

Star Wars is an American epic space opera media franchise created by George Lucas, which began with the eponymous 1977 film^[a] and quickly became a worldwide pop culture phenomenon. The franchise has been expanded into various films and other media, including television series, video games, novels, comic books, theme park attractions, and themed areas, comprising an all-encompassing fictional universe.^[b] *Star Wars* is one of the highest-grossing media franchises of all time.

The original 1977 film, retroactively subtitled *Episode IV: A New Hope*, was followed by the sequels *Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) and *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi* (1983), forming the original *Star Wars* trilogy. Lucas later returned to the series to write and direct a prequel trilogy, consisting of *Episode I: The Phantom Menace* (1999), *Episode II: Attack of the Clones* (2002), and *Episode III: Revenge of the Sith* (2005). In 2012, Lucas sold his production company to Disney, relinquishing his ownership of the franchise. This led to a sequel trilogy, consisting of *Episode VII: The Force Awakens* (2015), *Episode VIII: The Last Jedi* (2017), and *Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker* (2019).

All nine films, collectively referred to as the "Skywalker Saga", were nominated for Academy Awards, with Oscars going to the first three releases. Together with the theatrical live action "anthology" films *Rogue One* (2016) and *Solo* (2018), the combined box office revenue of the films equate to over US\$10 billion, making *Star Wars* the third-highest-grossing film franchise in cinematic history.