

SOLO (2018)

- Released May 25th, 2018
- 2 hrs 15 minutes
- \$250 million budget (Estimated)
- Directed by Ron Howard
- Written by Jonathan Kasdan, Lawrence Kasdan
- Lucasfilm, Walt Disney Pictures, Allison Shearmur Productions
- Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi action/violence

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Marisa Serafini
- Christian Bladt
- Demetri Panos

DEVELOPMENT

- Before selling Lucasfilm to Disney in 2012, George Lucas had already started development on a film about a young Han Solo, and he had hired Star Wars veteran script writer Lawrence Kasdan to write the screenplay
- When Kasdan left to help finish the script for Star Wars: The Force Awakens, he left his son Jonathan Kasdan, who had been unofficially helping him, in charge of finishing the script for Solo until his return
- In February 2013, Disney CEO Bob Iger confirmed the development of two Star Wars standalone films, each individually written by Kasdan and Simon Kinberg
- Shortly thereafter, it was reported that Disney was working on two films featuring Solo and Boba Fett
- Disney CFO Jay Rasulo described the standalone films as origin stories
- Kathleen Kennedy explained that the standalone films would not crossover with the films of the sequel trilogy:
 - "George [Lucas] was so clear as to how that works. The canon that he created was the Star Wars saga. Right now, Episode VII falls within that canon. The spin-off movies, or we may come up with some other way to call those films, they exist within that vast universe that he created. There is no attempt being made to carry characters (from the standalone films) in and out of the saga episodes. Consequently, from the creative standpoint, it's a roadmap that George made pretty clear."
- In April 2015, Lucasfilm and Kennedy announced that the standalone films would be referred to as the Star Wars Anthology series
- In July 2015, Lucasfilm announced that an Anthology film, focusing "on how [a] young Han Solo became the smuggler, thief, and scoundrel whom Luke Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi first encountered in the cantina at Mos Eisley", would be released on May 25, 2018
- The project was to be directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller from a script by Lawrence Kasdan and Jonathan Kasdan

- Kennedy would serve as a producer on the film, with Lawrence Kasdan and Jason McGatlin executive producers; Allison Shearmur and Simon Emanuel also produce
- The Han Solo project was separate from a film that was originally being developed by Josh Trank, which was pushed back to an unconfirmed date
- Solo's friend, the Wookiee, Chewbacca, would also appear in the film
- In May 2016, Lawrence Kasdan stated that filming would start in January 2017

WRITING (Jonathan Kasdan, Lawrence Kasdan)

- Jonathan Kasdan
 - Jon Kasdan's first acting performance in a major motion picture was at the tender age of 12 in "The Big Chill" as the son of Harold, played by Kevin Kline.
 - Then at age 14 Jonathan Peter Kasdan went on to play an outpost boy in what many critics consider to be the best Western of all times: "Silverado," also starring Kevin Kline as misfit-turned-sheriff Payden, Kevin Kostner's character Jake, Scott Glenn's portrayal of Emmett, and of course, Danny Glover as Malcolm "Mal" Johnson, in their oft awkward efforts to bring justice to the Old American West.
 - Born September 30, 1979, despite having just turned 18, Jon played the 'boy' in a doctor's office in "The Accidental Tourist" alongside William Hurt, Kathleen Turner and Geena Davis.
 - In 1990 Jon was a lovable Dominic in the John Kostmayer comedy "I Love You to Death," again with Kevin Kline.
 - But instead of having a big breakaway role in the 1994 neo-classic Western "Wyatt Earp," the strapping 23-year-old man played the role of Bar Boy with leading man Kevin Kline. Alas, with a handsome boyish face, Jon had to settle for winning the trifecta of his third-in-a-row boy role.
 - In 2002 he acted in two films as a trainee in Big trouble and Barry in Slackers.
 - Continuing the dream in 2003 Jonathon played a larger role as Defuniak in Dreamcatcher with Morgan Freeman.
 - But in 2007 Jon Kasdan bypassed mere acting, taking the helm of the dramatic romantic comedy, "In the Land of Woman," as its 36-year-old writer/director. In an impressive finish for his directorial debut, his \$11 million budget movie earned \$12 million at the box office.
 - Then lightning struck twice as 41-year-old Jonathan Kasdan had two films released the same week in January of 2012, as writer/director of "The First Time" with Dylan O'Brien and Britt Robertson, and back as an actor in the role of Officiant in the Sony Pictures Classics "Darling Companion" with Diane Keaton and Kevin Kline who all got upstaged by a dog named Freeway.
 - But if anything, Jonathan Kasdan is an overcomer. Having been diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma at age 17, he went on to act, direct and write films. His television presence is memorable as an actor in Dawson's Creek and noteworthy is his writing of Freaks and Geeks.

