

## **TOMB RAIDER (2018)**

- Released on March 16th, 2018
- 1 Hour 58 minutes
- \$94 million Budget
- Directed by Roar Uthaug
- Written by Geneva Robertson-Dworet (screenplay by), Alastair Siddons (screenplay by)
- GK Films, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM), Square Enix
- Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action, and for some language

## **QUICK THOUGHTS**

- Marisa Serafini
- Phil Svitek
- Demetri Panos

## **DEVELOPMENT**

- In 2009, Warner Bros. had plans to reboot the franchise with some help from Lin Pictures with Megan Fox attached to star. However, when in 2011 the project died, MGM began its efforts to bring their prequel version to life. In 2013, the studio brought on Marti Noxon to rewrite the reboot and take over for Mark Fergus and Hawk Ostby, all of whom are now being replaced by the Daugherty.
- After the release of Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (2003), Angelina Jolie announced she didn't want to do another film as the iconic video game character, hence the reboot of the franchise.
- Daisy Ridley, Emilia Clarke, Saoirse Ronan and Cara Delevingne were the frontrunners for Lara Croft before Alicia Vikander was cast
  - Daisy Ridley later claimed in an interview that it was just a "crazy rumor"
- Alicia Vikander was announced to be the new Lara Croft in April 2016.
- "When [Robertson-Dworet] was brought in, they weren't even sure they were going to renew the rights of the property and you need the rights to go forward with making the movie. So it wasn't a high priority for the studio. But then Alicia came on board." - Robertson-Dworet

## **WRITING** (Geneva Robertson-Dworet (screenplay by), Alastair Siddons (screenplay by))

- The film's plot is based on the 2013 reboot of the video game series by Crystal Dynamics
- Mark Fergus and Hawk Ostby were previously attached to write.
- The movie does not feature supernatural elements, unlike the video game it's based on. Instead, it is told that the Queen of Death is immune to an unknown disease and acts as a carrier which spreads through touch.
- After escaping Vogel and landing from the parachute, Lara is impaled by a stick through her side. This injury is the same injury she suffers in the opening of the 2013 video game, and serves as a key plot element for the opening chapters.

- Before Vikander got involved, Robertson-Dworet says her early drafts were closer to the snappy tone of Indiana Jones. “You know how Indiana Jones makes jokes even in the most dangerous situations? Like when he’s getting the shit kicked out of him, he’s still really mouthy. That was stripped down because Alicia didn’t feel it was realistic. So we took a lot of that out to change the tone to what you see in the final movie.”
- “MGM had many drafts of this script before I came onboard but nothing felt quite right. One of the things they wanted more of was bringing in more of what works so well in the videogame. We all looked at the game closely and thought about what we all loved most about it. We loved the setting, we loved that she wasn’t a full-fledged tomb raider yet and we took that even further. In the game, she’s already on her path as an archeologist and we stripped that down even further.” -Robertson-Dworet
- “Entire sequences from the game were put into the screenplay.” -Robertson-Dworet

## STORY/TOPICS

- Lara Croft embarks on a perilous journey to her father's last-known destination, hoping to solve the mystery of his disappearance
- Croft works as a bike courier. She is arrested after a bike accident involving a police car
  - Richard’s (Lara’s father) business partner, Ana Miller, posts her bail
- Ana warns her that if she does not claim her inheritance, her father's estate will be sold off
  - Lara reluctantly accepts and gains access to her father's office.
- There she finds a pre-recorded message from Richard detailing his research into Himiko, the mythical Queen of Yamatai. Richard warns Lara to destroy all of his research but Lara decides not to so she can investigate further.
  - Yamatai was said to command the power over life and death
- Lara travels to Hong Kong, she hires Lu Ren, captain of the ship *Endurance*, to sail into the Devil's Sea to the island of Yamatai
  - The ship capsizes in a violent storm and Lara is washed ashore where she is knocked unconscious
- She is revived by Mathias Vogel, the leader of an expedition to locate Himiko's tomb
  - The expedition has been funded by a shadowy organisation called Trinity that seeks to harness and weaponise Himiko's power
- Vogel takes Lara prisoner, claiming that he killed her father and intends to use Richard's research to continue his expedition
- Lara escapes with the help of Lu Ren, she evades capture but is wounded and fall unconscious
- Lara regains consciousness and is forced to kill a Trinity guard when she is nearly discovered
- She follows a mysterious figure wandering the island and discovers it is her father
  - He was also being held captive on Yamatai
- Lara works with Lu Ren to infiltrate the Trinity camp and recover her father's research
- Richard makes his way to the tomb and is captured by Vogel, who persuades Lara to open Himiko's tomb

