

Greenland (film)

Greenland is a 2020 American apocalyptic thriller survival disaster film directed by Ric Roman Waugh and written by Chris Sparling. The film stars Gerard Butler (who also produced), Morena Baccarin, Roger Dale Floyd, Scott Glenn, David Denman, and Hope Davis, and follows a family who must fight for survival as a planet-destroying comet races to Earth.

Originally scheduled to be theatrically released in the United States, *Greenland* was delayed several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The film was released domestically by STXfilms, through video on demand on December 18, 2020, and then to streaming on HBO Max and Amazon Prime. It was also released theatrically in other territories, beginning with Belgium on July 29, 2020. The film received generally positive reviews from critics who praised the performances, emotional depth and visual effects, but criticized its clichéd storyline. The film grossed \$52.3 million worldwide with a production budget of \$35 million. A sequel, *Greenland: Migration*, is in pre-development, with Waugh, Butler, Baccarin, and Floyd all returning.

Plot

Structural engineer John Garrity lives in Atlanta, Georgia with his estranged wife, Allison, and their diabetic son, Nathan. He returns home to watch the near-earth passing of a recently-discovered interstellar comet nicknamed "Clarke", along with his family and neighbors.

While at the supermarket, John receives an automated Department of Homeland Security (DHS) message saying that he and his family have been selected for emergency sheltering. He then returns home just as a comet fragment is seen entering the atmosphere on live television. Previously expected to land in the ocean near Bermuda, the fragment instead strikes Tampa, Florida, vaporizing the city along with most of the state. John then receives a call with instructions to head to Robins Air Force Base for an evacuation flight, as Clarke is on a direct collision course to Earth and will impact the entire planet to cause an extinction-level event in two days. John, Allison, and Nathan pack up and flee.

Greenland



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Ric Roman Waugh</u>
Written by	<u>Chris Sparling</u>
Produced by	<u>Gerard Butler</u> <u>Basil Iwanyk</u> <u>Sébastien Raybaud</u> <u>Alan Siegel</u>
Starring	<u>Gerard Butler</u> <u>Morena Baccarin</u> <u>Roger Dale Floyd</u> <u>Scott Glenn</u> <u>David Denman</u> <u>Hope Davis</u>
Cinematography	<u>Dana Gonzales</u>
Edited by	<u>Gabriel Fleming</u>
Music by	<u>David Buckley</u>
Production companies	<u>Anton</u> <u>Thunder Road</u> <u>G-BASE Film Production</u> <u>Riverstone Pictures</u>

On the way to the base, the Garritys are held back by a long line of traffic, so they must abandon their car. Nathan's insulin is accidentally left behind in the car. As John goes back to retrieve it, Allison is escorted off the base after Nathan's medical condition is discovered, disqualifying him. John returns and boards a plane but quickly jumps off upon realizing Allison and Nathan were left behind.

Distributed by	<u>STXfilms</u>
Release date	December 18, 2020 (United States)
Running time	119 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$35 million ^[1]
Box office	\$52.3 million ^[2]

As John exits the base, a panicked mob breaks in, destroying several evacuation planes when gunfire ignites spilled jet fuel. Returning to the car, John finds a note from Allison saying that she and Nathan are going to her father's home in Lexington, Kentucky. After getting medical supplies, Allison and Nathan hitch a ride from Ralph and Judy Vento, only for Ralph to kidnap Nathan in order to use him and the wristbands to board a flight.

John comes across a truck full of people heading towards Canada after the driver agrees to drop him off in Lexington. A fellow passenger named Colin, tells him the truck is headed to Osgoode, Ontario, where private planes are flying to Greenland, which is believed to be the military evacuation site. Another man attempts to steal John's wristband, causing the truck to crash, killing Colin, and John is forced to kill the other man in self-defense. At another air force base, the Ventos attempt to pose as Nathan's parents, but are arrested when the soldiers discover that Nathan is not their child. Allison and Nathan are reunited shortly after at a nearby Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) camp. The following morning, John learns that the largest fragment will hit in approximately 24 hours.

