

Hotel Transylvania: Transformania

Hotel Transylvania: Transformania (also known as ***Hotel Transylvania 4***) is a 2022 American animated adventure comedy film produced by [Columbia Pictures](#) and [Sony Pictures Animation](#) and released by [Amazon Studios](#). It is the fourth and final installment in the *Hotel Transylvania* franchise and the sequel to *Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation* (2018), the film was directed by [Derek Drymon](#) and [Jennifer Kluska](#) (in their respective feature-length directorial debuts) from a screenplay by Amos Vernon, Nunzio Randazzo and [Genndy Tartakovsky](#). It stars the voices of [Andy Samberg](#), [Selena Gomez](#) (who also served as an executive producer alongside Tartakovsky and Michelle Murdocca), [Kathryn Hahn](#), [Jim Gaffigan](#), [Steve Buscemi](#), [Molly Shannon](#), [David Spade](#), [Keegan-Michael Key](#), [Brian Hull](#), [Fran Drescher](#), [Brad Abrell](#), [Asher Blinkoff](#), [Tyler "Ninja" Blevins](#) and [Zoe Berri](#). In the film, Dracula and Johnny (Hull and Samberg) team up to find a crystal in South America to turn themselves back into their old selves, before their transformations become permanent.

Plans for a fourth *Hotel Transylvania* film begin in February 2019 and was announced to be released on December 22, 2021. Returning and new cast and crew members were announced soon after, and [Mark Mothersbaugh](#), who composed the score for the first three installments, returned to score, in addition to original song performed by Yendry. Production took place remotely during the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). Originally planned to be released theatrically in the United States on October 1, 2021, [Sony Pictures Releasing](#) cancelled the film's release plans and sold the film's distribution rights to Amazon Studios for \$100 million, due to rising cases of the [SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant](#) in the United States.

Hotel Transylvania: Transformania was released exclusively on [Amazon Prime Video](#) on January 14, 2022, and theatrically in China on April 3. The film received mixed reviews from critics with the [Rotten Tomatoes](#) critical consensus calling it "middling family viewing -- relatively painless, but overall rather uninspired".

Plot

During Hotel Transylvania's 125th anniversary celebration, Dracula is planning to retire and leave the hotel to Mavis and Johnny. Mavis overhears this and tells Johnny who excitedly tells

Hotel Transylvania: Transformania



Promotional release poster

Directed by	Derek Drymon Jennifer Kluska
Screenplay by	Amos Vernon Nunzio Randazzo Genndy Tartakovsky ^[1]
Story by	Genndy Tartakovsky
Based on	Characters by Todd Durham
Produced by	Alice Dewey Goldstone
Starring	Andy Samberg Selena Gomez Kathryn Hahn Jim Gaffigan Steve Buscemi Molly Shannon David Spade

Dracula his plans to renovate the hotel. Worried about Johnny ruining the hotel, Dracula lies to him saying that there is a "monster real-estate law" which only lets monsters own the hotel and instead falsely announces the expansion of the hotel with an extra bathroom, disappointing Johnny, Mavis and the others in the process.

Van Helsing decides to help Johnny using a ray that turns humans into monsters and vice versa. After testing it on his guinea pig Gigi, he uses it on Johnny who turns into a dragon-like monster. Learning about Johnny's monster form, Dracula tries to turn him back to normal, but accidentally turns himself into a human and breaks the ray's crystal. Van Helsing tells Dracula and Johnny that they can still turn themselves back to normal by getting a new crystal which lies in the Cave of the Reflexión in South America, so Dracula and Johnny set off to do so.

Dracula's friends Frank, Wayne, Griffin and Murray end up becoming humans as well, as a result of drinking from a fountain that was contaminated by the ray. After learning about Dracula and Johnny's whereabouts on the news, Mavis and Ericka confront Van Helsing, but they are attacked by Gigi, where Van Helsing discovers that the effects of the ray are unstable, as the monster transformation will keep mutating until the subject becomes a mindless beast. With this in mind, the rest of the gang head to South America to find Dracula and Johnny.

While traveling through the South American jungle, Dracula and Johnny begin to bond, and Dracula eventually begins to confess that he lied about the monster real-estate law and the hotel's expansion, but the rest of the group finds them in the middle of the confession. Things turn sour when Dracula admits his deception regarding passing over the hotel to Mavis and Johnny. This prompts an upset Johnny to believe Dracula does not consider him family and to mutate further before running away.

