

= The Twilight Saga ( film series ) =

The Twilight Saga is a series of five romance fantasy films from Summit Entertainment based on the four novels by American author Stephenie Meyer . The films star Kristen Stewart , Robert Pattinson , and Taylor Lautner . The series has grossed over \$ 3 @. @ 3 billion in worldwide receipts and consists , to date , of five motion pictures . The first installment , Twilight , was released on November 21 , 2008 . The second installment , New Moon , followed on November 20 , 2009 , breaking box office records as the biggest midnight screening and opening day in history , grossing an estimated \$ 72 @. @ 7 million . The third installment , Eclipse , was released on June 30 , 2010 , and was the first Twilight film to be released in IMAX .

The series was in development since 2004 at Paramount Pictures , during which time a screen adaptation of Twilight that differed significantly from the novel was written . Three years later , Summit Entertainment acquired the rights to the film . After Twilight grossed \$ 35 @. @ 7 million on its opening day , Summit Entertainment announced they would begin production on New Moon ; they had acquired the rights to the remaining novels earlier that same month . A two @-@ part adaptation of Breaking Dawn began shooting in November 2010 with November 18 , 2011 , and November 16 , 2012 , release dates .

= = Development = =

Twilight was in development for approximately three years at Paramount Pictures 's MTV Films , during which time a screen adaptation differing significantly from the novel was written . For example , the script transformed Bella into a star athlete . Stephenie Meyer stated that there was some debate in allowing the movie to be made because of the negative or positive outcome of the movie compared to the book , ' " They could have put that [ earlier ] movie out , called it something else , and no one would have known it was Twilight ! " The idea of seeing a scene converted correctly , specifically the meadow scene , convinced Meyer to sell the rights . In seeing the script , she was frightened that she had made the wrong decision . When Summit Entertainment reinvented itself as a full @-@ service studio in April 2007 , it successfully acquired the rights to the novel . Erik Feig , President of Production at Summit Entertainment , guaranteed a close adaptation to the book . The company perceived the film as an opportunity to launch a franchise based on the success of Meyer 's book and its sequels . Meyer felt that Summit was open to letting her be a part of the film . Catherine Hardwicke was hired to direct the film , and soon afterward , Melissa Rosenberg was selected to be the film 's structural base as the writer of the film .

Rosenberg developed an outline by the end of August and collaborated with Hardwicke on writing the screenplay during the following month . " [ She ] was a great sounding board and had all sorts of brilliant ideas .... I 'd finish off scenes and send them to her , and get back her notes . " Because of the impending WGA strike , Rosenberg worked full @-@ time to finish the screenplay before October 31 . In adapting the novel for the screen , she " had to condense a great deal . " Some characters were left out , and others were combined . " [ O ] ur intent all along was to stay true to the book , " Rosenberg explained , " and it has to do less with adapting it word for word and more with making sure the characters ' arcs and emotional journeys are the same . " Hardwicke suggested the use of voice over to convey the protagonist 's internal dialogue , since the novel is told from Bella 's point of view ; and she sketched some of the storyboards during pre @-@ production .

Meyer , the author , and Hardwicke , the director , had a close relationship while developing Twilight . Hardwicke wanted to embrace the experience and make the characters in the books come to life . She would call Meyer after changing a scene slightly , which surprised the author because , " I 've heard the stories ... I know it 's not normally like that when you adapt a book . " Meyer , a natural pessimist , was waiting for the worst but , instead , called her experience in the book 's film adaptation " the best I could have hoped for . "

Originally scheduled for release in December 2008 , Twilight was moved to a worldwide release of November 21 , 2008 , after Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince moved from a November 2008 release to being released in July 2009 .

= = Casting = =

Kristen Stewart was on the set of Adventureland when Hardwicke visited her for an informal screen test , which " captivated " the director . Hardwicke did not initially choose Robert Pattinson for the role of Edward Cullen ; but , after an audition at her home with Stewart , he was selected . Meyer allowed Pattinson to view a manuscript of the unfinished Midnight Sun , which chronicles the events in Twilight from Edward 's point of view . Meyer was " excited " and " ecstatic " in response to the casting of the two main characters . She had expressed interest in having Emily Browning and Henry Cavill cast as Bella and Edward , respectively , prior to pre @-@ production .

