

SKYSCRAPER (2018)

- July 13
- 2 hrs 5 minute
- \$125 million budget (Estimated)
- Directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber
- Written by Rawson Marshall Thurber
- Production company: Universal
- Rated PG-13 (for sequences of gun violence and action, and for brief strong language)

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Phil Svitek
- Demetri Panos

DEVELOPMENT

- Thurber was inspired by *Die Hard*, *Towering Inferno*, and *The Fugitive*
- On May 26, 2016, it was announced that Legendary Entertainment had won the bidding war for a Chinese-set action adventure film, *Skyscraper*, in which Dwayne Johnson was set to play the lead
- Rawson Marshall Thurber attached as a scriptwriter, film director, and producer, while Beau Flynn produced the film through his Flynn Picture Company, with Johnson's Seven Bucks Productions, and Universal Pictures handling distribution rights
- On June 22, 2017, it was reported that Neve Campbell had signed on to star with Johnson, who plays a former FBI Hostage Rescue Team leader and war veteran, who is the head of security for skyscrapers
- In July 2017, Chin Han and Pablo Schreiber joined the cast of the film, in August 2017, Byron Mann and Hannah Quinlivan also joined, and a few days later, Variety reported that Noah Taylor had also been selected
- On August 22, 2017, Roland Møller was added to the cast of the film, in one of the main roles

WRITING (Rawson Marshall Thurber)

- Neve says the script itself was a page-turner; could tell how good it was going to be

STORY/TOPICS

- FAMILY ABOVE ALL: "This idea that if we did all we could to save our kids, but then sometimes, unfortunately, it might not be enough." -Dwayne Johnson
 - "From the beginning you get the understanding of the love this family has for each other, the passion they have for each other...it's the heart of the film." -Neve
- BRAVERY: "In order to be brave, we gotta be a little scared." -Dwayne as 'Will Ford' in the movie to on-screen kid

CAST:

- Dwayne Johnson – Will Ford

- previous films: The Scorpion King, Doom, The Game Plan, Get Smart, Race to Witch Mountain, Tooth Fairy, Why Did I Get Married Too?, The Other Guys, Journey 2: The Mysterious Island, G.I. Joe: Retaliation, San Andreas, Central Intelligence, Moana, Baywatch, Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle
- TV: Ballers, Lifeline (also EP)
- he shows resilience in the film; you really see him get hit hard- beaten, bloody, bruised
- says Scorpion King (2002) was his breakout film
- Told Stephen Colbert he would “seriously” consider running for president, but not without doing his research to be prepared for the job
- He is half Samoan and has a traditional tattoo on his chest
- Dwayne said he wasn’t nervous about singing in Moana because he sang Samoan songs growing up with his family a lot.
- Daughter Simone wants to be a WWE wrestler, like he was a wrestler.
- He’s the 9th most followed person on Instagram
- Neve Campbell – Sarah Sawyer
 - TV: Catwalk, Party of Five, House of Cards
 - Film: The Craft, Wild Things, Panic, The Company, Scream movies, The Lion King 2
 - Neve is her mother’s maiden name, which means “snow”
 - loved doing her stunts and fight scenes because she was a ballerina growing up and loves physical challenges
 - said it would be hard to do another Scream movie without Wes Craven, “but you never know”
- Chin Han – Zhao Long Ji
 - Film: Three Needles, The Dark Knight, 2012, Contagion, Captain America: The Winter Soldier, Independence Day: Resurgence, Ghost in the Shell
 - TV: Arrow, Lethal Weapon
- Roland Møller – Kores Botha
 - Film: R, A Hijacking, Northwest, A Second Chance, Land of Mine, Darkland, Atomic Blonde, Papillon, The Commuter
- Noah Taylor – Mr. Pierce
 - Film: Shine, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, He Died with a Felafel in His Hand, Max, The Proposition, Submarine, Edge of Tomorrow, Paddington 2
 - TV: Preacher, Game of Thrones, Peaky Blinders, Powers, Deep Water
- Byron Man – Inspector Wu
 - Film: Red Corner, The Corruptor, Catwoman, Invincible, Street Fighter, Crying Freeman, The Man with the Iron Fists, The Big Short
 - TV: Dark Angel, Hell on Wheels, Altered Carbon, Smallville, Durham County, Arrow, Blood and Water, The Expanse

DIRECTING: (Rawson Marshall Thurber)

- Past Projects: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story, We're The Millers, Central Intelligence, Easy A
- his father is Marshall Thurber: multimillionaire attorney, real estate agent, and inspirational speaker
- Thurber was one of three aspiring screenwriters that made it big after being assistants to screenwriter John August. (Go, Charlie's Angels)

TRIVIA

- While shooting, Dwayne & wife had their baby, Neve adopted, and Rawson facetimes his wife on set while she was in labor! "There were a lot of Skyscraper babies" -Dwayne to ABC
- Dwayne said Hong Kong was the last major ancient city he'd never visited before filming.
- Dwayne was a huge fan of Neve in 'Scream' before working with her; tried to "play it cool" when they met.
- With Dwayne's help, they turned the Skyscraper set into a huge event/party with brand partners like Microsoft and Lamborghini for 'Make a Wish' kids to come hangout with the cast. (cute video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiaN56xU5T4>)

