

OCEAN'S 8 (2018) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5LoVcVsiSQ>

- June 8
- 1 hrs 50 minutes
- \$70 million budget (Estimated)
- Directed by Gary Ross
- Written by Gary Ross & Olivia Milch
- Production company: Warner Brothers
- Rated PG-13 (for language, drug use, and some suggestive content)

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Marisa Serafini
- Phil Svitek
- Demetri Panos
- Taylor Gates

DEVELOPMENT

- spinoff of the Ocean's Trilogy: *Ocean's 11* (2001), *Ocean's 12* (2004), and *Ocean's 13* (2007) directed by Steven Soderbergh
 - *Ocean's 11*: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Don Cheadle, Julia Roberts, Andy Garcia, Bernie Mac, Casey Affleck, Scott Caan
 - “Danny Ocean (George Clooney) is a man of action. Less than 24 hours into his parole from a New Jersey penitentiary, the wry, charismatic thief is already rolling out his next plan. Following three rules: Don't hurt anybody, don't steal from anyone who doesn't deserve it, and play the game like you've got nothing to lose. Danny orchestrates the most sophisticated, elaborate casino heist in history.” -IMDb
 - *Ocean 12*: Same, plus Catherine Zeta-Jones
 - “Despite pulling off one of the biggest heists in Las Vegas history, the members of the gang have already spent much of the money they stole. Casino owner Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia) demands that Ocean return the money, plus millions more in interest. Unable to come up the cash, the crew is forced to come together to pull off another series of heists, this time in Europe.”
 - *Ocean's 13*: No Julia or Catherine, plus Al Pacino and Ellen Barkin
 - “Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and his gang hatch an ambitious plot for revenge after ruthless casino owner Willy Bank (Al Pacino) double-crosses Reuben Tishkoff, Danny's friend and mentor. First, Ocean's gang plan to hit Bank in the paycheck by reversing the precept that the house always wins. Next, they will deal a crushing blow to Bank's ego by ruining his reputation as the only hotelier to earn the Royal Review's Five Diamond Award for each of his properties.”
- Ross and Soderbergh didn't want to continue the numbers game and go up into the teens (too many!), so they went backwards. The eight was Soderbergh's idea.

- “We had more real estate to be able to deal with the characters individually.
-Ross to Film School Rejects

WRITING (Gary Ross & Olivia Milch)

- used lots of improv
 - scene where Constance (Awkwafina) teaches Amita (Mindy) how to use Tinder was improvised

STORY/TOPICS

- Major Theme: feminism
 - hasn't received the same misogynistic criticism that female reboots like *Ghostbusters* and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* did (see: <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/heat-vision/why-gender-swapped-oceans-8-has-avoided-ghostbusters-trolls-1117940>)
 - Hathaway doesn't want to inspire young girls to commit crimes, but to know they can be a part of action-packed stories, too: “To an 8-year-old girl maybe we're not saying go have a life a crime, but to go do what you want and there's space for you. There's space for you to go do it with your friends, there's room for all of you.” -People
- didn't want a major antagonist to distract from the 8: “This is about camaraderie, not antagonism...you're not under an obligation to create antagonism unless you need it, and then that's a reason.”
 - “The more resonant thing, is that these women are stealing jewels 'cause jewels are valuable. Not because they have a deeper, hidden, cloaked motivation that we don't know about. In that case, it's particularly important that we unapologetically let them be thieves, and that's what we tried to do.” -Ross to Film School Rejects
- “When we said we wanted the same roles as men, we didn't mean literally.” (paraphrased)

CAST:

- Sandra Bullock
 - Debbie Ocean, a professional thief and Danny Ocean's sister. She returns to her life of crime because it's "what she's good at" and to enact revenge on her ex-boyfriend Claude, who is the reason she went to jail
 - past films: *Speed* (1994), *While You Were Sleeping* (1995), *Practical Magic* (1998), *Miss Congeniality* (2000), *Two Weeks Notice* (2002), *Crash* (2004), *The Proposal* (2009), and *The Heat* (2013), *The Blind Side* (2009), *Gravity* (2013)
 - TV: *Bionic Showdown: The Six Million Dollar Man and the Bionic Woman* (1989), NBC sitcom *Working Girl*.
 - produced: *Two Weeks Notice*, *Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous*, and *All About Steve*.
 - EP on “George Lopez” talk show

- Cate Blanchett
 - Lou, Debbie's girlfriend and partner in crime
 - heavily recognized: two Academy Awards, three Golden Globe Awards, three BAFTA Awards, six AACTA Awards, and three Screen Actors Guild Awards.
 - film: *Elizabeth* (1998), *The Aviator* (2004), *Blue Jasmine* (2014), *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999), Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy (2001–2003) and *The Hobbit* trilogy (2012–2014), *Babel* (2006), *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (2008), *Robin Hood* (2010), *Cinderella* (2015), and *Thor: Ragnarok* (2017)
 - has done plays/broadway: *The Present* (2017) received Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, and Drama League Award nominations
 - has been awarded the Centenary Medal for Service to Australian Society by the Australian government
- Anne Hathaway
 - Daphne Kluger, an air-headed celebrity and the target of the heist to set a revenge plot on Claude
 - awards: Academy Award, a Golden Globe, a British Academy Film Award, and an Emmy.
 - TV: *The Princess Diaries* (2001),
 - Film: *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006), *Rachel Getting Married* (2008), *Bride Wars* (2009), *Valentine's Day* (2010), *Love & Other Drugs* (2010), *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012), *Les Misérables* (2012), *Interstellar* (2014), *The Intern* (2015), *Alice in Wonderland* (2010), *Alice Through the Looking Glass* (2016).
 - She is a gender equality ambassador for the UN.
- Mindy Kaling
 - Amita, a jewelry maker who is eager to move away from her domineering mother
- Sarah Paulson
 - Tammy, a suburban mom and profiteer. She is reluctant to rejoin Debbie and Lou, but is swayed by the amount of money she will make
- Awkwafina
 - Constance, a loudmouthed street hustler and pickpocket
- Helena Bonham Carter
 - Rose Weil, a ditzy, disgraced fashion designer who is deeply in debt to the IRS
- Rihanna
 - Nine Ball, a technical genius whose real name is Leslie. Her nickname refers to the fact that she uses a Nine Ball as a computer mouse
 - took advantage of her Island roots to play up her character
 - “The minute we sort of found the Bob Marley coat and the dreadlocks, she could be free from a glamorous persona to realize that this is something that she could play that would be fun for her.” -Ross to Film School Rejects
 - Ross said she was a wonderful actor: “I can't say enough about her. She's an amazing presence on the set. She's an amazing woman. She's one of the

kindest people I've ever met. So unbelievably talented, and just owned the character. It was easy and a pleasure."

- All the cast was starstruck by her on set
 - "I think we all got stupid and giddy every time she walked on set. We wanted to be the one she liked the best when she walked on set."
-Sandra Bullock to BET
- Richard Armitage as Claude Becker, the main villain, an art dealer and Debbie's ex-boyfriend who got her sent to prison.
- James Corden as John Frazier, the insurance fraud investigator who looks into the theft. He has a history with the Oceans, as he caught Debbie's father twice and Danny once
- Additionally, Dakota Fanning cameos as Penelope Stern, a celebrity who Kluger is jealous of. Elliott Gould and Shaobo Qin reprise their roles from the previous films as Reuben Tishkoff and "The Amazing" Yen, respectively. Matt Damon and Carl Reiner were also set to reprise their roles as Linus Caldwell and Saul Bloom, but their scenes were cut
- Marlo Thomas, Dana Ivey, Mary Louise Wilson and Elizabeth Ashley appear as elderly actresses who help the crew shift their stolen gems
- Other celebrity cameo appearances as themselves in the film include Anna Wintour, Zayn Malik, Katie Holmes, Maria Sharapova, Serena Williams, Kim Kardashian, Adriana Lima, Kylie Jenner, Alexander Wang, Nina Cuso, Kendall Jenner, Gigi Hadid, Lily Aldridge, Olivia Munn, Zac Posen, Hailey Baldwin, Derek Blasberg, Heidi Klum, and Lauren Santo Domingo