Peter Facinelli was not originally cast as Carlisle Cullen : " [ Hardwicke ] liked [ him ] , but there was another actor that the studio was pushing for . " For unknown reasons , that actor was not able to play the part , and Facinelli was selected in his place . The choice of Ashley Greene to portray Alice Cullen was criticized by some fans because Greene is 7 inches ( 18 cm ) taller than her character as described in the novel . Meyer said that Rachael Leigh Cook resembled her vision of Alice . Nikki Reed had previously worked with Hardwicke on the successful Thirteen ( 2003 ) , which they co @-@ wrote , and Lords of Dogtown ( 2005 ) .

Kellan Lutz was in Africa , shooting the HBO miniseries Generation Kill , when the auditions for the character of Emmett Cullen were conducted . The role had already been cast by the time the HBO production ended in December 2007 , but the selected actor " fell through " . Lutz subsequently auditioned and was flown to Oregon , where Hardwicke personally chose him .

Rachelle Lefèvre wanted a role in the film because Hardwicke was director ; she saw " the potential to explore a character , hopefully , over three films " ; and she wanted to portray a vampire . " [ She ] thought that vampires were basically the best metaphor for human anxiety and questions about being alive . " Christian Serratos initially auditioned for Jessica Stanley , but she " fell totally in love with Angela " after reading the books and took advantage of a later opportunity to audition for Angela Weber . The role of Jessica Stanley went to Anna Kendrick , who got the part after two mix @-@ and @-@ match auditions with various actors .

Because of major physical changes that occur in the character of Jacob Black between Twilight and New Moon , director Chris Weitz considered replacing Taylor Lautner in the sequel with an actor who could more accurately portray " the new , larger Jacob Black . " Trying to keep the role , Lautner worked out extensively and put on 30 lbs . In January 2009 , Weitz and Summit Entertainment announced that Lautner would continue as Jacob in The Twilight Saga : New Moon .

In late March 2009 , Summit Entertainment released a list of the actors who would be portraying the " wolf pack " alongside Lautner . The casting for the rest of the Quileute tribe was headed by casting director Rene Haynes , who has worked on films with large American Indian casts , such as Dances with Wolves and Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee .

In mid @-@ 2009 , it was announced that Bryce Dallas Howard would be replacing Rachelle Lefevre as Victoria for the third Twilight film , The Twilight Saga : Eclipse . Summit Entertainment attributed the change to scheduling conflicts . Lefevre said she was " stunned " and " greatly saddened " by the decision . Jodelle Ferland was cast as the newly turned vampire , Bree . Other new cast members for the third film include Xavier Samuel as Riley , Jack Huston as Royce King II , Catalina Sandino Moreno as Maria , Julia Jones as Leah Clearwater , and BooBoo Stewart as Seth Clearwater .

= = Production = =

Principal photography for Twilight took 44 days , after more than a week of rehearsals , and completed on May 2 , 2008 . Similar to her directorial debut thirteen , Hardwicke opted for an extensive use of hand @-@ held cinematography to make the film " feel real " . Meyer visited the production set three times , and was consulted on different aspects of the story ; she also has a brief cameo in the film . To make their bodily movements more elegant , and to get used to their characters ' fighting styles , the cast playing vampires participated in rehearsals with a dance

choreographer and observed the physicality of different panthera . Instead of shooting at Forks High School itself , scenes taking place at the school were filmed at Kalama High School and Madison High School . Other scenes were also filmed in St. Helens , Oregon , and Hardwicke conducted some reshooting in Pasadena , California , in August .

In early November 2008 , Summit announced that they had obtained the rights to the remaining books in Stephenie Meyer 's Twilight series : New Moon , Eclipse , and Breaking Dawn . On November 22 , 2008 , one day after the theatrical release of Twilight , Summit confirmed that they would begin working on New Moon . Melissa Rosenberg had been working on adapting the novel prior to Twilight 's release and handed in the draft for New Moon during Twilight 's opening weekend in November 2008 .

