

= 2012 ( film ) =

2012 is a 2009 American science fiction disaster film directed by Roland Emmerich . It stars John Cusack , Chiwetel Ejiofor , Amanda Peet , Oliver Platt , Thandie Newton , Danny Glover , and Woody Harrelson . The film was produced by Centropolis Entertainment and distributed by Columbia Pictures . Filming began in August 2008 in Vancouver , although it was originally planned to be filmed in Los Angeles . The plot follows novelist Jackson Curtis as he attempts to bring his family to refuge , amidst the events of a geological and meteorological super @-@ disaster . The film includes references to Mayanism , the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar , and the 2012 phenomenon in its portrayal of cataclysmic events unfolding in the year 2012 .

After a prolonged marketing campaign comprising the creation of a website from the point of view of the main character , and a viral marketing website on which filmgoers could register for a lottery number to save them from the ensuing disaster , the film was released internationally on November 13 , 2009 . Critics gave 2012 mostly mixed reviews , praising its special effects and dark tone compared to Emmerich 's other work , but criticizing its screenplay and 158 @-@ minute length . However , it was a huge commercial success , and one of the highest @-@ grossing films of 2009 .

= = Plot = =

In 2009 , American geologist Adrian Helmsley visits astrophysicist Satnam Tsurutani in India and learns that neutrinos from a massive solar flare are heating the Earth 's core . In Washington , D.C , Helmsley presents his information to White House Chief of Staff Carl Anheuser , who takes him to meet the President .

In 2010 , U.S. President Thomas Wilson and other international leaders begin a secret project to ensure humanity 's survival . The G8 nations , plus China , start building nine enormous arks , capable of carrying 100 @, @ 000 people each , near Cho Ming , Tibet , in the Himalayas . A Buddhist monk named Nima is evacuated while his brother Tenzin joins the Ark project . Funding is raised by selling tickets for ? 1 billion per person . By 2011 , valuable items are moved to the arks with the help of art expert and First Daughter Dr. Laura Wilson .

In 2012 , struggling science fiction writer Jackson Curtis is a chauffeur in Los Angeles for Russian billionaire Yuri Karpov . Jackson 's former wife Kate , and their children Noah and Lilly , live with Kate 's boyfriend , plastic surgeon Gordon Silberman . Jackson takes Noah and Lilly camping in Yellowstone National Park . When they find an area fenced off by the U.S. Army , Jackson takes his kids over the fence . They are caught and taken to see Adrian , who recognizes Jackson from his works , all of which he has read . Released from military custody , they meet Charlie Frost , who hosts a radio show from the park .

That night , after the military evacuates from Yellowstone , Jackson watches Charlie 's video of Charles Hapgood 's theory that polar shifts and the Mesoamerican Long Count Calendar predict that the 2012 phenomenon will occur . Charlie tells Jackson that anyone who plotted to inform the public was killed . Shortly after Jackson and the kids return home , earthquakes begin devastating California ; Jackson heeds Charlie 's warning and rents a private plane . He rescues his family as the Earth crust displacement begins and escape Los Angeles with the plane as the entire state of California sinks into the Pacific Ocean .

The group flies to Yellowstone to retrieve a map from Charlie displaying the location of the arks . They escape as the Yellowstone Caldera erupts spectacularly ; Charlie stays behind to broadcast the eruption and is killed . The group later lands in Las Vegas to find a larger plane ; they meet Yuri , his twin sons , Alec and Oleg , girlfriend Tamara and pilot Sasha . Sasha and Gordon fly them out in an available Antonov An @-@ 500 aircraft as the Yellowstone ash cloud destroys Las Vegas .

Helmsley , Anheuser and Laura Wilson are flying to the Arks aboard Air Force One . Knowing that his daughter would survive , President Wilson martyrs himself by remaining in the capital to address the nation one last time as billions being killed by devastating earthquakes and megatsunamis worldwide . With the entire presidential line of succession gone , Anheuser assumes the post of acting commander @-@ in @-@ chief , despite not being a part of it .

When the group reaches China , the plane runs out of fuel . Sasha continues flying the plane as the others escape using a Bentley Continental Flying Spur stored in the cargo hold . Sasha is killed when the plane crashes ; the others are spotted by helicopters from the Chinese army . Yuri and his sons , possessing tickets , are taken to the Arks , leaving the Curtis family , Tamara and Gordon behind . The remaining group are picked up by Nima and taken to the Arks with his grandparents . With the help of Tenzin , they stow away on Ark 4 , where the United States contingent is aboard . As a megatsunami topples over the Himalayas and approaches the site , an impact driver becomes lodged in the gears of the Ark 's doors , preventing a boarding gate from closing , which in turn prevents the ship from starting its engines . In the ensuing chaos , Yuri , Tamara and Gordon are killed . Tenzin is injured while Ark 4 begins filling with water and is set adrift . Jackson and Noah dislodge the impact driver , and the crew regains control of the Ark before it smashes into Mount Everest . Jackson reunites with his family , and he and Kate reconcile .

