

Terry Rossio

Terry Rossio (born July 2, 1960) is an American screenwriter and film producer. He co-wrote the films *Aladdin*, *Shrek*, and all five of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series. He was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Shrek*, and won the Annie Award for Writing in a Feature Production, as well as the BAFTA Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Shrek*. He often collaborates with fellow screenwriter Ted Elliott.

Life and career

Rossio was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. After graduating from Saddleback High School in Santa Ana, California, he went on to study at California State University, Fullerton where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications, with an emphasis in radio, television and film. He is the founder of Wordplay, also known as Wordplayer.com (<http://www.wordplayer.com>), one of the premier screenwriting sites on the Internet.

Along with his writing partner Ted Elliott, Rossio has written some of the most successful American films of the past 30 years, including *Aladdin*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* and *Shrek*.^[1] He is the eleventh-most successful screenwriter of all time in terms of domestic box office receipts with totals at around \$5.5 billion.^[2] In May 1993, Rossio and Elliott were hired by TriStar Pictures to write a screenplay for *Godzilla*, which featured Godzilla battling a shape-shifting alien in New York. Their script was dropped by Roland Emmerich in favor of a new script of his own co-written with Dean Devlin. However, Rossio and Elliott retained a "Story By" credit.^[3]

In 2015, Dodie Gold Management filed a Commissions Non-Payment Lawsuit against Rossio and sought a jury trial for "damages of more than \$25,000 plus a court declaration that they are entitled to the 10% commissions and a full look at the records and accounting of Rossio and his Chamaeleon Productions."^[4] In March 2017, Legendary Entertainment announced that Rossio would lead their writers room to help develop the story for *Godzilla vs. Kong*.^[5] He received "story by" credit on the film.^[6] In June 2019, Rossio was announced as the screenwriter for *The Amazing Maurice*.^[7]

In 2021, Rossio and Bill Marsilli sold their spec script *Time Zone* to Amazon Studios. The film will be a joint venture between Amazon Studios and Davis Entertainment.^[8]

In February 2023 Ashly Bell and Dr. Bernice A King (daughter of Martin Luther King) announced their intent to executive produce *Cash Money*, written by Terry Rossio and Kevin Arbouet, concurrent with the launch of ReadLife Entertainment, which plans to create television and film projects centered around strong social messaging. Arbouet is going to direct Cash Money.^[9]

Controversy

Terry Rossio



Rossio in 2009

Born	July 2, 1960
Occupation(s)	<u>Screenwriter</u> , <u>Film Producer</u>
Years active	1989–present

On November 23, 2018, Rossio expressed his condolences to parents of "vaccine damaged children", however, he likened the term "anti-vax" to a slur equivalent to "nigger." Following immediate outcry, he apologized the day after for using the slur and for proclaiming that both epithets were analogous.^[10]