In early December 2008 , it was announced that Twilight director Catherine Hardwicke would not be returning to direct the sequel . Hardwicke cited time restrictions as the reason behind her leaving the project . Instead , Chris Weitz , director of The Golden Compass and co @-@ director of American Pie , was hired to direct The Twilight Saga : New Moon . Filming for New Moon began in Vancouver in late March 2009 , and in Montepulciano , Italy , in late May 2009 .

In early 2009 , before the release of The Twilight Saga : New Moon , Summit confirmed that they would begin production on The Twilight Saga : Eclipse . Since Weitz would be in post @-@ production for New Moon when The Twilight Saga : Eclipse began shooting , he would not be directing the third film . Instead , The Twilight Saga : Eclipse was helmed by director David Slade , with Melissa Rosenberg returning as screenwriter . Filming began on August 17 , 2009 at Vancouver Film Studios and finished in late October , with post @-@ production beginning early the following month . In April 2010 , it was revealed that re @-@ shoots of the film were needed . Slade , who previously said he would not be around for them , was seen , along with Stephenie Meyer , on set . The three main stars were also present .

Wyck Godfrey , producer of the previous films in the series , stated in mid @-@ 2009 that they had every intention to make the film version of Breaking Dawn . Following months of speculation and cast rumors , it was officially announced on April 28 , 2010 , that Academy Award winner Bill Condon , who directed Gods and Monsters and Dreamgirls , would direct Breaking Dawn ; producing the film will be Wyck Godfrey , Karen Rosenfelt , and author Stephenie Meyer . " I 'm very excited to get the chance to bring the climax of this saga to life on @-@ screen . As fans of the series know , this is a one @-@ of @-@ a @-@ kind book ? and we 're hoping to create an equally unique cinematic experience , " said Bill Condon . A November 18 , 2011 release date has been set for the first part , while the second is scheduled for release on November 16 , 2012 . Following that announcement , Summit officially confirmed that a two @-@ part adaption of the fourth book would start production in the fall on June 11 , 2010 . With this announcement , it was made clear that all major actors , including the three lead roles , the Cullen family , and Charlie Swan , would return for both parts . Bill Condon was also confirmed to direct both parts .

In order to keep the budget on both parts of Breaking Dawn reasonable , which would be substantially greater than the previous installments in the series , filming in Louisiana is also being negotiated . Shooting in Louisiana would provide larger tax credits , which a studio as low @-@ profile as Summit Entertainment would benefit from .

= = Films = =

= = = Twilight ( 2008 ) = = =

Twilight was directed by Catherine Hardwicke and written by Melissa Rosenberg . It focuses on the development of a personal relationship between human teenager Bella Swan ( Kristen Stewart ) and vampire Edward Cullen ( Robert Pattinson ) , and the subsequent efforts of Edward and his family to keep Bella safe from a separate group of hostile vampires .

The film was released theatrically starting on November 21 , 2008 . It grossed \$ 35 @.@ 7 million on its opening day , and has come to gross US \$ 408 @.@ 9 million worldwide . The DVD was

released on March 21 , 2009 and grossed an additional \$ 201 million from sales .

= = = The Twilight Saga : New Moon ( 2009 ) = = =

The Twilight Saga : New Moon was directed by Chris Weitz and written by Melissa Rosenberg . The film follows Bella Swan 's fall into a deep depression until she develops a strong friendship with werewolf Jacob Black . Jacob and his tribe must protect Bella from Victoria , a gregarious herd of vampires . The film was released theatrically starting on November 20 , 2009 , and set numerous records . It is currently the biggest advance @-@ ticket seller on Fandango and held the biggest midnight opening in domestic ( United States and Canada ) box office history , grossing an estimated \$ 26 @.@ 3 million . Its sequel , The Twilight Saga : Eclipse , broke that record in June 2010 , grossing \$ 72 @.@ 7 million on its opening day domestically , \$ 709 Million Worldwide and becoming the biggest single @-@ day opening in domestic history . It is the twelfth highest opening weekend in domestic history with \$ 142 @,@ 839 @,@ 137 .