Twenty @-@ seven days later as waters recede ; the three arks approach the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa where the Drakensberg mountain range has emerged , now the " Tallest Mountain Range on Earth " . Adrian starts a relationship with Laura while Jackson and Kate rekindle their relationship .

= = = Alternate ending = = =

An alternate ending is featured on the DVD release of the film . After Captain Michaels , the captain of Ark 4 , announces that they are heading to the Cape of Good Hope , he tells Adrian that he has a phone call waiting for him . Adrian discovers that his father Harry is still alive . Harry tells his son that he , Tony ( whose arm is in a sling ) , and some of the passengers and crew survived the megatsunami that struck the Genesis . Captain Michaels states that they should have a visual on the ocean @-@ liner shortly . After Kate thanks Laura for taking care of Lily , Laura tells Jackson that she liked his book . Jackson then gives Noah his cell phone back which he recovered during Ark 4 's flooding . Lily then announces that she sees an island . The Arks arrive at the shipwrecked Genesis and the survivors on the beach .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

The credits cite the bestselling book Fingerprints of the Gods by author Graham Hancock as inspiration for the film , and in an interview with the London magazine Time Out , Emmerich states : " I always wanted to do a biblical flood movie , but I never felt I had the hook . I first read about the Earth 's Crust Displacement Theory in Graham Hancock 's Fingerprints of the Gods . "

Director Emmerich and composer @-@ producer Harald Kloser had an extremely close relationship and also co @-@ wrote a spec script entitled 2012 , which was marketed to major studios in February 2008 . Nearly all studios met with Emmerich and his representatives to hear the director 's budget projection and story plans , a process that the director had previously gone through with the films Independence Day ( 1996 ) and The Day After Tomorrow ( 2004 ) . Later that month , Sony Pictures Entertainment won the rights for the spec script , planning to distribute it under Columbia Pictures and was produced for less than budgeted . According to Emmerich , the film was eventually produced for about \$ 200 million .

Filming was originally scheduled to begin in Los Angeles , California , in July 2008 but instead commenced in Kamloops , Savona , Cache Creek and Ashcroft in British Columbia , Canada . Due to the possible 2008 Screen Actors Guild strike , filmmakers set up a contingency plan for salvaging the film . Uncharted Territory , Digital Domain , Double Negative , Scanline , Sony Pictures Imageworks and others were hired to create computer animated visual effects for 2012 .

Although the film depicts the destruction of several major cultural and historical icons around the world , Emmerich stated that the Kaaba was also considered for selection . Kloser opposed the idea

out of fear that a fatwa? might be issued against him .

= = = Marketing = = =

The film was promoted in a marketing campaign by a fictional organization , the " Institute for Human Continuity " ; this entailed a fictitious book written by Jackson Curtis entitled Farewell Atlantis , and streaming media , blog updates and radio broadcasts from the apocalyptic zealot Charlie Frost on his website This Is The End .

On November 12 , 2008 , the new studio released the first teaser trailer for 2012 that showed a tsunami surging over the Himalayas and interlaced a purportedly scientific message suggesting that the world would end in 2012 , and that the world 's governments were not preparing its population for the event . The trailer ended with a message to viewers to " find out the truth " by searching " 2012 " on search engines . The Guardian criticized the marketing effectiveness as " deeply flawed " and associated it with " websites that make even more spurious claims about 2012 " .

The studio also launched a viral marketing website operated by the fictional Institute for Human Continuity , where filmgoers could register for a lottery number to be part of a small population that would be rescued from the global destruction . David Morrison of NASA received over 1000 inquiries from people who thought the website was genuine , and condemned it . " I 've even had cases of teenagers writing to me saying they are contemplating suicide because they don 't want to see the world end , " he said . " I think when you lie on the internet and scare children to make a buck , that is ethically wrong . " Another viral marketing website promotes Farewell Atlantis , a fictional suspense novel about the events of 2012 .

Comcast had also organized a " roadblock campaign " to promote the film , where a two @-@ minute scene from the film was broadcast across 450 American commercial television networks , local English @-@ language and Spanish @-@ language stations , and 89 cable outlets within a ten @-@ minute window between 10 : 50 PM EDT / PDT and 11 : 00 PM EDT / PDT on October 1 , 2015 . The scene featured the destruction of Los Angeles and ended with a cliffhanger , with the entire 5 @-@ minute @-@ 38 @-@ second clip made available on Comcast 's Fancast web site . The trade newspaper Variety estimated that , " The stunt will put the footage in front of 90 % of all households watching ad @-@ supported TV , or nearly 110 million viewers . When combined with online and mobile streams , that could increase to more than 140 million " .

= = Soundtrack = =

The original score for the film was composed by Harald Kloser and Thomas Wander . Singer Adam Lambert contributed a song for the film titled " Time for Miracles " and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity in an interview with MTV .

