



Hotel Transylvania (film)

Hotel Transylvania is a 2012 American animated monster comedy film produced by Columbia Pictures and Sony Pictures Animation, and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing. It is the first installment in the *Hotel Transylvania* franchise, it was directed by Genndy Tartakovsky (in his theatrical feature directorial debut) from a screenplay by Peter Baynham and Robert Smigel, and a story by Todd Durham, Dan Hageman and Kevin Hageman, based on an original concept created by Durham. The film stars the voices of Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez, Kevin James, Fran Drescher, Steve Buscemi, Molly Shannon, David Spade and CeeLo Green.

The film tells the story of Count Dracula, the owner of the titular Hotel Transylvania where the world's monsters can take a rest from human civilization. Dracula invites some of the most famous monsters to celebrate the 118th birthday of his beloved daughter Mavis. But when the "human-free hotel" is unexpectedly visited by a human traveler named Jonathan, Drac must do everything in his power to prevent Mavis and the other guests from finding out that a human has found their safe place, which may jeopardize the hotel's future and his career.

Hotel Transylvania premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 8, 2012, and was theatrically released in the United States on September 28. Despite receiving mixed reviews from critics, the film was positively welcomed from audiences and it earned a total of \$358.4 million worldwide at the box office against a budget of \$85 million and was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Animated Feature Film. The financial success of *Hotel Transylvania* launched a multimedia franchise and a series of three sequels, starting with *Hotel Transylvania 2* (2015).

Plot

In 1895, after his wife Martha was killed by an angry human mob, Count Dracula commissions and builds a massive monsters-only hotel in Transylvania, in which he raises his young daughter, Mavis. The hotel also serves as a safe haven and a getaway for the world's monsters from fear of human

Hotel Transylvania



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Genndy Tartakovsky</u> ^[1]
Screenplay by	<u>Peter Baynham</u> ^[2] <u>Robert Smigel</u> ^[2]
Story by	<u>Todd Durham</u> ^[3] <u>Dan Hageman</u> <u>Kevin Hageman</u>
Produced by	<u>Michelle Murdocca</u>
Starring	<u>Adam Sandler</u> <u>Andy Samberg</u> <u>Selena Gomez</u> <u>Kevin James</u> <u>Fran Drescher</u> <u>Steve Buscemi</u> <u>Molly Shannon</u> <u>David Spade</u> <u>CeeLo Green</u>
Edited by	<u>Catherine Apple</u>

persecution. Famous monsters and friends of Dracula such as Frankenstein and his wife Eunice, Wayne and Wanda Werewolf and their massive immediate family, Griffin the Invisible Man, and Murray the Mummy often come to stay at the hotel.

In 2012, on Mavis' 118th birthday, she wants to finally see the human world. Dracula allows her to leave the castle, but he sets up an elaborate plan using his zombie bellhops disguised as humans to make them seem intimidating, and frighten her home. The plan works, but on their way back the zombies inadvertently lead a human, Jonathan "Johnny" Loughran, back to the hotel. Drac frantically disguises him as a Frankensteinesque monster and passes him off as Frank's cousin "Johnnystein". Jonathan soon encounters Mavis and the two "Zing". Unable to get Johnny out of the hotel without notice, Drac quickly improvises that Johnny is a party planner, brought in to bring a fresher approach to his own traditional and boring parties. Johnny quickly becomes a hit to the other monsters, but this worries Drac, who is both jealous of Johnny's popularity and afraid that his friends will never return to the hotel if they find out about the lie. Drac coerces Johnny to leave, but he is brought back by Mavis, who is unaware of Johnny's real species and feud with her father. After being shown the beauty of a sunrise by Johnny, Mavis is inspired to give humans another chance.