= = = The Twilight Saga : Eclipse ( 2010 ) = = =

The Twilight Saga : Eclipse was directed by David Slade and written by Melissa Rosenberg . The film follows Bella Swan as she develops awareness of the complications of marrying Edward Cullen . As Victoria draws nearer with a group of newborn vampires , Jacob Black and the rest of the werewolves form a temporary alliance to destroy her , in turn , to keep Bella safe . While Bella tries to decide who she is , a fight brews and the consequences are paid once Jacob gets hurt . Intent on keeping a compromise with Edward , she vows to keep true to her engagement and marry him .

The film was released theatrically starting on June 30 , 2010 , and is the first Twilight film to be released in IMAX . It set a new record for biggest midnight opening in domestic ( United States and Canada ) in box office history , grossing an estimated \$ 30 million in over 4 @,@ 000 theaters . The previous record holder was the previous film in the series , The Twilight Saga : New Moon with \$ 26 @.@ 3 million in 3 @,@ 514 theaters . The film then scored the biggest Wednesday opening in domestic history with \$ 68 @,@ 533 @,@ 840 beating Transformers : Revenge of the Fallen 's \$ 62 million . The Twilight Saga : Eclipse has also become the film with the widest independent release , playing in over 4 @,@ 416 theaters , surpassing its predecessor , The Twilight Saga : New Moon , which held the record since November 2009 .

= = = The Twilight Saga : Breaking Dawn ? Part 1 ( 2011 ) = = =

The Twilight Saga : Breaking Dawn was directed by Bill Condon , and author Stephenie Meyer co @-@ produced the film along with Karen Rosenfelt and Wyck Godfrey , with Melissa Rosenberg penning the script . The book 's plot was split into two films , the first of which was released on November 18 , 2011 . The filming of Breaking Dawn began in November 2010 . The first part follows Bella and Edward as they get married and then learn that Bella has become pregnant . They deal with her struggle of being pregnant and almost passing away because of the half vampire @-@ half human child .

= = = The Twilight Saga : Breaking Dawn ? Part 2 ( 2012 ) = = =

The Twilight Saga : Breaking Dawn Part 2 was directed by Bill Condon , and author Stephenie Meyer co @-@ produced the film along with Karen Rosenfelt and Wyck Godfrey , with Melissa Rosenberg penning the script . The book 's plot was split into two films , the first of which was released on November 18 , 2011 . The second was released on November 16 , 2012 . The second part of Breaking Dawn saw the climax of Bella and Edward 's relationship , as Bella must learn to adapt to immortality as a newly transformed vampire and motherhood .

= = Soundtracks = =

## == Twilight ==

The Twilight Original Motion Picture Soundtrack was chosen by music supervisor Alexandra Patsavas . The album was released on November 4 , 2008 by Patsavas ' Chop Shop label , in conjunction with Atlantic Records . The album debuted at # 1 on the Billboard 200 , having sold about 165 @, @ 000 copies in its first week of release , 29 % of which were digital downloads . Twilight is the best @-@ selling theatrical movie soundtrack in the United States since Chicago .

Twilight : The Score was composed and orchestrated by Carter Burwell over a 9 ? 10 week period , and was recorded and mixed in about 2 weeks in late September 2008 . Burwell began the score with a " Love Theme " for Bella and Edward 's relationship , a variation of which became " Bella 's Lullaby " that Robert Pattinson plays in the film , and that is included on the Twilight Original Motion Picture Soundtrack . The original theme is featured throughout the film , and serves to " play the romance that drives the story " . Another theme Burwell composed was a " Predator Theme " , which opens the film , and is intended to play Edward 's vampire nature . Other themes include a bass @-@ line , drum beat and distorted guitar sound for the nomadic vampires , and a melody for the Cullen family . Twilight : The Score was released digitally on November 25 , 2008 and in stores on December 9 .

