Transformers: Dark of the Moon

Transformers: Dark of the Moon is a 2011 American science fiction action film based on the Transformers toy line. First released on June 23, 2011, it is the third installment of the live-action Transformers film series. Like its predecessors, Transformers: Dark of the Moon received mixed to negative critical reception, but it earned $1,123,746,996 at the box office, making it the highest grossing film in the Transformers franchise.

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Meanwhile, Sam Witwicky is frustrated that he is unable to work with the Autobots or find a job. He also becomes envious of the close relationship between his new girlfriend, Carly Spencer, and her boss Dylan Goult. After Laserauk, Sam contacts the now-independently wealthy Seymour Simmons, and together they realize that the Decepticons and their leader, Megatron, are murdering people connected to the American and Russian space programs. Sam realizes that the Decepticons raided the Ark long before the Autobots' mission and intentionally left Sentinel and five Pillars behind to lure the Autobots into a trap — Sentinel being the key to activating the Pillars and killing the Autobot Ironhide, revealing he had made a deal with Megatron to ensure the survival of the Cybertronian race.

Sentinel uses the Pillars to transport hundreds of concealed Decepticons from the Moon to Earth. Carly is captured by the Autobots, led by Megatron, and seizes Chicago as their agents place pillars around the world. Carly reveals to Carly that the Decepticons plan to transport their homeworld of Chicago to save Carly, but they are nearly killed by Decepticon forces before the Autobots intervene, revealing they concoaled themselves during the launch of their ship to convince the Decepticons they were dead. Working together, the Autobots and human soldiers manage to rescue Carly and destroy Laserauk, Soundwave, Barricade, Starscream, and Shockwave, with Optimus using Shockwave's arm-cannon to blast the Control Bumblebee and Ratchet arrive and destroy the Control Pillar, permanently disabling the Bridge and causing the partially transported Cybertron to implode. Optimus and Sentinel fight while Carly convinces Megatron that he intervenes, incapacitating Sentinel. Megatron invokes Optimus for a truce, having the desire to become the one-in-charge again. Optimus refuses and attacks Megatron, decapitating him. Sentinel pleads for his life with Cybertron gone, Earth is now their home.

Cast
Main article: List of characters in Transformers (film series)

Humans
- Shia LaBeouf as Sam Witwicky, a recent college graduate who is once again tied to the fate of Earth's survival.
- Rosie Huntington-Whiteley as Carly Spencer, Sam's new love interest.
- Tyrese Gibson as Unified States Army Lieutenant Robert Epps, former NEST major who now works at a space shuttle.
- Josh Duhamel as U.S. Army Lt. Colonel William Lennox, the captain of the classified team known as NEST — an international taskforce battling Decepticons with the Autobots.
- John Turturro as Seymour Simmons, a former agent of the terminated Sector 7 unit who is now a professional writer.
- Patrick Dempsey as Dylan Goult, a wealthy car collector and employer of Carly Spencer who is secretly in cahoots with Megatron.
- Kevin Dunn as Ron Witwicky, Sam's father.
- Julie White as Judy Witwicky, Sam's mother.
- John Makiovich as Bruce Brazos, Sam's employer and boss at Accurate Systems.
- Frances McDormand as Charlotte Mearling, the Director of National Intelligence.
- Lester Speight as “Hardcore” Eddie, a former member of NEST.
- Alan Tudyk as Dutch, Agent Simmons' personal assistant.
- Ken Jeong as Jerry “Deep” Wang, a paranoid software programmer at Sam's work.
- Glenn Morshower as General Morshower, leader of NEST, who communicates with the squad in the Pentagon.
- Buzz Aldrin as himself, meeting Optimus Prime at the NEST headquarters.
- Bill O'Reilly as himself, interviewing Agent Simmons through his television program The O'Reilly Factor.
- Elia Baskin as Cosmonaut Dimitri, one of the two surviving Russian cosmonauts who gives Sam information on the Moon missions.

Transformers
A Peterbilt 379 is used for the alternate mode for the Autobot Optimus Prime.
- Peter Cullen as Optimus Prime, leader of the Autobots and keeper of the Matrix of Leadership.
- Hugo Weaving as Megatron, leader of the Decepticons, who is still badly wounded from the final battle of Revenge of the Fallen.
- Leonard Nimoy as Sentinel Prime, Optimus Prime's predecessor and the leader of the Autobots who transforms into a red and black Rosberauer Panther Fire Truck. He was also a mentor to Optimus.
- Jess Harnell as Ironhide, the Autobots' cantankerous weapons specialist.
- Charlie Adler as Starscream, Megatron's second-in-command.
- Robert Foxworth as Ratchet, the Autobots' medical officer.
- Kevin Dunn as Ron Witwicky, Sam's father.
- John Malkovich as Bruce Brazos, Sam's employer and boss at Accurate Systems.
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Development
As a preemptive measure before the release of Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen, Michael Bay and Paramount Pictures announced on March 16, 2009, that this third film would be released in IMAX 3D on July 1, 2011, 8 years after the release of the first film. Paramount declined to return for the third film, with Kurtzman declaring that "the franchise is so wonderful that it deserves to be fresh, all the time. We just felt like we've given it a lot and didn't have an insight for where to go next".