- Jonathan is the brother of actor Jake Kasdan and son of Lawrence and Meg Kasdan, both famous directors and writers who, remarkably, have been married since 1971.
- And what's next for Jon Kasdan? An action Comedy called "My Spy" co-written with his brother Jake. Oh, and a yet unnamed 2018 Han Solo Star Wars Anthology starring Alden Ehrenreich as Han, where Jon shares the screenplay credit with his father Lawrence Kasdan.
- It all goes to show that in an industry that sometimes is faulted for having a dearth in creativity, with a family like the Kasdans's, there's hope for Hollywood
- Lawrence Kasdan was born on January 14, 1949 in Miami, Florida, USA. He is a writer and producer, known for The Big Chill (1983), Silverado (1985) and Wyatt Earp (1994). He has been married to Meg Kasdan since November 28, 1971. They have two children
- *Solo* took place around 10 years before *A New Hope* in the Star Wars timeline. Polygon reports that *Rebels'* third season, in which Darth Maul finds Obi-Wan on Tatooine, takes place around two years before *A New Hope*.

STORY/TOPICS

- Movie as a stand-alone
- Movie as a prequel
 - The "Rebels" who appear at the end of the film have an alien fighter in their company with a black mask over his alien face, and two tubes coming out of his face. This is Benthic, later Saw Gerra's second-in-command in *Rogue One*. The character also appeared in some post-*Rogue One* Marvel comics taking place after *A New Hope*, in which he meets the "main" classic trilogy heroes
- Comparisons to Harrison Ford
- Does it ruin Lando or Solo in the old films?
- Friendship with Chewie
- Love story (ties to Lea)
- Themes of movie
- Good guys vs bad guys?
- Larger context of galaxy
- Darth Maul
- Political Inclusion (droid agenda + Lando's pansexuality)

CAST:

- In January 2016, a shortlist of actors was revealed for the role of young Han Solo, including Miles Teller, Ansel Elgort, Dave Franco, Jack Reynor, Scott Eastwood, Logan Lerman, Emory Cohen and Blake Jenner
- In March 2016, it was reported that Alden Ehrenreich, Reynor and Taron Egerton were on a shortlist of actors considered for the young Han Solo role

- In May 2016, Ehrenreich was reported to have been cast as the young Han Solo, and was revealed in the role at Star Wars Celebration: Celebration Europe III two months later
- Miller called casting the role one of "the hardest casting challenges of all time" adding they "saw over 3,000 people for the part"
- By the following October, Tessa Thompson, Naomi Scott, Zoë Kravitz, Emilia Clarke, Kiersey Clemons, Jessica Henwick and Adria Arjona were being considered for the female lead, while Donald Glover was being considered to play a young Lando Calrissian
- Glover was confirmed for Calrissian shortly after, with Clarke cast as the female lead the following month
- In early January 2017, Woody Harrelson was revealed to be in negotiations to portray Han Solo's mentor, and was confirmed to be appearing in the film shortly after
- Christian Bale had previously been in discussions for the role
- A subsequent interview with Harrelson bolstered speculation that he may be specifically playing Star Wars Legends character Garris Shrike, but Harrelson revealed the character's name as Beckett in March 2017
- In February 2017, Phoebe Waller-Bridge joined the cast in an undisclosed role, said to be "a CGI-driven performance" similar to Alan Tudyk in Rogue One as the droid K-2SO
- Additionally, it was reported that Thandie Newton was in negotiations to star in the film
- Waller-Bridge and Newton were confirmed as being cast by the end of February, alongside the announcement that Joonas Suotamo would appear as Chewbacca, reprising the role from Star Wars: The Force Awakens and Star Wars: The Last Jedi that he shared with original Chewbacca actor Peter Mayhew
- Michael K. Williams entered talks to join the film in early March 2017, and was confirmed shortly after, portraying a half-human, half-animal creature
- By the end of the month, Ian Kenny had joined the cast
- Warwick Davis was confirmed as part of the cast by the end of July 2017