- Inside the tomb, they avoid booby traps and finally locate Himiko's tomb
- Two Trinity soldiers attempt to remove her corpse but become infected by Himiko's "power"
  - The power is actually a disease so potent that mere physical contact triggers immediate bodily disintegration
- Vogel settles for detaching a finger which he seals in a pouch
- Lara and Richard overpower the remaining soldiers, though Vogel escapes and Richard becomes infected
- Lara gives chase to Vogel as Richard sets off a bomb, killing himself and sealing the tomb to prevent spread of the disease
- Lara confronts Vogel and the two fight and she force-feeds him Himiko's finger before kicking him down a deep chasm just as the infection takes over
- She is rescued by Lu Ren and the fishermen, who then commandeer a Trinity helicopter to escape Yamatai
- Upon her return to London, Lara accepts her inheritance
- She also inadvertently discovers that Trinity's front company is owned by Croft Holdings
- Lara proceeds to investigate further
  - She begins to suspect that Ana Miller manipulated her into accepting her inheritance to have Lara sign over control of Croft Holdings
- Having witnessed Trinity's ruthlessness first-hand, she prepares for her next adventure to thwart their future plans.

## CAST

- "A really internationally mixed group of people working on this film. They're South Africans, they were Europeans like Alicia's Swedish, Walton's like a Southerner, right? Representing kind of Asian-Americans but also Hong Kong and then you had the South African crews and then you had the British crews and then you Roar from Norway, it was really this really, just really good mix of people all doing the same thing and made me realize the power of film is universal, you know, and then it doesn't matter where everyone's from, if you're trying to tell a good story, that's what filmmaking is all about."- Daniel Wu
- Duncan Airlie James who plays Lara's trainer Terry, is a former 6 time world Thai / Kickboxing champion and K-1 fighter.

## ALICIA VIKANDER (Lara Croft)

- "When we started thinking about who could portray our version of Lara Croft, she was immediately at the top of our list. I think she just has it all. She has the vulnerability, and as you've seen from her before, in emotional scenes, you just really connect." - Roar Uthaug
- Alicia Vikander put on a lot of muscle to play Lara, as she wanted the character to be as realistic as possible and also did all of her own stunts.
- Alicia Vikander put on 12 pounds of muscle over four months prior to filming Tomb Raider

- TRAINING:
  - Trained with Hollywood trainer Magnus Lygdback, who trained Alexander Skarsgaard, Gal Gadot, Katy Perry. Hit the gym up to seven days a week to strengthen her body.
  - 'Everything from classic lifting and strength training to more functional stuff.
  - 'I like to switch it up, so we did everything from squatting heavy and doing deadlifts to pull-ups, push-ups, training with machines, training with bodyweight, plyometrics, explosive training.' - Lygdback
  - They also incorporated MMA HIIT — or Mixed Martial Arts High Intensity Interval Training — which is just as hardcore as it sounds.
  - Would limit workouts to an hour at a time. He explained: 'What doesn't happen in the first hour won't happen in the second hour.'
  - Her core work was spaced out over three days to tackle different aspects of ab-sculpting, and each day entailed a different approach.
  - On day one, they took a 'dynamic, static, or isometric' approach, with exercises like planks and leg raises.
  - On day two, they did 'rotational stuff,' like obliques exercises and the wood-chop move with dumbbells.
  - First months of training Alicia did heavy lifting five to six days a week, climbing two to three times a week, and boxing and MMA four times a week. She also did stunt rehearsals.
  - Keto diet for the two months leading up to filming, which allowed her to control her macros.
  - One day a week, she treated herself to something special.
  - '[We were training] five to six days a week, and Sundays were pizza days. I think the first thing I said when I woke up on Sundays was 'It's pizza day!'" she said.
- "It takes a lot of exercise and a lot of eating to gain the amount of pounds that I did for this role. [The muscle gain diet] is one of the things that you learn. You need proteins, but you need carbs too. I had three eggs in the morning, then two fillets of fish, and a bowl of rice, at 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, and 7:00. Every day, and you eat every third hour."- Vikander
- Alicia Vikander was a fan of the video game series growing up.
- Alicia Vikander had six stunt doubles for her portrayal of Lara Croft. "'I did almost all [my own] stunts, because I'm in every scene of this film. I had such incredible stunt girls. I was floored by how good they were, and they prepped all the stunts whilst we were filming. I met the six of them at evenings after I've done a whole day's shoot, catching up on the things we were going to do next. Of course, there's certain things that they always go and do too, in case I wouldn't be able to do it. But I think if I look at the film, I did them all, then there's a few, three or four ones that were dangerous and they wouldn't let me do. I just got to stand back and watch these girls, like 'Wow'."
- "I think the essence of Lara - even though she's changed in different forms over the years, it's her traits of being an extremely bright and clever, ferociously brave, curious

young woman that I wanted to still bring. I wanted to honor her and all the fans, everyone who's been following and loved this character for all of these years.” - Vikander