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Robert Elswit)

- Past Projects: There Will Be Blood, Trick or Treat, Amazing Grace and Chuck, Return of the Living Dead Pt. 2, Heart of Dixie, A Dangerous Woman, Heist, Imposter, Goodnight and Goodluck, Salt, Mission: Impossible–Ghost Protocol
 - Frequently works with [Michael G. Riba](#) as his first assistant cameraman
 - Frequently works with [Paul Thomas Anderson](#)
- The architectural rendering of the 225-story tall [skyscraper](#) was based on Chinese inspirations. According to the [New York Post](#) - "tasked with envisioning the architectural wonder at the center of the Hong Kong-set *Skyscraper*, production designer Jim Bissell and his team researched local myths for inspiration and came upon a Chinese fable they could work with."
- [Principal photography](#) on the film began on August 14, 2017 in [Vancouver](#), [British Columbia](#)

EDITING/VFX (Michael Sale, Julian Clarke)

- Michael Sale-
 - Past Projects: What to Expect When You're Expecting, Forgetting Sarah Marshall, Superbad, Undercover Brother, Tommy Boy,
- Julian Clarke-
 - Past Projects: Unnatural and Accidental, The Stagers, Control Alt Delete, District 9, The Whistleblower, The Thing, Elysiam, Project Almanac,

SOUND/MUSIC (Steve Jablonsky)

- Steve Jablonsky was born on October 9, 1970 in the USA

- He is known for his work on Transformers (2007), Desperate Housewives (2004) and Deepwater Horizon (2016)
- His score for the Transformers movie was released 4 months after the movie's premier. Fans of the score and the composer, started a petition when there were no news for the soundtrack album, and more than 5000 people signed the on line petition when it was announced that the score will be released. Although the composer told in interviews that an album was in production, the petition indeed helped to move things forward

PROMOTION

- *Skyscraper* was released in the United States, as well as several international territories, in 3D and standard formats on July 13, 2018 by Universal Pictures
- The film also secured a July 20, 2018 release date in China, a rarity as mainstream Hollywood films are seldom released there during the month of July, to make room for domestic films
- Universal released the first official trailer in February 2018 and the second trailer on May 23, 2018
- *Skyscraper* premiered in Beijing, on July 1, 2018 and also held a screening in Hong Kong on July 7, 2018
- Promo posters in the form of *The Towering Inferno* (1974) and *Die Hard* (1988) were created, referencing the stylistic links between those films and *Skyscraper*

BOX OFFICE

- As of July 18, 2018, *Skyscraper* has grossed \$33.9 million in the United States and Canada, and \$40 million in other territories, for a total worldwide gross of \$73.9 million, against a production budget of \$125 million
- In the United States and Canada, *Skyscraper* was released alongside the opening of *Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation*, as well as the wide expansion of *Sorry to Bother You*, and was initially projected to gross \$32–40 million from 3,782 theaters in its opening weekend
- However, after making \$1.95 million during Thursday night screenings (down from the \$2.4 million made by Johnson's *Rampage* the past April) and \$9.3 million on its first day, weekend estimates were lowered to \$24 million. The film ended up debuting to \$24.9 million, finishing third, behind *Hotel Transylvania 3* and *Ant-Man and the Wasp*
- *Deadline Hollywood* attributed the low figure to audiences having seen the plot before in other films and the July release date being in the height of the crowded summer movie season, as well as the possibility that filmgoers had become tired of seeing Johnson so frequently (although the site noted that 72% of people who bought tickets to *Skyscraper* did so because of him)

RECEPTION

- Rotten Tomatoes: 49%

- “Well-cast yet derivative, *Skyscraper* isn't exactly a towering action thriller feat, but it's solidly constructed enough to stand among the genre's more mildly diverting features.”
- Audiences polled by [CinemaScore](#) gave the film an average grade of "B+"
- [Alonso Duralde](#) of [TheWrap](#) called the film a "satisfying summer thriller," while acknowledging the familiar plot, and writing, "*Skyscraper* doesn't change the action-movie game the way *Die Hard* did, but it's a solidly entertaining summer diversion best enjoyed on the biggest theater — or even better, drive-in — screen you can find."
- Writing for [Entertainment Weekly](#), Chris Nashawaty found the film to be a weak remake of *Die Hard*, giving it a "C-" rating and stating: "It's all passively watchable, but the main problem is that writer-director Rawson Marshall Thurber (*Central Intelligence*) hasn't come up with a villain nearly as memorable as [Alan Rickman's](#) Hans Gruber. I know that comparison may seem unfair, but when you're ripping off *Die Hard* this shamelessly, it's kind of not."

LEGACY

- [Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson](#) is paying tribute to the amputee community after facing criticism for his role in his latest action movie “*Skyscraper*.”
- Johnson surprised amputees at NYU Langone Health’s Limb Loss Program at the Rusk Rehabilitation Institute after a screening of the action film Sunday.
- "Unforgettable time spent with amputees, Dr’s & friends showing them SKYSCRAPER. Thank you for the love and support of our film and me playing an amputee,” Johnson tweeted to his 12 million followers.