ALDEN EHRENREICH (Han Solo)

- A cynical smuggler who is a part of Beckett's crew
- When asked how Solo differs from the Solo of latter *Star Wars* films, Ehrenreich stated, "I think the main thing that's different is that the Han we meet in this film is more of an idealist."
- He has certain dreams that he follows, and we watch how it affects him as those dreams meet new realities – realities that are harder and more challenging than he'd expected."
- The original Han Solo actor, Harrison Ford, met with Ehrenreich, giving him some insight and words of advice
- Alden Ehrenreich was the first actor to audition for directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller. The directors said in July 2016 that while they liked a lot of the other actors they read with, they increasingly said, "The first guy we saw was the best for the part," and that led them to eventually cast Ehrenreich as Han Solo

- “[Alden] didn't have to be Han Solo. He had to be somebody becoming Han Solo, because the movie's...it's about what forces were at work that taught Han Solo that it's better to shoot first than second. And that's the movie.” - Bettany

JOONAS SUOTAMO (Chewbacca)

- Director Ron Howard said that one of the best experiences on this movie was directing Chewbacca, and subsequently getting a hug from him
- Joonas Suotamo wrote a heartfelt letter to Peter Mayhew saying that he was doing his role not just for Star Wars fans, but for Mayhew himself

WOODY HARRELSON (Beckett)

- A criminal and Han's mentor
- The character of Beckett was based on Long John Silver from *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- The character Beckett wears the Guard Disguise as seen in RETURN OF THE JEDI, which is later worn by Lando Calrissian in an attempt to save Han from Jabba the Hutt. The disguise is likely stored on the Millennium Falcon

EMILIA CLARKE (Qi'ra)

- Han's former lover. Describing her character, Clarke said: "She has a couple of guises, but essentially she is just fighting to stay alive
- If you've got a really glamorous lady in a really sordid environment, you kind of know the glamor is hiding a few rough roads.”
- With regard to her character's relationship with Solo, Clarke offered that "They grew up as comrades, essentially. They grew up as pals, as partners in crime. There is obviously the romantic side of things. But they grew up together. So they were kids together."

DONALD GLOVER (Lando Calrissian)

- A smuggler on the rise in the galaxy's underworld
- The original Lando actor, Billy Dee Williams, met with Glover, giving him some insight and words of advice about the character

THANDIE NEWTON (Val)

- Beckett's wife, a fellow criminal and member of her husband's crew

PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE (L3-37)

- Lando's droid companion and navigator
- L3-37's name comes from the writing system known as leet. A popular form of writing on the Internet, it is when the writer uses numbers and symbols to replace similar looking letters (i.e. turning LEET into 1337)
- L3-37's memory is uploaded into the Millennium Falcon. In the radio adaptation of The Empire Strikes Back C3PO says that he's having difficulty talking to the Falcon's computer because she is "rather rude."