Stealing a car, John reaches his father-in-law, Dale's house, and Nathan and Allison arrive shortly after. The family learn about a complex of underground bunkers near Pituffik Space Base in Greenland, confirming that's where the evacuees are being sent. The family has just enough time to reach Osgoode, so John and Allison decide to go while Dale chooses to stay behind, while giving them his truck. Reaching Upstate New York, a shower of molten debris rains down, forcing them to take refuge below an underpass before continuing on to Canada. While making steady progress to Osgoode, the family learns over the radio that Clarke's largest fragment, which is 9 miles (14 km) wide, will hit Western Europe and obliterate it. The family arrives at the Osgoode airport barely in time to board that night's last flight out. As they reach Greenland, a comet fragment strikes off the coast which emits a shockwave, hitting the plane and causing it to crash-land. The Garritys and the rest of the passengers flag down a military truck and enter the bunker complex right as the largest fragment enters the atmosphere and hits Earth, devastating civilization.

Nine months later, the bunker is able to make radio contact with other survivors around the world. The Garritys and other occupants exit the shelter, as reports came in that the atmosphere is finally clearing, giving the survivors a chance to rebuild.

Cast

- Gerard Butler as John Garrity
- Morena Baccarin as Allison Garrity
- David Denman as Ralph Vento
- Hope Davis as Judy Vento
- Roger Dale Floyd as Nathan Garrity
- Andrew Bachelor as Colin

- Merrin Dungey as Major Breen
- Holt McCallany as Twin Otter pilot
- Scott Glenn as Dale

Production

Development

In May 2018, Chris Evans joined the cast of the film, with Neill Blomkamp directing from a screenplay by Chris Sparling.^[3] In February 2019, it was announced Blomkamp would no longer direct the film.^[4] That same month, Ric Roman Waugh joined the project as director, with Gerard Butler being added to the cast of the film, replacing Blomkamp and Evans respectively, with Butler producing under his G-Base banner.^[5] In June 2019, Morena Baccarin joined the cast of the film.^[6] In July 2019, Scott Glenn, Andrew Bachelor and Roger Dale Floyd also joined,^[7] as did David Denman, in August.^[8]

Filming

Principal photography began in June 2019 and wrapped up on August 16 of the same year in Atlanta.^[9]

Music

David Buckley, who previously worked with Waugh on Angel Has Fallen, composed the film's score.^[10]

No.	Title	Length
1.	"Imperfect Lives"	1:37
2.	"Butterfly Effect"	1:56
3.	"First Shockwave"	4:56
4.	"Separated"	3:42
5.	"Living Ghosts"	3:28
6.	"FEMA Camp"	4:59
7.	"Broken Souls"	2:24
8.	"Innocence Lost"	3:51
9.	"Reunited"	3:05
10.	"Things Fall Apart"	4:29
11.	"Memories And Desires"	3:34
12.	"Molten Rain"	6:19
13.	"Greenland"	3:49
14.	"A Good Death"	4:42
15.	"Brave New World"	2:23
Total length:		55:14

<i>Greenland (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)</i>	
Film score by <u>David Buckley</u>	
Released	September 25, 2020
Length	55:14
Label	<u>Varese Sarabande</u>

^[11]

Release

In March 2019, STX Entertainment acquired distribution rights to the film.^[12] It was originally scheduled to be theatrically released on June 12, 2020, but was delayed to July 30, 2020, and then August 14, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.^[13] Its domestic release was again delayed on July 24, moving to

September 25, 2020. The film's release schedule includes Belgium (July 29), France (August 5), and Scandinavia (August 12). On September 14, it was announced the film's American release has been delayed again, this time to sometime later in 2020.^[14]