DIRECTING: (Gary Ross)

- Previous Projects: Pleasantville, Seabiscuit, The Hunger Games (didn't direct sequels b/c of rushed production schedule)
- writing: *Big, Dave*
- wrote and produced the animated feature *The Tale of Despereaux*,
- 4 Academy Award nominations
- went to UPenn, didn't graduate
- wrote children's book "Bartholomew Biddle and the Very Big Wind"
- good friends with trilogy director Steven Soderbergh, who produced *Ocean's 8*; collaborated informally for over 20 years
 - "At one point in his life, he was kind of living in my guest room when my kids were one years old." -Ross to Film School Rejects
 - was also a producer on Pleasantville, which Ross directed

TRIVIA

- Director Gary Ross worked on Ted Kennedy's 1980 presidential campaign; consulted on both Michael Dukakis's and Bill Clinton's Presidential campaigns
- Eddy Kiernan played herself in the movie, the director of the Met Gala
 - "She originally just had one scene, but as we began to expand the detail of what Paulson was doing behind the scenes to kind of make this run, Eaddy's work

expanded. She was a really good actress so she ended up with a sizable part even though it's what she does in real life." -Ross to Film School Rejects

- Late *Ocean's* trilogy producer Jerry Weintraub wrote in his book they would "never" be able to find a cast like *Ocean's 11*. He helped early on in *Ocean's 8*, though, and realized they had a great cast and was excited for the film.
- James Corden played Debbie's (Sandra Bullock) confidant
- Cate and Sandra would bring their kids to set
- The necklace in the movie is worth \$100 million.

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Eigil Bryld)

- Ross wanted to depict the Met Gala as accurately as possible so he collaborated with Vogue: they gave him assistance and they gave him access.
 - "we were in a pretty constant dialogue all the way through, with what we were shooting and what I was planning and what the design was" -Ross to Film School Rejects
 - International Editor of Vogue Hamish Bowles consulted on costumes and provided original dresses from designers Alexander McQueen, Galliano, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Valentino, etc
- was very logistically challenging to film because Rihanna's always busy, Cate was about to leave to do a play, and Mindy has her TV show
- logistics of the Met Ball Heist: Ross was very focused on details
 - "It's like they need to be crafty and intelligent, and that's obviously about creating both obstacles and solutions... it really is about carefully crafting the pieces so that the audience can effortlessly follow that logic...you want them to be curious but not confused" - Ross to Film School Rejects
 - inspired by Kubrick's *The Killing*
 - shooting the heist was the most time-consuming, Ross was "meticulous" about it
 - he would shoot one or two parts of the heist in a day which would only last a few seconds on screen
 - "The difficulty really in shooting the scenes is that you're always having to have a very accelerated sense of time in your head understanding how these pieces are gonna fit together." -Ross to Film School Rejects

EDITING/VFX (Juliette Welfling)

- Editing the heist was easy because it was so planned out ahead of time.
 - "Juliette showed me a first cut of a heist and I was like 'Well, this is great.' I was just excited and fine because she said, 'I just had every shot I needed, the minute I wondered if I had something, I had it.'" -Ross to Film School Rejects
 - There wouldn't have been much flexibility with editing it: "If you have problems editorially in a sequence like this then you have really big problems, because you didn't think it out correctly."