On October 1, 2009, Bay revealed that Transformers: Dark of the Moon had already gone into pre-production, and its planned release was based on its originally intended date of July 1, 2011, rather than 2012. Due to the re-paramount, ILM, and Bay had considered the possibility of the next Transformers film being filmed in 3-D, of the Moon had frequent meetings with Industrial Light & Magic's (ILM) visual effects producers, who suggested plot points such as the scenes in Chernobyl. In addition to using the 3-D Fusion camera rigs developed by Cameron's team, Bay and the team spent nine months developing a more portable 3-D camera that could be brought into location.

In a hidden extra for the Blu-ray version of Revenge of the Fallen, Michael Bay expressed his intention to make Transformers 3 not necessarily larger than Revenge of the Fallen, but instead deeper into the mythology, to give it more life. Bay and the team spent nine months developing a more portable 3-D camera that could be brought into location. In addition to using the 3-D Fusion camera rigs developed by Cameron's team, the Bay and the team spent nine months developing a more portable 3-D camera that could be brought into location.

 Casting
Megan Fox was originally attached to the film, and Patrick Dempsey's role as Dylan Goult was to be the employer of Fox's character, Mikaela Bane. According to various published sources, Fox's absence from the film for the representatives said that she was not interested in the decision to leave the film franchise. Bay later revealed that Fox's comments particularly angered executive producer Steven Spielberg, who affected Bay's decision to way. I'm sorry, Megan. I'm sorry I made you work twelve hours. I'm sorry for making you show up on time. Movies are not always warm and fuzzy. With Fox not reprising her role, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley was cast in the film, but she was removed during production. Shia LaBeouf stated that he was his last film in the series, also concluding that director Michael Bay will not return for a fourth installment. Though it was later confirmed that Bay was interested in returning for at least one more installment, Bay was not interested.

Themes and inspirations
Unlike the two previous Transformers installments, which were based solely on the script writers' endemic story, Transformers: Dark of the Moon was based on a novel called Transformers: Ghosts of Yesterday, written by Alan Dean Foster. The novel is a prequel to the 2007 film Transformers: Dark of the Moon. The novel is a prequel to the 2007 film Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen, and it tells the story of the Autobots and Decepticons' origin. The story is a prequel to the 2007 film Transformers: Dark of the Moon. The novel is a prequel to the 2007 film Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen, and it tells the story of the Autobots and Decepticons' origin. The story is a prequel to the 2007 film Transformers: Dark of the Moon.
Filing

Vehicles used on the set of Transformers: Dark of the Moon

Transformers: Dark of the Moon's production cost was reported to be $105 million, with the cost of the 3-D filming accounting for $30 million of the budget[62]. Preparation for filming began on April 7, 2010, in Northwest Indiana, Indiana, including Chicago, Florida, and Moscow.[42,43] The first six weeks of filming were spent in Los Angeles; locations included Sherman Oaks, Fourth Avenue, and 5 Main. The next four weeks were spent in Chicago. Locations filmed in scenes set in Michigan Avenue featured a substantial amount of pyrotechnics and stunt work.[43] Filming in Detroit was planned to take place in August but the shoot was extended until September.[44] In late September, Transformers: Dark of the Moon set in July 2010.

While filming in Washington, D.C., the crew shot on the National Mall, and Bay stated that there would be a car race on the location. Two further locations announced were the Milwaukee Art Museum and the former Tower Records building, which was scheduled to be taken down after filming in it ended.[44] On September 23, scenes were filmed at the former city hall in Detroit. On October 16, a scene in the former 1960s hotel was shot at the Johnson Space Center in Cambodia.[50] Other planned filming locations included Africa and China.[51] Though about 70 percent of the film's live action footage was shot in 3-D using Arri Alexa and Sony F35 cameras,[52] more than half of the film's special effects were created using CGI. In post-production, the special effects team used a combination of computer-generated imagery and practical effects. The film's special effects were created using Blender, a free and open-source software package for 3D modeling and rendering. The film's special effects team also used a number of proprietary tools developed specifically for the film.[53]

As with the previous installments, Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) was the main visual effects company for the film.[45] Effects shots were created using a combination of CGI and practical effects. The film's special effects team also used a number of proprietary tools developed specifically for the film.[53]

Although a bit more score-heavy this time around, the soundtrack was certainly featured and we not only reprised some characters we have come to know, but some familiar artists are back again as well.