On September 30, the studio announced the film would be skipping theaters and going to be available to buy via video on demand on October 13, before being made available to rent on October 27.^[15] The following day, the studio announced the film had its U.S. pay TV and streaming rights sold to HBO for \$20–30 million, who will release it in early 2021 and have it stream on HBO Max and Amazon Prime for the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia releases.^[16] It was later reported the VOD release date had been pushed to December 18.^[17] The studio spent an estimated \$10 million promoting the film domestically.^[18]

Reception

Box office and VoD

Greenland was first released in Belgium, making \$73,112 from 55 theaters on its opening weekend.^[19] On its first day of release in France, the film made \$255,000 with 31,000 tickets sold, 61% ahead of Butler's *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013) despite fewer theaters and tight COVID-19 restrictions. Overall, it debuted to \$1.09 million in the country, with a 10-day international total of \$1.3 million.^{[20][21]} In its third weekend of international release, the film finished first in nine countries and made a total of \$2.82 million.^{[22][23]} In November the film opened in China and Mexico, debuting to \$3.4 million and \$882,000, respectively; the running global total was \$43.1 million.^[24]

Upon the film's VOD release in the United States, it was the second-most rented on FandangoNow, and third on Apple TV and Google Play.^[25] The film remained near the top of rental charts into February, finishing first at both Google Play and Apple TV.^{[26][27][28]} In February 24, IndieWire estimated the film had already netted STX Films \$60–80 million in profit, including around \$32 million from two million PVOD rentals.^[18]

Critical response

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an approval rating of 78% based on 161 reviews, with an average rating of 6.3/10. The website's critics consensus reads: "Beware, comets of *Greenland*: Gerard Butler is here to protect Earth – and show audiences an improbably entertaining time."^[29] On Metacritic, it has a weighted average score of 64 out of 100 based on 25 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews".^[30]

Writing for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Richard Roeper gave the film three out of four stars, saying, "Unlike the typical, effects-laden, comet-threatens-the-planet B-movie, *Greenland* is more in the vein of Steven Spielberg's *War of the Worlds*, with the scenes of chaos and destruction serving as the backdrop for the story of one family's desperate quest for survival — even when circumstances have ripped them apart."^[31] Writing for IndieWire, David Ehrlich gave the film a grade of B and said, "By eschewing spectacle and focusing on the human scale of a crisis, *Greenland* becomes the rare disaster movie that feels realistic."^[32]

Katie Walsh of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote that "[the film is] not just plausible but recognizable. There's very little otherworldly about this cinematic apocalypse. These are the people, places and, yes, behaviors we know all too well".^[33]

Jordan Mintzer of *The Hollywood Reporter* said "The gritty verisimilitude that the star and director Ric Roman Waugh bring to the table goes a long way in making this B-level blockbuster a timely and guilty pleasure".^[34] Chris Hewitt of the *Star Tribune* called it a "capably done [film]".^[35]

According to Matthew Monagle of *The Austin Chronicle*, "*Greenland* might be a B-movie at heart, but in keeping at least one toe on the ground at all times, the filmmakers craft something that punches well above its weight class".^[36]

Among the negative reviews, Ignatiy Vishnevetsky of *The A.V. Club* compared *Greenland* to Roland Emmerich's films,^[37] while Owen Gleiberman of *Variety* wrote "A thriller isn't supposed to be a cakewalk; if it were, it wouldn't thrill".^[38]

Sequel

In June 2021, it was announced a sequel titled *Greenland: Migration* was in development, and will reportedly center on the Garritys' journey across a frozen European wasteland to find a new home.^[39] The following month, STX acquired the worldwide distribution rights for the film at 2021 Cannes Film Festival for \$75 million, and agreed to give the sequel a \$65 million budget.^[40] In April 2024, it was announced that filming was scheduled to start in the UK the same month.

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External links

- [Official website](https://www.greenlandmovie.com/) (<https://www.greenlandmovie.com/>)
 - *Greenland* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7737786/>) at *IMDb*
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