## == The Twilight Saga : New Moon ==

The score for The Twilight Saga : New Moon was composed by Alexandre Desplat while Alexandra Patsavas returned as music supervisor for the rest of the soundtrack . Weitz has a working relationship with Desplat , who scored one of his previous films , The Golden Compass . The The Twilight Saga : New Moon : Original Motion Picture Soundtrack album was released on October 16 , 2009 by Patsavas ' Chop Shop label , in conjunction with Atlantic Records . The album debuted at # 2 on the Billboard 200 , later jumped to # 1 with 153 @, @ 000 copies sold . The Twilight Saga : New Moon : The Score was released on November 24 @, @ 2009 .

## == The Twilight Saga : Eclipse ==

The score for The Twilight Saga : Eclipse was composed by Howard Shore , who composed the scores for The Lord of the Rings trilogy . The film 's soundtrack was released on June 8 , 2010 by Atlantic Records in conjunction with music supervisor Alexandra Patsavas ' Chop Shop label . The lead single from the soundtrack is " Neutron Star Collision ( Love Is Forever ) " , performed by the British band Muse . The soundtrack debuted at number two on the U.S. Billboard 200 albums chart with estimated sales of 144 @, @ 000 copies .

## == The Twilight Saga : Breaking Dawn ? Part 1 ==

The Breaking Dawn ? Part 1 soundtrack saw the release of two singles : " A Thousand Years " by Christina Perri and " It Will Rain " by Bruno Mars . The former reached number one and the latter of the two number three on the Billboard Hot 100 .

## == The Twilight Saga : Breaking Dawn ? Part 2 ==

## == Reaction ==

## == Box office performance ==

Twilight grossed over \$ 7 million in ticket sales from midnight showings alone on November 21 , 2008 . It grossed \$ 35 @. @ 7 million on its opening day . For its opening weekend in the United States and Canada , Twilight accumulated \$ 69 @. @ 6 million from 3 @, @ 419 theaters at an average of \$ 20 @, @ 368 per theater .

The film has made \$ 192 @. @ 7 million in the United States and Canada , and a further \$ 192 @. @ 2 million in international territories for a total of \$ 384 @. @ 9 million worldwide .

The film was released on DVD in North America on March 21 , 2009 through midnight release parties , and sold over 3 million units in its first day . It has continued to sell units , totaling as of July 2012 , making \$ 201 @, @ 323 @, @ 629 .

The Twilight Saga : New Moon set records for advance ticket sales , causing some theaters to add additional showings . The film set records as the biggest midnight opening in domestic ( United States and Canada ) box office history , grossing an estimated \$ 26 @. @ 3 million in 3 @, @ 514 theatres , before expanding to 4 @, @ 024 theaters . The record was previously held by Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince , which grossed \$ 22 @. @ 2 million domestically during its midnight premiere . The film grossed \$ 72 @. @ 7 million on its opening day domestically , becoming the biggest single @-@ day opening in domestic history , beating The Dark Knight 's \$ 67 @. @ 2 million . This opening strongly contributed to another record : the first time that the top ten films at the domestic box office had a combined gross of over \$ 100 million in a single day .

The opening weekend of The Twilight Saga : New Moon is the ninth @-@ highest opening weekend in domestic history with \$ 142 @, @ 839 @, @ 137 . The film also has the sixth highest worldwide opening weekend with \$ 274 @. @ 9 million total .

= = = Critical response = = =

While The Twilight Saga has been successful in the box office , critical reception of the films was mixed , and significantly declined as the series continued .

New York Press critic Armond White called Twilight " a genuine pop classic " , and praised Hardwicke for turning " Meyer 's book series into a Brontë @-@ esque vision " . USA Today gave the film two out of four stars and Claudia Puig wrote : " Meyer is said to have been involved in the production of Twilight , but her novel was substantially more absorbing than the unintentionally funny and quickly forgettable film . "