Mavis goes to find Johnny while Dracula and the rest of the gang go to the Cave of the Reflexión. Mavis finds Johnny, but the transformation has turned him very volatile. She leads him to the cave where they finally find the crystal. When Mavis tries to turn Johnny back to normal, nothing happens due to him being too frenzied. In desperation, Dracula lets himself get captured by Johnny and makes a remorseful speech about how wrong he was about Johnny and how he now sees the best in him, finally acknowledging him as family. This brings Johnny back to his senses, and he is returned to normal.

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Edited by	Lynn Hobson
Music by	<div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div>Mark Mothersbaugh</div></div></div>
Production companies	<div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div></div></div></div></div> <div><div>Columbia Pictures</div><div>Sony Pictures Animation</div><div>MRC</div></div>
Distributed by	<div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div></div></div></div></div> <div><div>Amazon Studios (worldwide)</div><div>Sony Pictures Releasing (China)</div></div>
Release date	January 14, 2022
Running time	87 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$75 million ^[2]
Box office	\$18.5 million ^{[3][4]}

With Dracula and his friends turned back to normal, they return home only to find the hotel has been destroyed by Gigi. After turning Gigi back to normal, Dracula decides to let Mavis and Johnny rebuild the hotel to their liking. One year later, Mavis and Johnny re-built and modernized the hotel, which Dracula comes to enjoy.

Voice cast

- [Andy Samberg](#) as Jonathan "Johnny" Loughran, Mavis' husband, Dracula's son-in-law, Ericka's stepson-in-law and Dennis' father^[5]
- [Selena Gomez](#) as Mavis Dracula, Johnny's wife, Dracula's daughter, Ericka's stepdaughter and Dennis' mother^[5]
 - Victoria Gomez voices a young Mavis Dracula
- [Kathryn Hahn](#) as Ericka Van Helsing, Dracula's wife, Mavis' stepmother, Johnny's stepmother-in-law, Dennis' step-grandmother and the great-granddaughter of Abraham Van Helsing^[5]
- [Jim Gaffigan](#) as Professor Abraham Van Helsing, a former monster hunter, Dracula's great-grandfather-in-law and ex-nemesis and Ericka's great-grandfather who invented the "Monsterfication Ray"^[5]
- [Steve Buscemi](#) as Wayne, a werewolf and Wanda's husband^[5]
- [Molly Shannon](#) as Wanda, a werewolf and Wayne's wife^[5]
- [David Spade](#) as Griffin, an invisible man^[5]
- [Keegan-Michael Key](#) as Murray, an ancient mummy^[5]
- [Brian Hull](#) as Count "Drac" Dracula, the founder of Hotel Transylvania and Mavis' father, Johnny's father-in-law, Dennis' maternal grandfather and Ericka's husband. In the previous films, he was voiced by [Adam Sandler](#),^{[5][6]} who had to drop out for the fourth installment due to scheduling conflicts.^[7]
- [Fran Drescher](#) as Eunice, Frankenstein's wife^[5]
- [Brad Abrell](#) as Frankenstein, Eunice's husband. He was originally voiced by [Kevin James](#) in the first three films^[8]
- [Asher Blinkoff](#) as Dennis, the dhampir son of Johnny and Mavis, Vlad's great-grandson, Ericka's step-grandson and Dracula's grandson^[5]
- [Zoe Berri](#) as Winnie, a werewolf who is the daughter of Wayne and Wanda and a friend of Dennis. She was originally voiced by [Sadie Sandler](#) in the first three films
- [Asher Bishop](#) as Wesley, a werewolf who is the son of Wayne and Wanda
- [Tyler "Ninja" Blevins](#) as Party Monster^[9]
- [Genndy Tartakovsky](#) as Blobby, a green blob monster
- [Victoria Gomez](#) as Wilma, a werewolf who is the daughter of Wayne and Wanda
- [Jennifer Kluska](#) as Wendy, a werewolf who is the daughter of Wayne and Wanda
- [Derek Drymon](#) as a zombie that was briefly turned into a human