PAUL BETTANY (Dryden Vos)

- A ruthless crime lord who has a history with Beckett
- Michael K. Williams had originally been cast, but he was removed from the final film after being unable to return to set during the film's reshoots
- Bettany was cast in his place, with the character being reworked from a motion-capture alien (described by Williams as half-mountain lion, half-human) to a scarred near-human alien lifeform
- Initially cast Michael K. Williams after scheduling conflicts caused by the ousting of original directors Phil Lord and Chris Miller.
- “My relationship with *Star Wars* is that I'm old enough that I saw it when it first came out—*A New Hope*, that is—and it was like when Dorothy steps out of black and white into Technicolor. I was transported from a gray miserable 1970s London into a different galaxy, and I didn't know what it was, but I wanted to be a part of it. And 40 years later, I did.” -Bettany
- Paul Bettany begged Ron Howard to put him in *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, thinking he'd just be a Stormtrooper cameo. But he ended up being the movie's big bad villain.
- “[Vos] is a capitalist, so he just wants to grow. Grow and grow and grow and grow and acquire more and more and more things. People and armies and planets.” - Bettany

JON FAVREAU (Rio Durant)

- A very cool and important alien character

RAY PARK (Darth Maul)

- Darth Maul's appearance in the finale was heavily kept under wraps until the film's release. Ray Park reprised the physical role of Maul from *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace* (1999) [although this time through motion capture and not make up as before] and the voice was supplied by Sam Witwer, who voiced Maul on *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008) and *Star Wars Rebels* (2014)
- Howard said Maul was not written into the “Solo” script
- When Howard heard Maul was a possibility for the character, he said he fought hard to get the fan-favorite villain into his film.
- Howard said he always found Maul to be “really effective” as a character. The director ended up consulting with his son, a self-proclaimed “Star Wars” fanatic, to see if bringing Maul back to the franchise would make sense and satisfy other franchise fans.
- Howard said he shot the Maul scene twice so that he could perfect the villain and his reintroduction into the franchise.
- The appearance of Maul bridges some of the gaps between his resurrection on the animated series *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and his “second” death in *Star Wars Rebels*, but there are still questions hanging over what the cameo means for the franchise.

DIRECTING (Ron Howard)

- It was reported that Star Wars creator George Lucas's close friend Ron Howard, who previously had turned down an offer from Lucas himself to direct Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace, was a frontrunner to step in as director. Joe Johnston and Kasdan were also being considered, though Directors Guild of America rules state that a replacement for a director may not be someone already involved in the production
- Two days later, it was announced that Howard would take over directing duties for the remaining three-and-a-half weeks of scheduled principal photography as well as the scheduled five weeks of reshoots
- On being hired, Howard wrote, "I'm beyond grateful to add my voice to the Star Wars Universe... I hope to honor the great work already done & help deliver on the promise of a Han Solo film."
- Howard was expected to arrive in London on June 26 to complete filming
- During an interview on IMDb Me (2018), director Ron Howard explained that he always tries to give his wife Cheryl Howard a cameo in his films, since she is his 'good luck charm'. Cheryl had indeed shot a scene for Solo: A Star Wars Story, but this scene ended up being deleted from the final cut. One day, Howard shared his regret over being unable to include his wife in the film with special effects technicians at ILM. They subsequently shot Cheryl against a green screen, and digitally inserted her into another scene in the movie to give Howard his good luck charm
- "When he started on *Solo*, he called a script meeting. He invited, obviously, the Kasdans [screenwriters Lawrence and Jonathan], but he also invited the actors and he invited me, who had just arrived. And we all sat in the room and he really engaged with everybody's ideas. I was really impressed by the fact that after all that he's done, and all the success that he's had, the conclusion that he's come to is that his success comes from listening to other people." - Bettany

TRIVIA

- Harrison Ford revealed that he's seen the movie and thinks it's "phenomenal," but skipped out on the premiere with the rest of the cast because he didn't want to steal Alden Ehrenreich's thunder
- The Golden Idol (Fertility Idol) from the opening scene of Raiders Of The Lost Ark can be seen sitting on a table in the meeting room of Paul Bettany's character Dryden Vos. Harrison Ford who originally played Han Solo also played Indiana Jones in Raiders of the Lost Ark. Director Ron Howard confirmed this Easter egg on Twitter
- The martial art "Teras Kasi" is mentioned. This is a reference to the 90s Playstation video game, Star Wars: Masters of Teras Kasi, an obscure Star Wars fighting game which received terrible reviews upon release. Not surprisingly, there hasn't been a Star Wars fighting game since
- In the mine elevator on Kessel, Chewbacca tears a guard's arms out of his sockets. This refers to a line spoken by Han in the original 'Star Wars.'