The film 's soundtrack consists of 24 tracks , and it includes the songs " Fades Like a Photograph " by Filter and " It Ain 't the End of the World " , performed by George Segal and Blu Mankuma , which were featured in the film . The trailer music was Master of Shadows by Two Steps From Hell .

= = Release = =

2012 was released on November 13 , 2009 .

According to the studio , the film could have been completed for the summer release date , but the date change would give more time to the production . The film was released on November 13 , 2009 in Sweden , Canada , Denmark , Mexico , India and the United States , and was released on November 13 , 2009 in Japan .

The DVD and Blu @-@ ray for 2012 was released on March 2 , 2010 . The 2 @-@ Disc Blu @-@ ray Edition includes over 90 minutes of special features , including Adam Lambert 's music video " Time for Miracles " , and a Digital Copy for PSP , PC , Mac & iPod . The European release date of 2012 on DVD was March 2 , 2010 ; it includes the same special features as the North American version .

A limited 3D version was re @-@ released exclusively in select Cinemex theaters in Mexico in February 2010 .

= = Reception = =

= = = Box office = = =

2012 earned \$ 166 @,@ 112 @,@ 167 in North America and \$ 603 @,@ 567 @,@ 306 in other territories for a worldwide total of \$ 769 @,@ 679 @,@ 473 . Worldwide , it is the fifth highest @-@ grossing 2009 film and the fifth highest @-@ grossing film distributed by Sony / Columbia , behind Sam Raimi 's Spider @-@ Man trilogy and Skyfall . It is also the second highest @-@ grossing film directed by Roland Emmerich , behind Independence Day ( 1996 ) . On its worldwide opening weekend , it made \$ 230 @.@ 5 million , marking the fourth @-@ largest opening both of 2009 and for Sony / Columbia .

In North America , it grossed \$ 65 @,@ 237 @,@ 614 on its first weekend , ranking number one . Its opening is the fourth largest for a disaster film . The film grossed \$ 166 @,@ 112 @,@ 167 in total .

Outside North America , it is the 28th highest @-@ grossing film , the fourth highest @-@ grossing 2015 film , and the second highest @-@ grossing film distributed by Sony / Columbia , after Skyfall . It earned \$ 165 @.@ 2 million on its opening weekend , which ranks as the 14th largest opening . Its largest opening was recorded in France and the Maghreb region ( \$ 18 @.@ 0 million ) . In total earnings , its three highest @-@ grossing territories after North America are France and the Maghreb region ( \$ 44 @.@ 0 million ) , Japan ( \$ 42 @.@ 6 million ) , and Germany ( \$ 37 @.@ 7 million ) .

= = = Critical response = = =

Review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes shows that only 39 % of 238 critics gave the film a positive review , with a rating average of 5 out of 10 . The site 's consensus is that " Roland Emmerich 's 2012 provides plenty of visual thrills , but lacks a strong enough script to support its massive scope and inflated length . " Metacritic , which assigns a weighted average score out of 1 ? 100 reviews from film critics , gave the film a 49 rating score based on 34 reviews .

Roger Ebert was enthusiastic about the film , giving it 3 ½ stars out of 4 , saying it " delivers what it promises , and since no sentient being will buy a ticket expecting anything else , it will be , for its audiences , one of the most satisfactory films of the year " . Both Ebert and Claudia Puig of USA Today called the film the " mother of all disaster movies " . In contrast , Peter Travers of Rolling Stone gave the film a negative review and compared it to Transformers : Revenge of the Fallen : " Beware 2012 , which works the dubious miracle of almost matching Transformers 2 for sheer , cynical , mind @-@ numbing , time @-@ wasting , money @-@ draining , soul @-@ sucking stupidity . "

= = = Accolades = = =

= = = North Korean ban = = =

North Korea had reportedly banned possession or viewing of the film . The year 2012 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of the nation 's founder , Kim Il @-@ sung , and has been designated by the North Korean government as " the year for opening the grand gates to becoming a rising superpower " . Thus a movie depicting the year in a negative light was found to be offensive by the North Korean government . Several people in North Korea had reportedly been arrested for possessing or viewing imported copies of the movie and charged with " grave provocation against

the development of the state . "

= = Canceled television spin @-@ off = =

In 2010 , Entertainment Weekly announced that there had been a plan for a spin @-@ off television series entitled 2013 that would have served as a follow @-@ up to the film . Executive producer of 2012 Mark Gordon told EW that " ABC will have an opening in their disaster @-@ related programming after Lost ends , so people would be interested in this topic on a weekly basis . There 's hope for the world despite the magnitude of the 2012 disaster as seen in the film . After the movie , there are some people who survive , and the question is how will these survivors build a new world and what will it look like . That might make an interesting TV series . " However , plans were later scrapped due to future budget concerns . This would have been Emmerich 's third film to get a spinoff , the first being Stargate ( with its TV series Stargate SG @-@ 1 , Stargate Infinity , Stargate Atlantis , Stargate Universe ) , and the second being Godzilla ( with its cartoon sequel Godzilla : The Series ) .