/VFX (Bob Ducsay)

- [Rian Johnson](#)'s original cut of the film exceeded three hours. Reports say he cut between 45 and 60 minutes to get the film down to a more palatable run time
- The Academy [released its shortlist](#) on Monday (December 18th) revealing the 10 films that are still in the running for the VFX Oscar

PORG DESIGN:

- Johnson he was so impressed with the puffins that he wanted to find a "Star Wars" equivalent. The result was the tiny orange, black, and white Porgs. "I worked with Neal Scanlan's [creature] team, and they came up with a design that had the face of a pug with little chicken feet," Johnson said.
- Johnson wanted to rely heavily on practical puppets for the Porgs and made an animatronic version.
- CG Porgs started out in the background until it became necessary to go full-CG when the Porg screams in the Millennium Falcon

VULPICES:

- Crystal foxes known as Vulpices inhabit the mineral planet Crait.
- Johnson was very specific about the crystalline fur looking like a chandelier, "and when they moved, I wanted them to sound like wind chimes."
- "We approached it practically with a trained dog with drinking straws on it and we studied the movement," Scanlan said. They created molds and individual crystal hairs and populated the animatronic fox with it. However, they wound up fully CG in the movie due to anatomy and performance limitations

FALTHIERS:

- Racing animals on Canto Bight, the casino planet.
- "When you see them in motion, they're like a combination of a horse and over sized cat," Johnson said.
- They used his heavy shoulder puppet for several shots, and then they moved into far more intricate action for CG in combo with special effects rigs so the actors could ride on their backs.
- "Scale was the big issue," Morris said. "In terms of defining our shots we were very careful of the angles and musculature, and the huge ripple through the pectorals under the shoulder blades. They are also quite dexterous and can do tight-angled turns and travel at 40 to 50 miles an hour."

SUPREME LEADER SNOKE

- "What we discovered as we started to build the character with Rian was that the initial concept sculpt didn't translate well into a CG character," said Morris. "So we resculpted the whole thing, and referenced Michael Fassbender and Steven Berkoff, and Ben Kingsley from 'Sexy Beast.'"

- ILM made Snoke's shoulders broader, straightened his back, and restructured his face. They also raised him from seven to eight-feet-tall. Added Morris: "There was a shot that we rendered and Rian said, 'There it is!'"

YODA:

- Scanlan replicated the look of the puppet from "The Empire Strikes Back."
- Rian said he wanted to go for an opaque Yoda.
- "We put a very subtle treatment around his edges and actually washed some of the blue glow through the middle of his body as well. We filmed him for three nights on a real difficult set in front of [special effects coordinator] Chris Corbould's burning tree."
- The way it was shot by cinematographer Steve Yedlin against the light source of the burning fire on set.

SOUND/MUSIC (John Williams)

- In July 2013, Kennedy announced at [Star Wars Celebration Europe](#) that [John Williams](#) would return to score the Star Wars sequel trilogy
- At a Tanglewood concert in August 2016, Williams confirmed he was scheduled to start scoring Episode VIII
- Williams said he would begin recording the score "off and on" in December 2016 until March or April 2017
- On February 21, 2017, it was confirmed that recording was underway, with Williams [conducting](#)
- Oscars Original Score Category Gives John Williams a Shot at 51st Nomination
- Officially in the running for the 51st Oscar nomination
- Features the first Star Wars soundtrack to incorporate songs from outside the Star Wars universe: "Aquarela do Brasil," better known in English as "Brazil," by Ary Barroso, and "The Long Goodbye," by John Williams and Johnny Mercer. "The Long Goodbye" was the title song from the the Robert Altman film, which was written by Leigh Brackett, who wrote the original draft of the screenplay for The Empire Strikes Back. (In the first Star Wars film, George Lucas used "In The Mood" by Glenn Miller as a temporary track during the Mos Eisley Cantina scene, which John Williams reworked to the familiar "Cantina Band" theme.)
- When Snoke interrogates Rey using the force, the Emperor's theme can be heard playing in the background, with the camera panning to Ren as this happens. This exact same moment happens in Return of the Jedi when the Emperor is shocking Luke with force lightning and the camera pans to Vader, with the same theme playing
- One sound effect from the movie 2001 A Space Odyssey can be heard in the escape pod scene with Finn
- You can hear the TIE fighters shake the glass as they fly by Rebel's ship

PROMOTION

- In January 2015, Disney CEO Bob Iger stated that Episode VIII would be released in 2017, and in March, Lucasfilm announced a release date of May 26, 2017
- In January 2016, The Last Jedi was rescheduled for December 15, 2017 in [3D](#) and [IMAX 3D](#)
- On January 23, 2017, the film's title was announced as Star Wars: The Last Jedi
- Similarly to The Empire Strikes Back, Return of the Jedi and The Force Awakens, "Episode VIII" was included in the film's [opening crawl](#), although not in its official title
- A set of eight promotional [postage stamps](#) were released on October 12, 2017 in the UK by the [Royal Mail](#) with artwork by Malcolm Tween
- On September 19, 2017, [Australia Post](#) released a set of stamp packs
- Tie-in promotional campaigns were done with Nissan Motors and Bell Media, among others

- Two main trailers were released, followed by numerous television spots. Figurines of many of the characters were released in October, and advance tickets for Last Jedi went on sale in October
- Several tie-in books were released on the same day of the North American release of the movie, including The Last Jedi: Visual Dictionary, the novelization, and various children's reading and activity books. Related novelizations included the prequel book Cobalt Squadron, and the Canto Bight, a collection of novellas about the Canto Bight Casino
- On the final poster, all characters are placed to subtly form the pattern of Darth Vader's mask