- The theme of the Imperial March can be heard playing on the recruitment film featured at the beginning of the film before Han signs up to the Empire
- This film marked the first time an Academy Award-winning director ever made a Star Wars film. Also the third Academy Award nominated director (after George Lucas & Lawrence Kasdan)
- Josh Trank was originally to be signed on to direct the second Star Wars anthology film, after Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (2016), but eventually dropped out given the overwhelmingly bad press of his most recent film, Fantastic Four (2015), stating, "I want to do something original after this because I've been living under public scrutiny, as you've seen, for the last four years of my life... And it's not healthy for me right now in my life. I want to do something that's below the radar. [It's a] personal decision to move forward on a different path. I've put a tremendous amount of thought into this, and I know deep down in my heart that I want to pursue some original creative opportunities." While there is speculation that he was fired because of the many stories that detail his "erratic" behavior on the set of his Fantastic Four reboot, Trank has since denied this as being a fact. Although Trank's film was meant to be the second anthology film, being released 2018, the film in question would not have been this film, according to Entertainment Weekly it would have been a Boba Fett/bounty hunter movie. Apparently it came so close to being officially announced, Lucasfilm even prepared a teaser reel to show at Star Wars Celebration in spring of 2015, but was pulled last minute. Lucasfilm President Kathleen Kennedy all but confirms this notion in a recent /Film interview, stating "And to be perfectly honest, we have changed the order of [the spin-offs] at the last minute."

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Bradford Young)

- Filming began on January 30, 2017, at Pinewood Studios, under the working title Star Wars: Red Cup
- By February 10, the film had spent \$54.5 million on production
- Lucasfilm announced that principal photography started on February 20, 2017
- Bradford Young serves as the cinematographer for the film
- In May 2017, filming moved to Tre Cime di Lavaredo and Monte Piana in the Dolomites in Veneto, Italy, and to the Canary Islands
- Lucasfilm replaced editor Chris Dickens with Pietro Scalia and hired an acting coach for Ehrenreich because they were unhappy with his performance
- On June 20, 2017, citing "creative differences", Lucasfilm and Lord and Miller jointly announced their intent to part ways, with a new director "to be announced soon"
- It was reported that the directors were fired after Kennedy and Kasdan disagreed with their shooting style; Lord and Miller believed they were hired to make a comedy film, while Lucasfilm was looking for the duo to add "a comedic touch" to the space fantasy
- Lucasfilm also felt that the directors were encouraging too much improvisation from the actors, which was believed to be "shifting the story off-course" from the Kasdans' script
- To appease Kasdan, who was unhappy with scenes not being filmed "word for word... Lord and Miller would do several takes exactly as written and then shoot additional takes."

- Lord and Miller refused to compromise on the way to approach certain scenes, such as filming a scene from fewer angles than what Lucasfilm was expecting, thereby reducing the options available in editing and leading to a strained relationship with Lucasfilm
- The duo were also unhappy when Kasdan was brought to the London set, feeling he became a "shadow director"
- The decision to remove Lord and Miller from the project was made after a short hiatus in filming taken to review the footage. Additional weeks of filming had been planned
- In March 2018, after it was reported Howard had reshot around 70% of the film, it was announced that the original directors Lord and Miller would not challenge for director credit and instead agreed to receive the title of executive producer on the project
- During the film's reshoots, actor Michael K. Williams was unable to return to the production, due to a schedule conflict with filming The Red Sea Diving Resort, resulting in his part being cut. Williams stated the reshoots for his character were "to match the new direction which the producers wanted Ron to carry the film in", and that he would not have been available again until November 2017, and the production did not want to wait for his availability in order to still be able to release in May 2018
- Lucas, a friend and mentor of Howard due to previous collaborations, made a surprise visit to the set to encourage his friend on his first day shooting. While originally meant as a short meeting, Lucas ended up spending the whole day with the crew. While Lucas did not mean to interfere, at some point he forgot and asked "Why doesn't Han just do this?" Upon hearing Lucas' suggestion, Howard decided to film it and include it in the film
- On October 17, 2017, Howard announced that principal photography had been completed; he also revealed the official title of the film as Solo: A Star Wars Story

