

# Night at the Museum: Kahmunrah Rises Again

Night at the Museum: Kahmunrah Rises Again (also known as Night at the Museum 4: Kahmunrah Rises Again) is a 2022 animated fantasy comedy film directed by Matt Danner, written by Ray DeLaurentis and William Schifrin, and starring Joshua Bassett, Jamie Demetriou, Alice Isaaz, Gillian Jacobs, Joseph Kamal, Thomas Lennon, Zachary Levi, Alexander Salamat, Kieran Sequoia, Jack Whitehall, Bowen Yang, and Steve Zahn. The sequel to Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (2014), it is the first animated film in the Night at the Museum film series and the fourth installment overall, as well as the first animated feature film produced by Atomic Cartoons. The film follows Nick Daley, the son of Larry Daley, as he becomes a night guard at the Museum of Natural History. In addition to Nick Daley, it also features Kahmunrah, the main antagonist of Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009).

Unlike the live-action films,  $\underline{1492 \text{ Pictures}}$  is not involved with the film. *Night at the Museum: Kahmunrah Rises Again* was released on December 9, 2022, on  $\underline{\text{Disney+}}$ , to generally positive reviews from critics.  $\underline{^{[2]}}$ 

## **Plot**

The exhibitions of the <u>American Museum of Natural History</u> scare away the latest guard, much to a passing Larry Daley's displeasure. Teddy Roosevelt and Sacagawea tell him that they would prefer that his son, Nick, take over the position and after some reluctance Larry agrees.

Nick himself is struggling as he wants to join the school's jazz recital by being their <u>DJ</u> and so that he can be close to his crush Mia. Despite his teacher Ms. Montefusco seeing promise in him, Nick believes he has failed. Larry explains to Nick that while he will be guarding the <u>History Museum</u> in <u>Japan</u> for the summer, he will be filling in for him at home. Nick thinks he will fail, but Larry manages to get his ex-wife Erica to also agree to it.

Nick is reunited with the rest of the gang including Rexy, Attila, Jedediah, Octavius, Laaa, Dexter the monkey, and <u>Joan of Arc</u>. His first task is to lock the storage room in the basement, but after encountering all the creepy things downstairs, uses a statue to block the door and runs away in fear. Kahmunrah, who was

### Night at the Museum: Kahmunrah Rises Again



Official release poster

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Directed by	Matt Danner
Written by	Ray DeLaurentis
	William Schifrin
Based on	The Night at the
	Museum
	by Milan Trenc
Produced by	Shawn Levy
Starring	Joshua Bassett
	Jamie Demetriou
	Alice Isaaz
	Gillian Jacobs
	Joseph Kamal
	Thomas Lennon
	Zachary Levi
	Alexander
	Salamat
	Kieran Sequoia
	Jack Whitehall
	Bowen Yang

locked away, breaks free and steals the tablet that brings the exhibitions to life in an effort to rule the world. A chase ensues through the museum, but he manages to escape. Nick and his friends take off after him while Rexy stays behind to guard the museum. While outside, Joan has a vision showing her that Kahmunrah is headed to the Museum of Natural Art where an exhibition on the Temple of Dendur is being held.

The group catch up to Kamunrah and chase him through the art museum. As backup, Kahmunrah brings to life the God of Chaos Seth, who uses his powers to keep Nick and the others at bay. They find the painting that leads to ancient Egypt and enter it. With only a couple of hours until sunrise, Nick and his friends enter the painting as well. While traversing the Nile, Nick begins to feel hopeless as Kahmunrah's escape was his fault, but the group give him encouragement. They eventually arrive at Dendur and avoid a series of traps before reaching Kahmunrah and Seth, who plan to use the tablet by playing three notes to unleash the Egyptian army of jackals on them.

A fight in the temple ensues with Nick finally overcoming his insecurities. He plays the notes in reverse which causes the tablet to suck away the jackals, Seth and Kahmunrah. Nick and his friends escape, but the sun is already rising. Remembering that he

	Steve Zahn
Edited by	Luc Perrault
Music by	John Paesano
Production companies	Walt Disney Pictures <sup>[a]</sup>
	21 Laps Entertainment
	Atomic Cartoons
	Alibaba Pictures
Distributed by	Disney+ (Worldwide) Alibaba Pictures (China)
Release date	December 9, 2022
Running time	77 minutes
Countries	United States
	Canada
	China
Language	English

has a poster of the museum that Sacagawea gave him earlier, they use it to head back home just in time.

Nick finally has the confidence in himself to try out for the jazz recital again (this time with success), starts dating Mia and accepts his position as the new night guard at the museum.

## **Voice cast**

#### Humans

- Joshua Bassett as Nick Daley, the son of Larry Daley, and the newest security guard at the American Museum of Natural History. He was portrayed by Jake Cherry and Skyler Gisondo in the last three films.
- <u>Jamie Demetriou</u> as Dr. McPhee, the director of the Museum of Natural History and Larry's former boss. He was portrayed by <u>Ricky Gervais</u> in the last three films.
- Gillian Jacobs as Erica Daley, Larry's former wife and Nick's mother. She was portrayed by Kim Raver in the first film.
- Zachary Levi as Larry Daley, Nick's father, Erica's former husband, and the previous security guard of the museum who gets a job at the National History Museum of Japan. He was portrayed by Ben Stiller in the last three films.
- Shelby Simmons as Mia, Nick's love interest.
- Tenzing Norgay Trainor as Bodhi, a student at Nick's school.
- Lidia Porto as Ms. Montefusco, Nick's music teacher

Bowen Yang as Ronnie, a night guard at the museum who quits after only a few minutes because of the exhibits.