Music by	<u>Mark Mothersbaugh</u> ^[4]
Production companies	<u>Columbia Pictures</u> ^[5] <u>Sony Pictures Animation</u> ^[2] <u>Sony Pictures Imageworks</u> ^[2]
Distributed by	<u>Sony Pictures Releasing</u> ^[2]
Release dates	September 8, 2012 (TIFF) September 28, 2012 (United States)
Running time	91 minutes ^[6]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$85 million ^[7]
Box office	\$358.4 million ^[7]

Meanwhile, the hotel chef Quasimodo, with the help of his pet rat Esmeralda, learns that Johnny is a human and kidnaps him to cook him. Drac intervenes and magically freezes Quasimodo to keep him from telling anyone that Johnny is human. Drac leads Johnny to his quarters and shows him a painting of Martha, allowing Johnny to realize why Drac built the hotel and became overprotective of Mavis. Johnny then agrees to leave for good, but Drac, noticing that Mavis and Johnny's feelings for each other are real, finds him and persuades him to stay for the time being to avoid ruining Mavis's birthday. Drac and Johnny begin to bond and have fun together.

The party is a great success the next night, and Mavis looks forward to opening a gift from Martha. However, when Johnny and Mavis share their first kiss, Drac overreacts, and in his outburst, inadvertently confesses to deceiving Mavis with the town. A still-frozen Quasimodo bursts in and Mr. Fly reveals from his frozen speech that Johnny is a human disguised by Drac. The guests are shocked and outraged by the deceit at play, but Mavis is undeterred and wants to be with Johnny. Johnny rejects her out of respect for her father and leaves the hotel.

A heartbroken Mavis flies onto the roof with her mother's gift, and Drac follows in hopes of comforting her. He learns the present is a book about how he and Martha "Zinged" and fell in love, and realizes he no longer knows mankind's true tolerance of monsters. After apologizing to the patrons, Drac persuades Frank, Wayne, Griffin, and Murray to head out into the human world to help him find Johnny, and with the scent-tracking ability of Wayne's daughter, Winnie, they learn that he is about to catch a flight back to the United States.

The four head to the airport, but are held up in a town celebrating a Monster Festival along the way. Frankenstein attempts to scare away the assembled crowd of humans with a loud roar but instead receives wild applause and adoration. He then gets the humans to agree to help, and a team of men dressed as vampires provides Drac shelter from the sunlight while he rushes to the airport. Drac arrives to see Johnny's plane taking off, and he gives chase in bat form, burning in the sunlight. After getting Johnny's attention, Drac makes his way to the windshield of the plane and uses his mind-controlling power on the pilot to help him apologize over the plane's PA system, stating that Mavis has grown up and can make her own decisions. Johnny accepts his apology, and Drac manipulates the pilot to return to the Transylvanian airport.

Drac returns Johnny to Mavis, announcing that he approves of Johnny. Johnny confesses to Mavis that their "Zing" was mutual and the two kiss. The monsters finish celebrating Mavis' party, impressing the hotel guests.

Voice cast

- Adam Sandler as Count "Drac" Dracula, a vampire and the owner of the hotel and Mavis' overprotective father.
- Selena Gomez as Mavis Dracula, daughter of Count Dracula and late Martha and Jonathan's love interest.
 - Sadie Sandler as young Mavis Dracula
- Andy Samberg as Jonathan "Johnny" Loughran, Mavis' love interest.
- Kevin James as Frankenstein, one of Count Dracula's best friends who acts as an uncle to Mavis and mostly hangs out with Murray.
- Steve Buscemi as Wayne, a male werewolf who is one of Count Dracula's best friends and Wanda's husband.^[8]
- CeeLo Green as Murray, a short, fat mummy who is one of Count Dracula's best friends and mostly hangs out with Frankenstein.^[9] He is later voiced by Keegan-Michael Key in the next three films.
- Fran Drescher as Eunice, Frankenstein's wife and Wanda's best friend. Drescher, born and raised in Flushing, NY, is known for the character Fran Fine in The Nanny.^[8]
- Molly Shannon as Wanda, a female werewolf, Wayne's heavily pregnant wife and Eunice's best friend.^[8]
- David Spade as Griffin the Invisible Man, one of Count Dracula's best friends.^[9]
- Jon Lovitz as Quasimodo Wilson, a hunchbacked gourmet chef and the former bell-ringer of Notre-Dame who desires to make a dish with human as the main ingredient.^{[8][10]}
- Sadie Sandler as Winnie, Wayne and Wanda's werewolf daughter.
- Jim Wise and Luenell as the shrunk heads that serve as a "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door of Mavis's room.^[11]
- Chris Parnell as Mr. Fly, Hotel Transylvania's fitness coordinator who can also translate any speech.
- Brian George as a suit of armor who acts as the head of Hotel Transylvania's security guards.
- Brian Stack as a pilot who flies Jonathan's airplane back to America.
- Jackie Sandler as Martha, Dracula's wife and Mavis' mother who was killed by an angry mob when Mavis was an infant.
- Rob Riggle as Skeleton Husband

- Paul Brittain as Mr. Ghouligan, a zombie plumber.
- Brian McCann as a hairy monster that resembles a Yeti.