EDITING/VFX (Pietro Scalia)

- Post-production was wrapped on April 22, 2018

SOUND/MUSIC (John Powell)

- In July 2017, John Powell was announced as the main composer of the film's score
- Longtime Star Wars composer John Williams composed and conducted the Han Solo theme titled, "The Adventures of Han" for the film
- Powell began writing the music in late 2017 after finishing his work on Ferdinand
- In December 2017, Williams wrote two musical pieces and combined them to create Han's theme
- The following month, Williams recorded the demos with the Recording Arts Orchestra of Los Angeles at the Newman Scoring Stage
- Powell interpolated Williams' new theme into his score, as well as incorporating previous music by Williams from previous films, including the Star Wars main title, and several motifs and cues from A New Hope, The Empire Strikes Back, and The Phantom Menace
- Powell revealed the track listing on his Instagram page
- Walt Disney Records released the soundtrack album on May 25

PROMOTION

- *Solo: A Star Wars Story* had its world premiere on May 10, 2018 in Los Angeles, and also screened on May 15, 2018 at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival
- The film debuted in selected countries on May 23rd and had its US release on May 25, 2018, the 41st anniversary of the release of *Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope*, in which Harrison Ford first appeared as Han Solo
- A "sneak peek" TV spot was released during Super Bowl LII on February 4, 2018
- It became the most popular Super Bowl trailer on YouTube with 8 million views. It also had 5.9 million views on Facebook
- The first official teaser trailer was released on February 5, 2018. Graeme McMillan of The Hollywood Reporter criticized the trailer as "dull", and compared it negatively to the look of *Rogue One*, opining that the visuals "should be the hive of scum and villainy of the Cantina of the very first movie, filled with colorful aliens and things happening all over the place. That busyness, the sense of danger and hustle, feels appropriate for Solo in a way that what's on show in this first trailer simply doesn't." He also noted that several plot elements presented in the trailer were reminiscent of The Han Solo Trilogy, a series of novels published in 1997 and 1998
- In early March 2018, French artist Hachim Bahous asserted that Disney had plagiarized a series of album covers he designed for Sony Music's label Legacy Recordings in France with character posters for the film. Disney stated they were investigating the alleged plagiarism and that the *Solo* posters had been produced by an outside vendor
- In the weeks leading up to the film, EA Capital Games announced that new characters based on the film will eventually be collectible and playable in the mobile game *Star Wars: Galaxy of Heroes*, including a younger Han Solo and Chewbacca as they appeared in the film. Both characters became unlockable on May 17, 2018, via a two-day limited-time event titled "Preparation Perfection"
- In a wonderful bit of pop cultural synergy, Lucasfilm's YouTube series "The Star Wars Show" has delivered a video in which Howard recaps *A New Hope* in the style of Arrested Development which he produced and narrated, summing up the tangled Skywalker family saga just as he did the Bluths'. The stories have more in common than you'd think, including both incestuous attractions and severed hands