- “I wanted to create someone who ultimately kicks ass, but doesn't start there, at all, and who starts as a very relatable, normal person with the problems that I had when I was her age and trying to pay rent and thought that I could take on the world.” - Robertson-Dworet
- “She had major creative input on making sure we maintained the vision of the character that she wanted to have on screen, too. It was a very collaborative process.” - Robertson-Dworet
- “Alicia Vikander was so creatively involved in the creation of this character and this movie. There were certain aspects of the character she wanted heightened. There were certain aspects she wanted taken away. She really cared about the film being very realistic, very grounded. That was also a shift that was already happening on a larger level within the tone of the movie. My earliest drafts were very much an action-comedy. The director, producer and Alicia – it was kind of a team decision – they wanted it to be more realistic, more grounded.” -- Robertson-Dworet
- Goggins is a huge admirer of his co-star Alicia Vikander, calling her "one of the greatest actors of her generation." He said that "she already had a fan in me, and now she has a friend for life."
- Viewers were mixed on whether the characterization of Croft was good. Some described her as a "capable, powerful and unobjectified heroine" while others called her character bland and a "punching bag and onlooker"
- Vikander's performance as Croft was universally praised
- “a female hero who's as elegant as she is deadly: an ass-kicking Audrey Hepburn.” -Matt Zoller Seitz of RogerEbert.com

#### **DOMINIC WEST** (Lord Richard Croft)

- This film marks the second time Dominic West plays Alicia Vikander's father, after Testament of Youth (2014)
- Also known from The Wire, The Affair, 300, Chicago and The Square
- Archaeologist and owner of Croft Holdings
- In the beginning of the movie Croft is missing
  - His last known destination was a fabled tomb on a mythical island off the coast of Japan, but he never returned from this expedition
- West is starring in a 2018 six-part miniseries of Les Misérables as Jean Valjean

#### **WALTER GOGGINS** (Mathias Vogel)

- “My job, the way that I saw it, to service my director, my studio, and most importantly, my fellow actor, Alicia, and the audience, was to be as authentic and three-dimensional as I could be with the parameters which I was asked to play in. And for me, that didn't necessitate learning this game. It, for me, necessitated learning, for Mathias, what his life had been like up until that point. And I felt like we did that. You know, I think the world of

Alicia and I am just blown away by her very realistic interpretation of Lara Croft. And, you know, I'm so grateful I had the chance to tell this story in this way."

- *The Hateful Eight, Django Unchained, Lincoln*
- Goggins called the plot "Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) meets a genre version of the Joseph Conrad novel *Victory: An Island Tale*".

#### **DANIEL WU** (Lu Ren)

- *Into the Badlands, Warcraft, The Man with the Iron Fists*
- Wu and his wife, actress and model Lisa S., own a home in South Africa
- He is known as a "flexible and distinctive" leading actor in the Chinese-language film industry
- Daniel Wu is the second Hong Kong movie actor to star in adaptation of Tomb Raider after Simon Yam in *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life* (2003).

#### **KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS** (Ana Miller)

- The acclaimed Cornish actress Dame Kristin Scott Thomas was born in Redruth, Cornwall, to Deborah (Hurlbatt) and Lieutenant Commander Simon Scott Thomas. Her father was a pilot for the British Royal Navy and died in a flying accident in 1964. Her stepfather, Lt. Cdr Simon Idiens, was also a pilot, and died six years later under similar circumstances. Her childhood home was Dorset, England. She left at the age of 19 to work as an au pair in Paris. She was married to French doctor François Oliviennes, with whom she had three children, Hannah, Joseph, and George

#### **DIRECTING** (Roar Uthaug)

- Norwegian director Roar Uthaug came on board in November 2015
- Himself a gamer who was intent on translating the intensity of the video game experience to theaters.
- "I was always a fan of the video game from the very first game that came out. We used to play it with my friends back in Norway all the time...And so, I've always been a fan and then when I got the call regarding this, and saw what they had done to the reboot of the game, I got very excited."
- Tricia Brock was offered to direct, but passed on the film