Robert Ignizio of the Cleveland Scene described The Twilight Saga : New Moon as an " entertaining fantasy " , and noted that it " has a stronger visual look [ than Twilight ] and does a better job with its action scenes while still keeping the focus on the central love triangle . " Michael O 'Sullivan of The Washington Post gave the film two and half stars out of four , praised Kristen Stewart 's performance in the film and wrote : " Despite melodrama that , at times , is enough to induce diabetes , there 's enough wolf whistle in this sexy , scary romp to please anyone . " The Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer gave the film a " B " grading and said , " the movie looks tremendous , the dialogue works , there are numerous well placed jokes , the acting is on point . " Mick Lasalle from the San Francisco Chronicle responded with a more mixed review , stating , " [ E ] xpect this film to satisfy its fans . Everybody else , get ready for a bizarre soap opera / pageant , consisting of a succession of static scenes with characters loping into the frame to announce exactly what they 're thinking . " Roger Ebert gave the film 1 star out of 4 and said that it " takes the tepid achievement of Twilight , guts it , and leaves it for undead . " The release of the movie has also inspired feminist criticism , with Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly making light of the claim that Edward Cullen is little better than a stalker . In any case , the influx of female viewers into the theaters indicates the increasing importance of the female demographic in dictating Hollywood 's tastes .

The Hollywood Reporter posted a positive review of The Twilight Saga : Eclipse , saying the film " nails it " . Variety reports that the film " finally feels more like the blockbuster this top @-@ earning franchise deserves " . One review stated the film was the best in The Twilight Saga so far , acknowledging that , " The person who should be worried is Bill Condon , the director tapped for the two @-@ part finale , Breaking Dawn . He 's got a real challenge to make movies as good as Eclipse . " A.O. Scott of The New York Times praised David Slade 's ability to make an entertaining

film , calling it funny and better than its predecessors , but pointed out the acting hasn 't improved much .

A more negative review said that while " Eclipse restores some of the energy New Moon zapped out of the franchise and has enough quality performances to keep it involving " , the film " isn 't quite the adrenaline @-@ charged game @-@ changer for love story haters that its marketing might lead you to believe . The majority of the ' action ' remains protracted and not especially scintillating should @-@ we @-@ or @-@ shouldn 't @-@ we conversations between the central triangle . " Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun Times gave the film a more positive review than for the first two films in the saga , but still felt the movie was a constant , unclever conversation between the three main characters . He criticized the " gazes " both Edward and Jacob give Bella throughout the movie , and noted that the mountain range that appears in the film looks " like landscapes painted by that guy on TV who shows you how to paint stuff like that . " He also predicted that a lack of understanding for the film series in general would not bode well with the audience , stating , " I doubt anyone not intimately familiar with the earlier installments could make head or tails of the opening scenes . " He gave the film 2 stars out of 4 .

Breaking Dawn ? Part 1 received mostly negative reviews from critics . Review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reports that just 24 % of critics ( of the 188 counted reviews ) gave the film a positive review , and the site 's consensus reads " Slow , joyless and loaded with unintentionally humorous moments , Breaking Dawn Part 1 may satisfy the Twilight faithful , but it 's strictly for fans of the franchise " . Part 2 had a mixed critical reception but was much more favorable than Part 1 . Bruce Diones of New Yorkers gave the film a positive review , citing " A feast of ripe dialogue and bloodsucking action " . On the other hand , Richard Roeper said that " The fifth and final entry in the historically successful Twilight franchise is the most self @-@ aware and in some ways the most entertaining " .

== Review aggregate results ==

== Home media sales ==

List indicator ( s )

( B ) indicates the yearly rank based on the number of DVDs sold during the year released ( calculated by The Numbers ) .

== Twilight in popular culture ==

The 2010 Portuguese teen series Lua Vermelha ( Red Moon ) had a similar premise of vampire romance but differed in the story .

The 2010 parody film Vampires Suck spoofed the film series . A television show within the canon of Canadian teen vampire film My Babysitter 's a Vampire and the television series sequel called Dusk is a parody of Twilight .

The 2012 film Breaking Wind ( parodying the title of Breaking Dawn , but parodying the whole film series ) , directed by Craig Moss ( best known for The 41 @-@ Year @-@ Old Virgin Who Knocked Up Sarah Marshall and Felt Superbad About It ) , is also a spoof of the films and a parody version of Breaking Dawn Part ? 1 .

The 2012 animated movie Hotel Transylvania has a scene inspired by Twilight .

The 2013 Filipino comedy sitcom entitled My Daddy is a Vampire resembled some Twilight scenes .