— Allison Loring, reviewing the film's soundtrack[67]

The album for the film was released on June 14, 2011. It consists of five tracks that are featured in the final film. The album was originally set for release in June 28, 2011, but Amazon.com listed the album as unavailable while the album was still being listed for release during the week of the film's global release.

The album was composed by Band of Horses and the Goo Dolls. Several other unreleased songs make their debut on the album, including "The Pessimist" by Stone Sour and "The Only Hope for Me Is You" also appeared and can also be found on their fourth studio album.

External audio

Industrial Light & Magic's interview for the effects of the film.

Listen to the Interview

ILM's visual effects supervisor, Scott Farrar, said that "not only were the film's effects ambitious, they also had to be designed for 3-D", and explained the company's solutions for the new perspective: "We did make sure that they were designed for the technology, we made sure that we worked with the technology so that it could be rendered and used. We did a lot of tests early on to figure out how to break the building apart to simulate the building."[57] On the last weekend of ILM's work on Dark of the Moon, the company's entire rendering farm was taken down to replace the computer servers that were used to render the film's effects. The rendering farm was shut down for 48 hours to allow for the replacement of the computer servers. The film's special effects team also used a number of proprietary tools developed specifically for the film.[53]

Considerable digital animation was required for the elaborate Driller as it comprised over 50,000 parts. Similar to the previous two installments, Installment instead. Bay wanted Sam to have a girlfriend like in the first two films. Actor Shia LaBeouf said that Sam would be a "different character" and, although he would "miss" Megan Fox, with this change "you have discovery again from a new perspective."[68]

Similar to the previous two installments, the film was told in the human point-of-view to engage the audience. Sam would be made of a similar material but made of rebar or concrete, while the Decepticon protoforms are made of the moon, the space bridge, and a skydiving sequence.[69,69]

Score

Steve Jablonsky - "It's Our Fight"

A 27 second sample of Steve Jablonsky's "It's Our Fight", the climax is played, and a unique bass drum is used in the process.

Problems listening to the file? See media help.

Composer Steve Jablonsky, who had already collaborated with Bay on The Island and the first two Transformers films, returned to compose the Dark of the Moon score. The score soundtrack was released on June 24, 2011.

Although a bit more score-heavy this time around, the soundtrack is certainly featured and we not only reprised some characters we have come to know, but some familiar artists are back again as well.

— Allison Loring, reviewing the film's soundtrack[67]
Accolades

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News

In May 2011, the novelization, junior novel, and graphic novel of Transformers: Dark of the Moon were released. Both the novel and the graphic novel featured Skids and Mudflap as supporting characters, but the characters stories between Revenge of the Fallen and Dark of the Moon. Another novel, written by Peter David, was published on May 31, 2011, and was released on only paperback. Though it is slightly different from the film, the novel published by Del Rey Books. Its synopsis is:

For good or ill, Bay is the soul of a new machine, the post of post-human cinema, the CEO of Hollywood's military-entertainment complex.

— Richard Corliss, in his review of the film for Time magazine[1]4

The film grossed $32.5 million on its opening day, pacing 37% ahead of its predecessor. Film review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes gave Transformers: Dark of the Moon a score of 35% based on 235 reviews and a rating average of 4.4/10, saying, "its special effects are a mixed bag, another review aggregator, gave the film a Metascore of 42/100, indicating "mixed or average reviews" from 37 critics. [96]

Critical reception

The film has received mixed to negative reviews from film critics. While many of them believed it was an improvement over Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen and also praised the film's visual effects and 3-D action sequences, criticism fell over the long running time, the below average acting, and the script. Several critics also felt that "Transformers: Dark of the Moon had the scrapping of a really good story, this 3-D movie was shot with a 2-D script." On the topic of 3-D, Schneider said "At a minimum, Transformers 3 demonstrates that fast cutting sequences are indeed possible and practical in stereoscopic 3-D. More than that, it was a comfort in an earlier cop-out from action movie to teen comedy to political drama with the same well lubricated ease that his cars became men. By the time you've finished watching, you will speak Michael Bay's cinematic language[1]1

Box office

Worldwide

Transformers: Dark of the Moon grossed $325,990,450 in North America, and $771,365,453 in other territories, for a worldwide total of $1,123,765,998. It is the highest-grossing film of the franchise and the tenth film to $150 million of all time worldwide and the highest-grossing film of Paramount/DreamWorks. The film's opening-weekend gross ($382.4 million) is the fourth-largest ever and the largest for Paramount/DreamWorks. The film's opening-weekend gross ($400 million) is the fourth-largest ever and the largest for Paramount/DreamWorks.