BOX OFFICE

- As of December 18, 2017, Star Wars: The Last Jedi has grossed \$241.6 million in the United States and Canada, and \$253 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$494.6 million
- It had a worldwide opening of \$451 million, the [5th biggest of all-time](#)
- The estimated gross worldwide for the film to [break even](#) is around \$800 million
- Pre-sale tickets went on sale in the United States on October 9, 2017, and as with The Force Awakens and [Rogue One](#), ticket service sites such as [Fandango](#) had their servers crash due to heavy traffic and demand
- In the United States and Canada, industry tracking had The Last Jedi grossing around \$200 million from 4,232 theaters in its opening weekend
- The film made \$45 million from Thursday night previews, the second-highest amount ever (behind The Force Awakens' \$57 million)
- It went on to make \$104.8 million on its first day (including previews) and \$220 million over the weekend, both the second highest amounts of all-time
- Worldwide, the film was expected to debut to \$424–440 million, including \$224–240 million outside North America
- In its first two days of release the film made \$60.8 million from 48 markets
 - The top countries were the United Kingdom (\$10.2 million), Germany (\$6.1 million), France (\$6 million), Australia (\$5.6 million) and Brazil (\$2.5 million)
- By the end of the weekend, the film made \$230.8 million outside North America, the 9th highest of all-time
 - This included \$36.7 million in the UK (3rd best debut ever), \$23.6 million in Germany (2nd best), \$18.1 million in France, \$15.9 million in Australia (2nd), \$14.4 million in Japan, \$8.5 million in Russia, \$8.3 million in Spain, \$7.2 million in Brazil, \$7 million in Italy and Mexico, \$6.0 million in Sweden and \$5.1 million in South Korea

RECEPTION

- IMDB: 7.9 / 10
- Cinemascore: A
- RT: 93% / Audience 63%
 - based on 311 reviews, with an [average rating](#) of 8.2/10
 - The website's critical consensus reads, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi honors the saga's rich legacy while adding some surprising twists—and delivering all the emotion-rich action fans could hope for."
- On [Metacritic](#), the film has a weighted average score of 86 out of 100, based on 54 critics, indicating "universal acclaim"
- [Matt Zoller Seitz](#) of [RogerEbert.com](#) gave the film four out of four stars, praising the risks and surprises it's taken storytelling-wise, writing that "The movie works equally well as an earnest adventure full of passionate heroes and villains and a meditation on sequels and franchise properties.... [The film] is preoccupied with questions of legacy, legitimacy and succession, and

includes multiple debates over whether one should replicate or reject the stories and symbols of the past."

- Writing for [Rolling Stone](#), [Peter Travers](#) gave the film 3.5 out of 4 stars, praising the cast and the direction: "You're in hyper-skilled hands with Johnson who makes sure you leave the multiplex feeling euphoric. The middle part of the current trilogy, The Last Jedi ranks with the very best Star Wars epics (even the pinnacle that is The Empire Strikes Back) by pointing the way ahead to a next generation of skywalkers – and, thrillingly, to a new hope."
- [Richard Roeper](#) of the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) also gave the film 3.5/4 stars, saying, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi...doesn't pack quite the same emotional punch [as The Force Awakens] and it lags a bit in the second half, [but] this is still a worthy chapter in the Star Wars franchise, popping with exciting action sequences, sprinkled with good humor and containing more than a few nifty 'callbacks' to previous characters and iconic moments."
- For [The Hollywood Reporter](#), [Todd McCarthy](#) said, "Loaded with action and satisfying in the ways its loyal audience wants it to be, writer-director Rian Johnson's plunge into George Lucas' universe is generally pleasing even as it sometimes strains to find useful and/or interesting things for some of its characters to do."
- Conversely, [Richard Brody](#) of [The New Yorker](#) wrote, "Despite a few stunning decorative touches (most of which involve the color red) and that brief central sequence of multiple Reys, the movie comes off as a work that's ironed out, flattened down, appallingly purified. Above all, it delivers a terrifyingly calculated consensus storytelling, an artificial universality that is achieved, in part, through express religious references."
- [Kate Taylor](#) of [The Globe and Mail](#) gave the film 2/4 stars, saying the film suffered from too many new additions and writing, "Nifty new animals, a maturing villain, a flagging heroine, muffled humour – as it seeks to uphold a giant cultural legacy, this unfolding trilogy struggles to maintain a balance that often seems just out of reach."

SEQUEL/LEGACY

- [Episode IX](#), which will be the final installment of the sequel trilogy, is scheduled for release on December 20, 2019
- Principal photography is set to begin in June 2018
- Although [Colin Trevorrow](#) had initially been attached to direct the film, on September 5, 2017, Lucasfilm announced that Trevorrow had stepped down as director
- A week later, Lucasfilm announced that J. J. Abrams would return to direct Episode IX and co-write it with [Chris Terrio](#), with the co-writers stating that Episode IX will bring together all three trilogies, with elements from each
- Prior to her death in December 2016, Carrie Fisher had been expected to appear in Episode IX
- Though Fisher's family granted the rights to use recent footage of Fisher for Star Wars: Episode IX, she will not appear in the film
- In January 2017, a statement appeared on Lucasfilm's website stating that they had no plans to digitally generate new footage of her