Production

In February 2019, [Sony Pictures Animation](#) announced that a fourth film had been in development.^{[10][11]} In October 2019, [Genndy Tartakovsky](#) confirmed that he would not direct the film.^[12] In September 2020, [Jennifer Kluska](#) and [Derek Drymon](#), a storyboard artist on the first two *Hotel Transylvania* sequels and a former crew member of *SpongeBob SquarePants* and *Adventure Time*, respectively, were confirmed to be

the film's directors, while Tartakovsky would write the screenplay and serve as an executive producer alongside Selena Gomez, who voices Mavis in the series.^{[13][14]} Production took place remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.^[15]

In April 2021, the film's title was revealed to be *Hotel Transylvania: Transformania* and it was confirmed that it would be the final film in the franchise.^{[16][17]} That same month, Sony confirmed that Adam Sandler would not reprise his role as Dracula.^[6] The role was given to Brian Hull after voicing the character in the short film *Monster Pets*,^[18] while Kathryn Hahn, Steve Buscemi, David Spade, and Keegan-Michael Key were confirmed to reprise their roles.^[5] The following month, it was announced that Brad Abrell had replaced Kevin James as the voice of Frankenstein.^[8] Lynn Hobson served as editor.^[19]

Music

Mark Mothersbaugh returned to score the film, having previously scored the first three installments.^[20] The soundtrack was released on January 14, 2022 by Sony Classical.^[21] Additionally, the original end credits song *Love Is Not Hard to Find* were written by Morien van der Tang, Faried Arween Jhauw, Glen Faria & Jheynner Argot) and performed by Yendry and released on January 14, 2022.^[22]

Release

Hotel Transylvania: Transformania was released by Amazon Studios on Prime Video, on January 14, 2022.^[23] In February 2019, Sony Pictures Releasing scheduled the film for release on December 22, 2021.^[24] In April 2020, the film was moved up to August 6, 2021.^[25] In April 2021, the film was moved up again to July 23, 2021.^[16] In June 2021, the film was rescheduled to October 1, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.^[26]

In August 2021, Sony Pictures cancelled the film's theatrical plans and entered discussions to sell the distribution rights to a streaming service, in response to the rising cases of the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant in the United States.^{[27][28]} On August 16, 2021, it was reported that Amazon Studios was in negotiations to acquire the distribution rights to the film for \$100 million from Sony and would release it exclusively on Amazon Prime Video worldwide, excluding China, where Sony would release it theatrically on an undetermined date. Sony would also retain home entertainment and linear television rights to the film.^{[29][30]} On October 6, 2021, Amazon set a release date of January 14, 2022.^[23]

The film had a limited theatrical release on February 25, 2022.^[31] On March 7, 2022, it was announced that the film would have a theatrical release in China beginning April 3 of that year.^[32]

Home media

Hotel Transylvania: Transformania was released on Blu-ray, DVD, and Digital HD on August 15, 2023 by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.^[33]

Reception

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 47% of 78 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.1/10. The website's consensus reads: "Much like the trio of films it follows, *Hotel Transylvania: Transformania* is middling family viewing -- relatively painless, but overall rather uninspired."^[34] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 46 out of 100, based on 15 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[35]

Meagan Navarro of *Bloody Disgusting* rates it 2.5 out of 5 stars, writing "*Hotel Transylvania: Transformania* never gets as complex as its moral center suggests, therefore never really rising above a wholesome, exuberant amusement ride."^[36] Tomris Laffly of *Variety* gave the film a mixed review, writing, "The result is yet another wearisome tale that inelegantly depicts themes like acceptance, understanding and diversity within a saga that has always been rather clumsy with its messaging around such weighty topics."^[37] John DeFore of *The Hollywood Reporter* gave the film a positive review, writing, "Never much to write home about in the script department — Tartakovsky excels in more stylish, less verbal fare like *Samurai Jack* — *Transformania* remains sufficiently goofy-sweet to please its target demo; those who find the humor toothless should at least appreciate the distinctive animation, which can be as energetically wacky as classic *Looney Tunes*."^[38]

Accolades

The film was nominated in two categories for "Outstanding Special Class Animated Program" and "Outstanding Sound Mixing and Sound Editing for an Animated Program" at the 1st Children's and Family Emmy Awards.^[39] At the 2023 Kids' Choice Awards, Selena Gomez won the award for "Favorite Voice from an Animated Movie (Female)".^[40]

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External links

- Official website (<https://www.hotelmovie.com>)
- *Hotel Transylvania: Transformania* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9848626/>) at *IMDb*

- *Hotel Transylvania: Transformania* (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/hotel_transylvania_transformania) at Rotten Tomatoes
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