Filmography

Year	Film	Credit	Notes	Ref.
1989	<i><u>Little Monsters</u></i>	Written by	Co-wrote with <u>Ted Elliott</u>	
1992	<i><u>Aladdin</u></i>	Screenplay by	Co-wrote screenplay with Ted Elliott & <u>Ron Clements</u> and <u>John Musker</u>	
1994	<i><u>The Puppet Masters</u></i>	Screenplay by	Co-wrote screenplay with Ted Elliott and <u>David S. Goyer</u>	
1998	<i><u>The Mask of Zorro</u></i>	Screenplay by Story by	Co-wrote screenplay with John Eskow and Ted Elliott Co-wrote story with Ted Elliott and <u>Randall Jahnson</u>	
	<i><u>Godzilla</u></i>	Story by	Early unproduced screenplay; Co-wrote with Ted Elliott	[3]
	<i><u>Small Soldiers</u></i>	Written by	Co-wrote with Ted Elliott & <u>Gavin Scott</u> and <u>Adam Rifkin</u>	
2000	<i><u>The Road to El Dorado</u></i>	Written by	Co-wrote with Ted Elliott	
2001	<i><u>Shrek</u></i>	Written by Co-producer	Co-wrote with Ted Elliott & <u>Joe Stillman</u> and <u>Roger S. H. Schulman</u>	
2002	<i><u>Treasure Planet</u></i>	Story by	Co-wrote story with Ted Elliott & Ron Clements and John Musker	
2003	<i><u>Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl</u></i>	Screenplay by Story by	Co-wrote screenplay with Ted Elliott Co-wrote story with Ted Elliott & <u>Stuart Beattie</u> and <u>Jay Wolpert</u>	
2005	<i><u>The Legend of Zorro</u></i>	Story by	Co-wrote story with Ted Elliott & <u>Roberto Orci</u> and <u>Alex Kurtzman</u>	
2006	<i><u>Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest</u></i>	Written by	Co-wrote with Ted Elliott	
	<i><u>Déjà Vu</u></i>	Written by Executive producer	Co-wrote with <u>Bill Marsilli</u>	
2007	<i><u>Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End</u></i>	Written by	Co-wrote with Ted Elliott	
	<i><u>National Treasure: Book of Secrets</u></i>	Story by	Co-wrote story with Ted Elliott & Gregory Poirier & <u>Cormac Wibberley</u> and <u>Marianne Wibberley</u>	
2009	<i><u>G-Force</u></i>	Associate producer	Uncredited rewrite	
2011	<i><u>Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides</u></i>	Screenplay by Executive producer	Co-wrote screenplay with Ted Elliott	
	<i><u>Pirates of the Caribbean: Tales of the Code – Wedlocked</u></i>	Written by	Short film; Co-wrote with Ted Elliott	

2013	<i><u>Lovestruck: The Musical</u></i>	Written by Executive producer	TV film; Co-wrote with Jaylynn Bailey	
	<i><u>The Lone Ranger</u></i>	Screenplay by Executive producer	Co-wrote screenplay with Ted Elliott and <u>Justin Haythe</u>	
2017	<i><u>Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales</u></i>	Story by Executive producer	Early unproduced screenplay; co-wrote story with <u>Jeff Nathanson</u>	
2019	<i><u>Aladdin</u></i>	Based on	Credited with Ted Elliott & Ron Clements and John Musker	
2021	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Kong</u></i>	Story by	Head of writers room; co-wrote story with <u>Michael Dougherty</u> and Zach Shields	[11][5]
2022	<i><u>The Amazing Maurice</u></i>	Screenplay by		[7]
2024	<i><u>Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire</u></i>	Screenplay by Story by	Co-wrote script with <u>Jeremy Slater</u> and <u>Simon Barrett</u> Co-wrote story with Barrett and <u>Adam Wingard</u>	[12]
TBA	<i><u>Time Zone</u></i>	Screenplay by	Co-wrote with Bill Marsilli	[8]

Other credits

Year	Film	Role
1997	<i><u>Men in Black</u></i>	Additional literary material (uncredited)
1998	<i><u>Antz</u></i>	Consultant/advisor
2003	<i><u>Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas</u></i>	
2004	<i><u>Shrek 2</u></i>	Creative consultant
	<i><u>King Arthur</u></i>	Additional literary material (uncredited)
	<i><u>National Treasure</u></i>	Additional literary material (uncredited)
2008	<i><u>The Spiderwick Chronicles</u></i>	Additional literary material (uncredited)
2015	<i><u>Jake and the Never Land Pirates</u></i>	Episode #89 – <i>Captain Frost</i> Co-wrote storyboards with Ted Elliott
2016	<i><u>Star Trek Beyond</u></i>	Additional literary material (uncredited)
2021	<i><u>Arcane</u></i>	Writing consultant

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External links

- [Terry Rossio Website via Wordplayer \(http://www.wordplayer.com\)](http://www.wordplayer.com)

- [Terry Rossio \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0744429/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0744429/) at [IMDb](#)
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