BOX OFFICE

- As of May 29, 2018, *Solo: A Star Wars Story* has grossed \$110.3 million in the United States and Canada, and \$69.7 million in other territories, for a total worldwide gross of \$180 million.
- With an estimated production budget of around \$250 million (and some sources listing it at more than \$300 million), the film will need to gross at least \$500 million worldwide in order to break even
- Initial projections three weeks before its release had the film grossing around \$170 million over its four-day Memorial Day opening weekend. Deadline Hollywood noted that it was tracking higher than the previous *Star Wars* spin-off film, *Rogue One* (which debuted to \$155 million), and had more interest from audiences than the likes of fellow blockbusters Spider-Man: Homecoming and Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2

- After its first day of pre-sales, Fandango announced the film was the second-best seller of advance tickets in 2018, after Avengers: Infinity War
- At the week of its release, projections had the film making \$135–170 million over the four-day frame, with Disney predicting a \$130–150 million debut
- The film opened in 4,381 theaters, the ninth-highest total ever, including 3,300 3D locations and 400 IMAX screens. It grossed \$14.1 million from Thursday night previews, the lowest of the Disney *Star Wars* films but the best-ever for Memorial Day weekend, besting the \$13.2 million made by Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End in 2007
- Including Thursday previews, the film made \$35.6 million on its first day, lowering weekend projections to \$115 million. It grossed just \$84.4 million in its opening weekend (and \$103 million over the four-day weekend), far below projections and marking the lowest *Star Wars* debut since Attack of the Clones in 2002, although it did set a new career-high opening for Howard.
- Deadline Hollywood compared the below-expectations opening to Justice League the previous November, and attributed it to fan negativity toward the concept and the behind-the-scenes problems, as well as competition from Deadpool 2 and Avengers: Infinity War and the feeling of *Star Wars* over-saturation

RECEPTION

- RT: 70% Tatometer / 60% Audience
 - "A flawed yet fun and fast-paced space adventure, *Solo: A Star Wars Story* should satisfy newcomers to the saga as well as longtime fans who check their expectations at the theater door."
- IMDB: 7.2/10
- Cinemascore: A-
- Writing for Rolling Stone, Peter Travers gave the film 2.5 stars out of 4, complimenting the cast but criticizing the lack of creativity, saying, "somehow Han Solo – the roguish *Star Wars* hellion famous for breaking all the rules – finds himself in a feel-good movie that doesn't break any."
- Bernard Boo of PopMatters wrote, "If what you want from a Star Wars movie is an action-adventure romp, and the last two movies in the franchise (*The Last Jedi* and *Rogue One*) felt a little too dreary and heavy on pathos, *Solo* is sure to lift your spirits and give you more thrills than you can handle. Some of the action sequences are seriously breathtaking and will keep you teetering on the edge of your seat."
- A. O. Scott of The New York Times said, "It doesn't take itself too seriously, but it also holds whatever irreverent, anarchic impulses it might possess in careful check."
- Michael Rechtshaffen of The Hollywood Reporter praised the cast and production value but felt the film as a whole felt too safe, writing, "while Ehrenreich's Solo proves adept at maneuvering the Millennium Falcon out of some tight spots, the picture itself follows a safely predictable course. Missing here are the sort of plot-related or visual curveballs thrown by Rian Johnson's *The Last Jedi* or Gareth Edwards with *Rogue One*."

SEQUELS

- Alden Ehrenreich confirmed his contract deal to appear as Han Solo, extended for two additional films, giving the studio the option to pursue a sequel to Solo: A Star Wars Story, or featuring him in other anthology films in a supporting capacity
- Ehrenreich said he would like any sequels to differentiate themselves from the previous Star Wars trilogies by being standalone, in the vein of the Indiana Jones films, rather than direct follow-ups
- Ron Howard said that while no sequel was in development, it was up to the fans to decide
- Critics noted the film intentionally left room open for sequels
- Solo writer Jon Kasdan said that he would include bounty hunter Bossk (who briefly appeared in Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back and was mentioned by Val in Solo) if he were to write a sequel for the film
- Kathleen Kennedy also said that a film focusing on Lando Calrissian could happen, but it would not be a priority at the time. Donald Glover said he would imagine it as being Catch Me If You Can in space