

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER VACATION (2018)

- July 13th, 2018
- 1 hr 37 minutes
- \$80 million budget (Estimated)
- Directed by Genndy Tartakovsky
- Written by Michael McCullers, Genndy Tartakovsky
- Production company: Sony Animation Pictures
- Rated PG for some action and rude humor
- Premiered at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival on June 13, 2018

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Marisa Serafini
- Phil Svitek

DEVELOPMENT

- First animated film that was dubbed into Arabic for Saudi Arabian audiences
- September 2015, Michelle Murdocca, the film's producer, said before the second film's release that the studio was "talking about number 3 and moving forward and taking the franchise to the next level."
- In November 2015, Sony Pictures Animation announced that the third film, under the tentative title of *Hotel Transylvania 3*, had been set for release on September 21, 2018.
- Tartakovsky later announced that he would return as the director for the third installment. He returned after he received inspiration from a "miserable" family vacation, and from the Chevy Chase *National Lampoon's Vacation* movies, as the film takes place aboard a cruise ship.
- *Summer Vacation* was originally scheduled for release on September 21, 2018, a date that was later moved up two months, to July 13, 2018.
- Outside North America, the film is subtitled "A Monster Vacation" instead of "Summer Vacation".

WRITING (Michael McCullers, Genndy Tartakovsky)

- Russian-born filmmaker Genndy Tartakovsky drew on his feelings as an immigrant to tell a story about tolerance and acceptance.
- Tartakovsky, who was born in Moscow and came to the U.S. as a child in the '70s, tells *The Hollywood Reporter* that the film's themes has personal meaning for him. "When I immigrated in the '70s, my whole goal in life was to be accepted. It was subconscious and it started to work itself into the story." - Tartakovsky
- The decision to place the characters on a cruise ship also came from a personal experience. "I had a bad cruise experience, My in-laws surprised us with a cruise. And I started to see all these families on board and I thought it was a perfect destination for our monster family — it's a hotel on water." - Tartakovsky
- One idea in *Hotel Transylvania* that was dropped pertained to Johnny being a descendant of Van Helsing, which would have created more conflict between Dracula

and Johnny. This movie finally properly introduces the Helsing family into the setting, but makes the descendant Dracula's Love Interest instead

- "I always wanted to do a story of Drac falling in love." - Tartakovsky
- ZINGR: "It's definitely not my generation. I dated through normal phone calls, during pre-cell phones. I have friends who are single. That's all they do. We could sit for an hour and they can go through how many people [swiping]. That felt very contemporary still. In this day and age, it was very obvious to do a joke like that, but for monsters. It was all about the Zing." -Tartakovsky

STORY/TOPICS

CAST:

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ADAM SANDLER (Dracula)

- Drac's character further evolves as he falls in love. "We wanted to make him more vulnerable," the director says, adding with a laugh, "it must be the black socks and white shorts." - Tartakovsky

MEL BROOKS (Vlad)

- "I'm trying to think what was the ... We came up that who else could be Adam [Sandler]'s father but Mel Brooks, and so ... I'm trying to think if Adam reached out. No, I think we reached out to his agents, and he seemed interested, and then he came in and we talked."

ANDY SAMBERG (Johnny)

- "I mean it's definitely for me, lined up almost identically with how that has gone down in my real life."
- "But also I think it's kind of a little bit of an anomaly in animated movies. Like usually there's not like huge leaps of life change and that kind of thing and I enjoy that as a viewer certainly."
- "You know what they are you know what the voice is supposed to sound like. Uh-you fall into it a lot faster there's less experimenting cause you know what you wanna get more."

SELENA GOMEZ (Mavis)

- "Seeing Mavis go through all this and have kid — its nice to see to give Drac a break."
- "I think it's fun I feel comfortable with everyone.It just feels like we're getting back with old friends and doing it. I haven't seen him in six years but I enjoy every time I'm with Andy."
- "You know what's funny though is my voice changed. I was probably 17 or 18 when I did the first one. The voice just got lower and lower but I watched the first one and I can't go that high anymore. So it actually helps in my benefit that they are growing up." - Gomez
- "I'm very similar actually to Mavis just in the little sarcasticness."

KEVIN JAMES (Frank) / **FRAN DRESCHER** (Eunice)

STEVE BUSCEMI (Wayne) / **MOLLY SHANNON** (Wanda)

DAVID SPADE (Griffin)

KEEGAN MICHAEL-KEY (Murray)

- Keegan-Michael Key replaces CeeLo Green as the voice of Murray, due to Green's arrest.
- Key's fourth consecutive year in a Sony Animation film
- "I sleep 15 hours a day with lots of cover — a duvet, a comforter and plenty of sheets," he says. He also talks about what he does to create Murray's distinct voice. "I eat foods with lots of cholesterol — fried chicken, okra — all southern foods. Whatever makes you phlegmy."

DIRECTING: (Genndy Tartakovsky)

- Tartakovsky also shares a special relationship with Blobby and Baby Blobby, since he does the voice acting for these characters.
- "That's always the goal of a director," he said. "The last thing you want to do is blend in. You want to stand out, and hopefully in a good way."
- "There is no finer moment, when I sit in a screening, and the parents and the kids are all laughing at the same gag."
- "There's always a heart and emotion at its core. At the end of the day, it's a beginning and an end and 150 jokes in between. Hopefully, if you could have five good laughs—it's worth the money." -Tartakovsky
- "I think I love Dracula. He's the cartooniest probably out of everybody. He's this very extreme, extreme character if it goes through the range of emotions. At the same time, he's cool and he has great powers. He's becoming a cartoon character."