North America

The film opened in 4,090 theaters on a then-record total of 2,789 3D locations. It made $5.5 million during Tuesday 9:00 p.m. showings, $8 million during midnight showings[22] and $37.7 million on its opening day (Wednesday) – including Tuesday showings. This was the sixth-best opening Wednesday. [125]

Outside North America

The film grossed $32.5 million on its opening day, pacing 38% ahead of its predecessor. Including some early Tuesday previews, it earned $36.6 million in one-and-a-half days, [126] and was also praising the film's visual effects and 3-D action sequences, but the film's running time was criticized for being too long. Several critics also felt that "Transformers: Dark of the Moon had the scrapping of a really good story, this 3-D movie was shot with a 2-D script." On the topic of 3-D, Schneider said "At a minimum, Transformers 3 demonstrates that fast cutting sequences are indeed possible and practical in stereoscopic 3-D. More than that, it was a comfort in an earlier cop-out from action movie to teen comedy to political drama with the same well lubricated ease that his cars became men. By the time you've finished watching, you will speak Michael Bay's cinematic language[1]1

Choice Summer Movie

Choice Summer Movie Actor

Choice Summer Movie Actress

Best Science Fiction Movie

Best Cameo

Best F/X

Favorite Movie

Favorite Action Movie

Favorite Action Movie Star

Obviously Worst Film

Sequel or Remake That Shouldn't Have Been Made

Selected Film is Off My Radar

Choice Action Star
In North America, it sold 716,218 DVD units (equivalent of $13,565,169) in its first week, topping the weekly DVD chart. During Hasbro Investor Day, it was announced that the DVD and Blu-ray disc would be released in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Home media

2012 Golden Reel Awards

2012 Screen Actors Guild Awards

Academy Awards

2012 Academy Awards

Best Sound Mixing

Best Sound Editing

Worst Picture

Worst Director

Worst Supporting Actor

Worst Supporting Actress

Worst Screenplay

Worst Screen Couple

Worst Screen Ensemble

Best Special Effects

Best Visual Effects

Sequel

In February 2012, it was confirmed that Michael Bay will direct a fourth installment in the series and it is scheduled for a theatrical release on June 29, 2013. [148] As was the case in the last two films, the script will be written by Alex Kurtzman, Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman then directed by Michael Bay. The script will be written by Alex Kurtzman, Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman then directed by Michael Bay. The script will be written by Alex Kurtzman, Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman then directed by Michael Bay.
Transformers: Dark of the Moon is a 2011 American science fiction action film directed by Michael Bay and based on the Transformers toy line. It is the third installment in the live-action Transformers film series, and is the sequel to 2009’s Revenge of the Fallen. It is also the first film in the series not to be co-produced by DreamWorks, leaving Paramount Pictures as the sole distributor. The film stars Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel, John Turturro, Tyrese Gibson, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Patrick The third film of the franchise, Dark of the Moon, has been in theaters for a week now. Along with The Fast and the Furious and the Cars movies, the clanking robot-war blockbuster has a strong automotive focus. This year both heroic Autobots and evil Decepticons have new vehicles to choose from, resulting in a four-wheel cast of vehicles that will appeal to fans of Transformers.

### Autobots
- **Optimus Prime** - Peterbilt 379 Truck
  - In Transformers 3, the leader of the Autobots and the protagonist of the movie. The clanking robot-war blockbuster has a strong automotive focus. This year both heroic Autobots and evil Decepticons got new vehicles to choose from, resulting in a four-wheel cast of vehicles that will appeal to fans of Transformers.
  - There's a story here about the evil Decepticons desperately looking for something, but the game never makes it clear why we should care about the outcome, so it's hard to feel invested in what happens. And because you play as both Autobots and Decepticons, you're not rooting for either side to prevail.

### Decepticons
- **Megatron** - Camaro
  - Megatron is back, and he's more determined than ever to take over the world. He has a new weapon, a beam that can destroy Autobots in one shot.
  - There's a story here about the evil Decepticons desperately looking for something, but the game never makes it clear why we should care about the outcome, so it's hard to feel invested in what happens. And because you play as both Autobots and Decepticons, you're not rooting for either side to prevail.