#### **Exhibits**

- Thomas Lennon as Theodore Roosevelt, the wax sculpture of the 26th President of the United States. He was portrayed by Robin Williams in the previous three films. Lennon portrayed Orville Wright in the second film.
- Zachary Levi as Laaa, a <u>Neanderthal</u> who was made to resemble Larry. He was portrayed by Ben Stiller in the last film.
- Alice Isaaz as Joan of Arc, the statue of the woman, who led the French in war against the English, and sees visions of the future.
- <u>Jack Whitehall</u> as Octavius, a <u>Roman soldier diorama</u> miniature and Jedediah's best friend. He was portrayed by Steve Coogan in the last three films.
- Steve Zahn as Jedediah, a <u>cowboy</u> diorama miniature and Octavius' best friend. He was portrayed by Owen Wilson in the last three films.
- Joseph Kamal as Kahmunrah, a pharaoh who is Ahkmenrah's older brother and seeks revenge against Larry. He was portrayed by Hank Azaria in the second film.
- Alexander Salamat as <u>Attila the Hun</u>, the statue of the leader of the Huns. He was portrayed by Patrick Gallagher in the last three films.
- Kieran Sequoia as <u>Sacagawea</u>, the polyurethane model of the <u>Lemhi Shoshone</u> woman who is Theodore Roosevelt's girlfriend. She was portrayed by <u>Mizuo Peck</u> in the last three films.
- Akmal Saleh as Seth, the Egyptian God of Chaos who helps Kahmunrah with his quest, to conquer the world.
- Chris Parnell as George Washington, the 1st President of the United States. He appears in the famous painting "Washington Crossing the Delaware".
- Dee Bradley Baker as Dexter, a <u>Capuchin monkey</u>. He was portrayed by <u>Crystal the Monkey</u> in the last three films.
- Kelemete Misipeka as Moai, an <u>Easter Island Head</u> at the Museum of Natural History. He was voiced by Brad Garrett in the last three films.
- Jonathan Roumie as Merenkahre, the mummy of an ancient pharaoh and Kahmunrah's father who appears on different carvings seen throughout the film. He was portrayed by Ben Kingsley in the last film.
- Zeeko Zaki as Ra, the Egyptian Sun God whose head appears on the temple in an Ancient Egypt painting.
- Jim Conroy as Alexander Hamilton

## **Production**

## **Development**

In 2016, it was reported that a remake of <u>Night at the Museum</u> was in development from <u>Alibaba Pictures Group</u>. By August 2018, then-CEO of 20th Century Fox <u>Stacey Snider</u> announced that a television series based on *Night at the Museum* was in development instead. In August 2019, after the <u>acquisition of 21st Century Fox by Disney</u>, the project was confirmed to be still in development as a <u>Disney+</u> exclusive film [5][6]

In October 2020, it was reported that an animated film titled *Night at the Museum: Kahmunrah Rises Again* was in development. The plot centers around Larry's son, Nick, who is hesitant to follow in his father's footsteps as nightwatchman. In addition to Nick and Kahmunrah, the film also features other returning characters: Jedediah, Octavius, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt and Sacagawea, with the addition of Joan of Arc. In August 2021, Shawn Levy said that the film would debut on Disney+ in 2022. In September 2022, Matt Danner revealed he was directing the film; he previously was the creator and showrunner of the Disney animated show *Legend of the Three Caballeros* (2018). Several crew members from *Legend of the Three Caballeros* worked on the film, with Danner describing it as a "spiritual successor" to the series. [9][10] In November 2022, the release date of December 9, 2022 was revealed. [2]

#### **Animation**

The animation was handled by <u>Atomic Cartoons</u>, using the same style they used from their previous work, <u>Little Demon</u>, enhancing lighting and character rigging. The film has a <u>2D animation</u> style, making it the first 2D animated film released under Walt Disney Pictures since *Winnie the Pooh*. [11]

#### Music

In March 2022, <u>John Paesano</u> revealed that he was composing the film. <u>[12]</u> By August 29, 2022, Paesano was confirmed as composer, replacing Alan Silvestri from the first three films. <u>[13]</u>

## Release

The film was exclusively released on  $\underline{\text{Disney+}}$  on December 9, 2022 after being delayed from a 2021 release. This film was released under the  $\underline{\text{Walt Disney Pictures}}$  banner instead of  $\underline{\text{20th Century}}$  Studios.  $\underline{\text{I16}}$ 

## Reception

On the review aggregator site <u>Rotten Tomatoes</u>, the film holds a 71% based on reviews from 14 critics, making it the highest-rated movie of the *Night at the Museum* franchise to date. [17]

## **Future**

<u>Thomas Lennon</u> hinted that another film could be developed and expressed interest in doing another liveaction film with Ben Stiller. He added that the animated film "opens up a lot of new possibilities". [18]

## **Notes**

a. Originally produced by <u>20th Century Studios</u>, the film was released under the Walt Disney Pictures banner, although the copyright is registered with 20th Century Studios. [1]

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## **External links**

Night at the Museum: Kahmunrah Rises Again (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13623880/) at IMDb

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