The heads of the Hydra named Mr. Hydraberg are voiced by Jim Wise, Paul Brittain, Jonny Solomon, Craig Kellman, and Brian McCann.

Production

Hotel Transylvania was originally created and developed by comedy writer Todd Durham, which he based on his book of the same name; after creating the bible for a franchise of several films, television series, holiday TV specials, video games, books, merchandising, hotel chain, and theme parks, he took the package unsolicited to Columbia Pictures and set it up at Sony Pictures Animation where he became the first of several screenwriters on the project.^{[14][15][16]}

The development process ultimately went through six directors; in 2006, Anthony Stacchi and David Feiss became the first directors set to helm the film.^[17] They were replaced by Jill Culton in 2008,^[18] who was followed by Chris Jenkins,^[19] with Todd Wilderman in 2010.^[20] In February 2011,^[21] Genndy Tartakovsky, creator of *Dexter's Laboratory*, *Samurai Jack*, *Star Wars: Clone Wars*, and *Sym-Bionic Titan* took over as the sixth scheduled director,^[22] and made his feature directorial debut with the film.^{[8][20]} He reimagined the film to follow the energy, organic nature, and exaggeration of 2D animation, particularly as seen in the work of director Tex Avery.^[23] "I took all the aesthetics I like from 2-D and applied them here," Tartakovsky said. "I don't want to do animation to mimic reality. I want to push reality."^[22] "I wanted to have an imprint so you'd go, 'Well, only Genndy can make this.' It's hard, especially with CG, but I feel there's a lot of moments that feel that they're very me, so hopefully it'll feel different enough that it has a signature to it."^[24]



Director Genndy Tartakovsky presented a few scenes from the film at the 2012 Annecy International Animated Film Festival.^{[12][13]}

In November 2011, Miley Cyrus was announced to voice Mavis, Dracula's teenaged daughter,^{[9][25]} but in February 2012, she was removed from the film. In August 2019, Cyrus admitted it was because of buying then-partner Liam Hemsworth a birthday cake in the shape of a penis and licking it.^[26] It was later announced that Selena Gomez would replace Cyrus.^[27] According to Tartakovsky his favorite Dracula was Bela Lugosi, especially in the context of Abbott and Costello. As a kid he really did not like horror movies, so he never really watched them. So he got introduced to all those characters through comedy, and so it was *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein* and *Meet the Mummy*, etc. As Tartakovsky said [in relation to making *Hotel Transylvania*]: "I don't want to scare anybody. I just want to make them laugh with these iconic characters."^[28]

Soundtrack

- "Where Did the Time Go Girl (Party Version)" Written by Robert Smigel, Adam Sandler, and Dennis White. Produced by Static Revenger.
- "Daddy's Girl" Written by Adam Sandler and Robert Smigel. Performed by Adam Sandler.^[29]
- "Call Me Mavy" Performed by Traci L.^[30]

- "Problem (The Monster Remix)" Written by Henry Walter, Lukasz Gottwald, Becky G (as Becky Gomez) & will.i.am (as William Adams). Performed by Becky G featuring will.i.am.
- "Sexy and I Know It", performed by LMFAO
- "The Zing" Written by Adam Sandler, Robert Smigel, and Dennis White. Produced by Static Revenger. Performed by Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, CeeLo Green, Kevin James, and Selena Gomez.^[29] Vanessa Hudgens
- "Helpless", written and performed by Peter Tvrznik^[29]
- "Sweet 118", written by Andy Samberg, Stuart Hart and Trevor Simpson. Performed by Andy Samberg.^[29]
- "Hush Little Baby", performed by Adam Sandler.^[29]
- "Monster Mash", performed by Bobby Pickett.^[29]