TRIVIA

- Sony Animation's first theatrical threequel. This does not include Open Season 3 (2010), as that film was released straight to DVD, same said for Smurfs: The Lost Village (2017), which was a CGI reboot to the Smurfs films rather than being another live action film
- When Dracula's phone's automated voice hears him incorrectly about "dates" it tells him the date is Friday the 13th which is the day the film was released in theaters July 13th Friday 2018
- First Hotel Transylvania film where the main antagonist is not a monster that has a strong dislike toward humans. Instead, the main antagonist is a human who has a strong dislike toward monsters
- The gremlins resemble the title monsters of the 1984 horror/comedy, but their behavior on the plane also calls to mind the, as it were, original "gremlins." Gremlins were once known to the RAF (Royal Air Force) as mischievous imps who sabotage planes.

Whenever something went wrong and no one knew why, a gremlin was blamed. During his time in the RAF, author Roald Dahl heard this myth and wrote a story about them, making gremlins famous (or, perhaps, infamous) throughout the world

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY ()

- Lizzie Nichols- Nichols is one of the visual development artists. Responsible for the the painting of environments and props. Does almost all of it with Adobe Photoshop on a Mac Pro with an attached Wacom Cintiq Companion display.
- The cruise ship in the film, the Legacy, bears a very strong resemblance to the Titanic and her sister ships Olympic and Britannic -- the Legacy just has five funnels instead of four, and is rather cartoonishly shorter and fatter than the real-life ocean liners. Fortunately, however, the film takes place in the tropics, so icebergs are not a hazard
- BLOBBY:
 - Blobby's 'blobby' nature also required, after animation, an effects pass in order to add in secondary jiggle. "There's a little back and forth there where they add secondary jiggle, but their methods are usually uniform where it does the jiggle on the whole character's body and it separates the hand from something that's supposed to be holding because it's jiggling," explained Alan Hawkins (Sony Pictures Imageworks animation supervisor)
 - "it's about just keeping him round and squishy. It's a fun character to animate because sometimes he's mindless like a jellyfish, and sometimes he's motivated. So it was fun to walk that balance of how much to show in his eyes. And then there's Baby Blobby and the Doggy Blobby. The blobby universe is always expanding."

COUNT DRACULA:

- "He would never want to have a frame or certainly anything longer than that where there would be bat nose, bat ears, human eyes, anything like layered in between," said Hawkins. "So you could do bat head, and human body for a frame, but there had to be a hard line."
- Ultimately, animators at Imageworks keep the transformations incredibly fast. There are two rigs for Dracula as a vampire and Dracula as a bat, and they animate the transition. Just having some kind of a cool transfer of energy into that bat motion is the key thing."
- **KRAKEN:**
 - "He's massive compared to everything else in that world," the animation supervisor said.
 - Kraken's mouth. It was able to expand and compress in a variety of ways and, says Hawkins, was almost like a character itself. "We had to work out, where does all that geometry go when you open those shapes up so much?"
 - Imageworks actually developed two different rigs for the creature's body since he is first seen as really only a head and tentacles, and then later in full form. "Our second one had a whole torso just for a couple of scenes," said Hawkins. "And then we had some other tricks – because you don't always see the connection of

the tentacles to the body, we had separate tentacles that would just be available to use wherever you want. They were a separate character, so you could have the Kraken's face here, and then just the tentacle right there. You didn't have to worry about how they connect because they're totally different rigs."

EDITING/VFX (Joyce Arrastia)

- Joyce Arrastia is known for her work on Rise of the Guardians (2012), The Firm (1993) and Monsters vs. Aliens (2009)

SOUND/MUSIC (Mark Mothersbaugh, Tiësto)

- Mark Mothersbaugh returned to score the third film, having previously scored the first two installments
- Mothersbaugh- transformed himself into a prolific and in-demand film and television composer after the group, Devo's fortunes peaked in the '80s.
- Mothersbaugh signed on to provide music for the popular animated television series Rugrats, and scored 169 episodes of the show, as well as the spin-off feature films The Rugrats Movie and Rugrats in Paris. (Had to add because Marisa LOVES Rugrats)
- Tiësto's "Seavolution" is the first (of 3) of the tunes to be shared. It's a monster mash of big synth horns and stomping rhythms. Comprised of some heavy bass and trap beats
 - "Wave Rider"- continuation of the first put into hardstyle mode
 - "Tear It Down" - big-room house track that takes listeners back to 2011 when the hard-hitting sub-genre dominated the electronic scene, with steady and loud kick-snare combos under roaring synths.

PROMOTION

- The first teaser trailer was released online on November 16, 2017
- The official trailer for the film was released on March 21, 2018
- A 95-second sneak peek of the film was released online via Sony Pictures Entertainment's YouTube channel on May 7, 2018
- This movie was going to be released on September 21, 2018, but it was pushed forward two months to allow Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween (2018) to take that date, though that film would later be pushed back a month to October 12th the same year

BOX OFFICE

(As of July 18th, 2018)

Domestic: \$63,605,830

Foreign: \$53,016,508

Worldwide: \$116,622,338

Opening Weekend: \$44,076,225

- (#1 rank, 4,267 theaters, \$10,330 average)

First two films have been box office successes. "Hotel Transylvania 2" made \$473.2

Sony Animation's Hotel Transylvania franchise — now sitting at \$931 million worldwide — should soon cross the \$1 billion mark.

RECEPTION

- Rotten Tomatoes: 59% Tatometer, 53% Audience
- Cinemascore: A-
- IMDb: 6.4/10

SEQUELS

- Currently on the hunt of something brand new which he can't share the details of quite yet. "I can't share," Tartakovsky said. "But I'm working on something." - Tartakovsky

MEDIA