#### **PRODUCTION** (George Richmond)

- *Kingsman: The Secret Service* (2014), and as a camera operator on *Children Of Men*
- Principal photography took place from January to June 2017 at the Warner Bros. Studios in the United Kingdom and in Cape Town, South Africa.
- January 23, 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa and ended on June 9, 2017 at Warner Bros. Studios, Leavesden.
- GK Films first acquired the rights to the film in 2011
- On February 25, 2015, Deadline had reported that Warner Bros will work with MGM to make the film and Evan Daugherty will write the film's script
- In July 2016, the film's release date was confirmed as March 16, 2018

- An extremely rare example of a film that uses its mid-credits scene in its trailer (the "I'll take two" scene with Lara buying guns)
- BIKE RACE:
  - "There are actually races like that in London and New York. And that was inspired by that." -Roar Uthaug
  - "And shooting it, that was the end of our shoot. And it was so nice to come to that after being in the blazing sun in South Africa." -Roar Uthaug
- Wilton House near Salisbury in Wiltshire was the location for exterior shots for Croft Manor

#### **EDITING/VFX** (Stuart Baird, Tom Harrison-Read, Michael Tronick)

- Stuart Baird is a two-time Academy Award® nominee for Best Editing (*Superman* and *Gorillas in the Mist*) who received BAFTA nominations for Bond films *Casino Royale* and *Skyfall*. He has also directed three big studio films: *Executive Decision*, *U.S. Marshals* and *Star Trek: Nemesis*.

#### **TRIVIA**

- The Order Of Trinity is based in Norway/Sweden. Director Roar Uthaug is Norwegian and actress Alicia Vikander is Swedish.
- Producer Adrian Askarieh (not attached to this project) told IGN in an interview that he may oversee a film universe with *Just Cause*, *Hitman*, *Tomb Raider*, *Deus Ex*, and *Thief*
- Jolie was considered for a cameo role in the film, but this did not come to pass, as King felt it would ruin the reboot's tone
- In the 'Lara Croft' movies starring Angelina Jolie, Lara wields the same weapons in both movies as Vikander's character is purchasing at the end of the movie
- Alicia Vikander is married to Michael Fassbender who also starred in the video game adaptation of *Assassin's Creed* (2016)
- After escaping Vogel and landing from the parachute, Lara is impaled by a stick through her side. This injury is the same injury she suffers in the opening of the 2013 video game, and serves as a key plot element for the opening chapters.

#### **SOUND/MUSIC** (Junkie XL)

- Junkie XL left *Justice League* (2017) to work on music for the film.

#### **PROMOTION**

- *Tomb Raider* premiered on March 2, 2018 in Berlin, Germany at an exclusive preview with invited guests and cosplaying fans.
- The film gets an IMAX 3D and a RealD 3D release
- First set photography images appeared online in February 2017

#### **BOX OFFICE**

- it was released in the United States on March 16, 2018, by Warner Bros. Pictures days after the fifth anniversary of the franchise's video game reboot

- Outside the US, the film was released in most territories between March 8–16, 2018, whereas Japan will receive the film on March 21, 2018 and Poland on April 6, 2018
- **As of March 21, 2018, *Tomb Raider* has grossed \$29.8 million in the United States and Canada, and \$132.6 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$162 million**
  - In order to break even, the film needs to gross at least \$275 million worldwide
- The film made \$9.1 million on its first day (including \$2.1 million from Thursday night previews)
- It went on to open to \$23.5 million, finishing second at the box office behind *Black Panther* (\$27 million in its fifth week)
- Internationally the film opened in 9 Asian countries a week prior to its US debut. It made \$14.2 million over the weekend
  - Korea's \$2.9 million being the biggest market
- The film opened in China on March 16, 2018 and made \$12.3 million the first day. It was the fifth-highest grossing day for a Warner Bros. movie,
  - Opened 6% higher than *Wonder Woman* in 2017; it went on to debut to \$41 million

## RECEPTION

- RT: 42% Tatometer: 36%
- IMDB: 6.9/10
- Cinemascore: B
- The film met with mixed reviews from critics, with some criticizing the plot as "paint-by-numbers"
- Others praised its realistic take on the franchise
- Matt Zoller Seitz of RogerEbert.com gave the film 3 out of 4 stars and said "this is a beautifully crafted and unpretentious piece of action cinema, with a number of sequences that are as gorgeous as they are thrilling"
- As of 2018, The highest rated video game adaptation ever on rotten tomatoes.