Release

Theatrical

Hotel Transylvania premiered on September 8, 2012, at the Toronto International Film Festival.^[6] The film received a wide release on September 28, 2012.^[2] On October 26, 2012, Regal Entertainment Group Cinemas began exclusively playing the traditionally animated short film *Goodnight Mr. Foot* before the film. Based on *Hotel Transylvania*, the short was directed and animated by Genndy Tartakovsky.^[31]

Home media

Hotel Transylvania was released on Blu-ray (2D and 3D) and DVD on January 29, 2013. It was accompanied by the short animated film, *Goodnight Mr. Foot*.^[32]

In April 2021, Sony signed a deal giving Disney access to their legacy content, including the *Hotel Transylvania* franchise to stream on Disney+ and Hulu and appear on Disney's linear television networks. Disney's access to Sony's titles would come following their availability on Netflix.^[33]

Box office

Hotel Transylvania earned \$148.3 million in North America, and \$210.1 million in other countries, for a worldwide total of \$358.4 million.^[7] The officially reported budget for the film was \$85 million,^[7] although *Deadline Hollywood* claimed that the film actually cost \$104 million.^[34]

Hotel Transylvania topped the box office with \$11 million on its first Friday, and \$42.5 million domestically and \$50.6 million worldwide for its opening weekend, which at the time of its release broke *Sweet Home Alabama*'s record for the largest-grossing September opening,^[34] a record which was overtaken by its sequel *Hotel Transylvania 2* in 2015, with a weekend gross of \$48.5 million.^[35] The film also earned the highest-grossing domestic debut for Sony Pictures Animation (also later overtaken by *Hotel Transylvania 2*).^{[35][36]} According to Sony's president of worldwide distribution, Rory Bruer, Sony was very satisfied with the film's performance, which was "beyond anyone's

imagination, and the holds are ridiculous. It exceeds expectations in every new market it opens in."^[37] *Hotel Transylvania* was theatrically released in China on October 28, 2013,^[38] more than a year after the worldwide premiere, and contributed \$11,180,000 to the overall gross.^[39]

Reception

Hotel Transylvania has an approval rating of 45% based on 143 professional reviews on the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, with an average rating of 5.4/10. Its critical consensus reads, "*Hotel Transylvania's* buoyant, giddy tone may please children, but it might be a little too loud and thinly-scripted for older audiences."^[40] Metacritic (which uses a weighted average) assigned *Hotel Transylvania* a score of 47 out of 100 based on 32 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews".^[41] Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A−" on an A+ to F scale.^{[42][43]}

IGN editor Geoff Chapman rated the film 9 out of 10 and wrote "This is a fun film, full of quirky gags and lovable characters. There are a few songs that smack a bit like soundtrack marketing for the kids, and the story is of course fairly predictable, but this movie is about enjoying a fun journey with great characters. It's a romp that kids and families will all enjoy. *Hotel Transylvania* is definitely somewhere you'll want to check in."^[44]

Accolades

Award	Category	Recipient	Result
<u>Annie Awards</u> ^{[45][46]}	<u>Best Animated Feature</u>		Nominated
	Character Design in an Animated Feature Production	Carlos Grangel Carter Goodrich	
	Directing in an Animated Feature Production	Genndy Tartakovsky	
	Music in an Animated Feature Production	Mark Mothersbaugh	
	Production Design in an Animated Feature Production	Marcello Vignali	
	Voice Acting in an Animated Feature Production	Adam Sandler	
	Editorial in an Animated Feature Production	Catherine Apple	
<u>Golden Globe Awards</u> ^[47]	<u>Best Animated Feature Film</u>	<u>Genndy Tartakovsky</u>	
<u>Visual Effects Society</u> ^{[48][49]}	<u>Outstanding Animation in an Animated Feature Motion Picture</u>	Lydia Bottegoni, James Crossley, Mike Ford, Daniel Kramer	
	Outstanding Animated Character in an Animated Feature Motion Picture	Bill Haller, Tim Pixton, Jorge Vigara (for Dracula)	
<u>Kid's Choice Awards</u> ^[50]	Favorite Voice from an Animated Movie	Adam Sandler (as Dracula)	Won

Sequels