

SURROUNDED BY THE FORCE

By Charles Apple | THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

The original "Star Wars" movie was released in U.S. theaters 45 years ago this summer. There's only one way to celebrate: Make sure you've watched — and rewatched — every major onscreen incarnation of that galaxy far, far away ...

George Lucas' original film cost \$11 million but caught Hollywood off guard by grossing \$775.4 million worldwide — that's \$3.6 billion in today's dollars.

Star Wars
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
May 25, 1977



Most of the "Star Wars" cast returned for this CBS TV special that's regarded as truly awful. Lucas has pretty much disowned it, but copies can be found online.

Star Wars Holiday Special
TV SPECIAL
Broadcast:
Nov. 17, 1978



A darker film than the original, the big plot twist at the end shocked fans and sent them buying tickets to see it again and again.

The Empire Strikes Back
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
May 21, 1980



Lucas wrapped up his original trilogy by making sure most of the good guys win and most of the bad guys meet their respective doom.

Return of the Jedi
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
May 25, 1983



The nauseatingly cute teddy bear-like creatures from "Return of the Jedi" get the Saturday morning treatment for 26 episodes over two seasons.

Ewoks
ANIMATED SERIES
Aired:
**Sept. 7, 1985-
Dec. 13, 1986**



The movie voice of C-3PO, Anthony Daniels, also performed in this cartoon show about the two robotic pals. The series lasted only 13 episodes and one special.

Droids
ANIMATED SERIES
Aired:
**Sept. 7, 1985-
June 7, 1986**



After a long break, Lucas again visited the "Star Wars" galaxy with a prequel trilogy. Fans who had accepted Ewoks were revolted by Jar Jar Binks.

The Phantom Menace
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
May 19, 1999



Anakin Skywalker grows up, flexes his Force powers and becomes a target for dark powers. The downsides: Subpar script work and poor acting by Hayden Christensen.

Attack of the Clones
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
May 16, 2002



This series by the Cartoon Network's Genndy Tartakovsky — of "Dexter's Laboratory" and "Samurai Jack" fame — ran for 25 episodes over three seasons.

The Clone Wars
ANIMATED SERIES
Released:
**Aug. 15, 2003-
March 25, 2005**



Still a Jedi apprentice and torn between allegiances, Anakin makes the choices that set him on the path to becoming the original trilogy's fearsome bad guy.

Revenge of the Sith
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
May 19, 2005



Lucas rebooted the Cartoon Network series as a CIV.-animated adventure that would run for 121 episodes over six seasons. Another 12 episodes were made in 2020.

The Clone Wars
ANIMATED SERIES
Aired:
**Oct. 3, 2008-
March 7, 2014**
Resumed: **2020**



Disney's first production after buying the franchise from Lucas in 2012 was set between the prequel movies and the original trilogy. It ran for 75 episodes over four seasons.

Rebels
ANIMATED SERIES
Aired:
**Aug. 11, 2014-
March 5, 2018**



With Lucas out of the picture and Disney in charge, an all-new cast of heroes picks up the fight against an empire that just loves building oversized space stations.

The Force Awakens
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
Dec. 18, 2015



Rogue One
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
Dec. 16, 2016

This stand-alone film tells the story of the stolen plans to the Empire's Death Star base — which figured prominently in the plot of the original "Star Wars."



The Last Jedi
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
Dec. 15, 2017

Young Rey seeks the aid of a retired Luke Skywalker in defeating the First Order and, in particular, a young bad guy with whom she seems mysteriously linked.



Solo
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
May 25, 2018

Ron Howard directed this prequel telling how a young Han Solo became big-time smuggler and con artist, met Chewbacca and came to own the Millennium Falcon.



Resistance
ANIMATED SERIES
Aired:
**Dec. 10, 2018-
Jan. 25, 2020**

This series about a resistance pilot-turned-spy is set in the middle of the final three films. The series ran for 40 episodes over two seasons.



The Mandalorian
TV SERIES
Aired:
**Nov. 12, 2019-
Present**

A bounty hunter is hired to retrieve a young creature powerful with the Force but then goes on the run from the empire. So far, 16 episodes have been made.



The Rise of Skywalker
MOTION PICTURE
Released:
Dec. 20, 2019

The finale of the third "Star Wars" trilogy was criticized by fans for abandoning many of the storylines set up in the first two films, all for a sappy ending.



The Bad Batch
ANIMATED SERIES
Aired:
**May 4, 2021-
Present**

The series focuses on an elite squad of clone troopers — from the Clone Wars — who have genetic mutations. Season 1 consisted of 16 episodes.



Visions
ANIMATED SERIES
Aired:
Sept. 22, 2021

A variety of Japanese animators contributed nine half-hour stand-alone animated stories set at various points within the "Star Wars" universe.



The Book of Boba Fett
TV SERIES
Aired:
**Dec. 29, 2021-
Feb. 8, 2022**

This spinoff of "The Mandalorian" follows the exploits of a bounty hunter thought to be killed in "Return of the Jedi." It ran for seven episodes.



Obi-Wan Kenobi
TV SERIES
Planned debut:
May 27, 2022

This highly anticipated series featuring Ewan McGregor will fill in some of the gaps between the prequel films and the original trilogy.



Andor
TV SERIES
Planned:
Mid-2022

Diego Luna will both produce and star in the return of his character from "Rogue One," Cassian Andor, in this prequel series to that film.



Ahsoka
TV SERIES
Planned:
Probably in 2023

In another spinoff of "The Mandalorian," Rosario Dawson will return as Ahsoka Tano — Anakin Skywalker's former apprentice before he turned to the dark side of the Force.



Rogue Squadron
MOTION PICTURE
Planned release:
Dec. 22, 2023

"Wonder Woman" director Patty Jenkins says her film will be based strongly on the popular "Rogue Squadron" series of video games and novels.