SOUND/MUSIC (Daniel Pemberton)

- past films: *Molly's Game*, *All the Money in the World*, *Steve Jobs*
- Billboard: "a jolt of mischief that's backed by vibrant live horns and a collection of badass songs from popular artists"
- features Nancy Sinatra, The Notorious B.I.G., Amy Winehouse, and The Black Keys (acoustic)
- a quirkier sound than the original Ocean's trilogy: "I wanted to capture the groove and swagger of those films, but at the same time wanted to give a twist to this new version of the story." -Pemberton to Billboard
- rhythmic, groove-based score featuring big brass instruments
- worked closely with Ross on recording soundtrack
- all recorded in NY at Power Station and Electric Lady; put together band of NY musicians

PROMOTION

- AMC theaters hosted preview screenings as part of a "girls night out" promotion ; guests were given a collectible notebook and pen, and an order of gourmet popcorn. For AMC locations with a MacGuffins, guests could purchase AMC's cocktail, "The Heist" (peach vodka, triple sec, orange juice and a splash of soda)
- Sarah Paulson, Sandra Bullock and Awkwafina went on The Late, Late Show with James Corden and "forgot" he was in the movie; Paulson shared about her real life experience stealing a designer jumpsuit from a store; shared secret skills before fame (Sandra Bullock used to be the opening dance act for a drag group in NC); the cast and James did a skit together (links below under media)

BOX OFFICE

- Earned \$41.5 million domestically during opening weekend, \$54.7 globally
- best performing film of the franchise so far
- fell behind the opening weekends of Ocean's 11-13

RECEPTION

- Rotten Tomatoes: 69%
 - "*Ocean's 8* isn't quite as smooth as its predecessors, but still has enough cast chemistry and flair to lift the price of a ticket from filmgoers up for an undemanding caper."
- Cinemascore: B+
- Overtook "Solo" as top movie at the box office:
- Variety: "beat the franchise reboot curse"
- Forbes- it's an easy, breezy heist which is part of the appeal: "While it's not unfair to criticize the film for being almost wholly lacking in tension, suspense or actual conflict, that's also one of the critical factors in its appeal and its success."
- The Guardian- not enough tension: "Where were the climactic crises and heroic solutions? Where were the big moments where it all goes wrong and then right in unexpected ways? Where were the flashbacks disclosing that we, the audience, have

been played? Where, in fact, was the dramatic interest? Nowhere. It just blandly settles on a note of sentimental self-congratulation and unruffled triumph.”

- The Independent- too silly and too many cameos; Debbie has unclear motives
- The New Yorker- artless, not visually pleasing enough: “It’d be nice if the “all-female reboot” were odder, less straightforward, more beautiful than the male versions—something that felt like the film equivalent of swapping a tux for a surprising Met Ball gown.”
 - done too by-the-book: “Nothing in this movie is trying to be *interesting*, but everything in it gets the job done.”
- Deadline- “the film is loaded with style, fun twists, and exactly what you hope for in summer escapist fare.” great satirical take on fashion industry, great casting- Cate plays well off of Sandra

SEQUELS

- Oprah told ET she would be down to star in a sequel of *Ocean’s 8*
 - she had a cameo in *Ocean’s 13*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQZd4bNOSAI>
- The cast told Refinery29 they’re game for a sequel, but it depends on box office performance.

MEDIA

https://www.billboard.com/files/styles/article_main_image/public/media/oceans-8-2018-billboard-1548_0.jpg

https://www.bet.com/celebrities/news/2018/06/07/sandra-bullock-cast-of-oceans-8-rihanna/_jcr_content/image.large2x1image.dimg/___1528381285384___1528307590593/060618-celebrities-oceans-8-rihanna.jpg

https://cdn1.thr.com/sites/default/files/imagecache/scale_crop_768_433/2018/06/o8-09099r_copy_-_h_2018.jpg

James Corden interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y17tpFh4sbY> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=23&v=K5lmXgKi6V0

James Corden skit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rhk6aavBxY>