

= Roberto Orci =

Roberto Gaston Orci (born July 20 , 1973) is a Mexican @-@ American film and television screenwriter and producer . He began his longtime collaboration with Alex Kurtzman while at school in California . Together they have been employed on television series such as Hercules : The Legendary Journeys and Xena : Warrior Princess . In 2008 , together with J. J. Abrams , they created Fringe . In 2013 , they created Sleepy Hollow alongside Phillip Iscove . Orci and Kurtzman 's first film project was Michael Bay 's The Island , and due to that partnership they went on to write the scripts for the first three films of the Transformers film series . Orci first became a film producer with 2008 's Eagle Eye and again with 2009 's The Proposal .

He and Kurtzman since returned to working with Abrams on Mission : Impossible III and both Star Trek and Star Trek Into Darkness . Between 2005 and 2011 , Kurtzman and Orci 's film projects took revenues of more than \$ 3 billion . In April 2014 , Orci and Kurtzman announced that they would only collaborate in television projects , and Orci worked on the third Star Trek film , Star Trek Beyond , until being replaced the following December . Orci created the television series Matador for the El Rey Network , but after this was initially renewed , it was cancelled at the end of the first season . Both Kurtzman and Orci continue to work as producers on the television series Limitless and Scorpion . Orci was awarded the Norman Lear Writer 's Award and the Raul Julia Award for Excellence , in addition to shared awards and nominations including The George Pal Memorial Award .

= = Early life = =

Orci was born in Mexico City on July 20 , 1973 , to a Mexican father and a Cuban mother . His mother immigrated to the United States with her parents after Fidel Castro came to power . Orci grew up in Mexico , and moved with his family to the United States at the age of 10 . He was raised in Texas , Los Angeles and Canada . He is the older brother of screenwriter @-@ producer J. R. Orci .

He met his longtime friend and collaborator Alex Kurtzman when both were 17 @-@ year @-@ old students at Crossroads , a privately funded school in Santa Monica , California . The first time they came across each other was in a film class , where they discovered each other 's love for movies and in particular the Steven Soderbergh film Sex , Lies , and Videotape . The duo found that they had a number of things in common , as Kurtzman had previously lived in Mexico City and the two could relate . Orci later called him a " honorary Hispanic " . Orci went on to attend the University of Texas at Austin . The duo got together once again , and began to write scripts . These included one called Misfortune Cookies which Orci described as " loosely autobiographical " , and Last Kiss , which Kurtzman said was their version of The Breakfast Club but was set in a lunatic asylum .

The duo modeled their relationship on writers Billy Wilder and I. A. L. Diamond , but were much closer friends rather than just writing partners . They took the approach that they were in a band together and purposely studied teams to discover why they break up . Kurtzman later explained in 2009 that " One big thing that makes the wheels start to wobble is when someone feels that the contribution isn 't 50 @-@ 50 . We make sure we live up to the partnership . If we didn 't , we wouldn 't have lasted this long . "

= = Career = =

= = Television and film screenwriting = =

Orci and Kurtzman began their writing collaboration on the television series Hercules : The Legendary Journeys , after being hired by Sam Raimi . After actor Kevin Sorbo suffered a stroke , the duo were required to come up with inventive ideas to minimize his appearances on screen . Due to this work , they became show runners at the age of 24 . They were also involved in the sister

@-@ series to Hercules , Xena : Warrior Princess . They sought to move to writing for a network @-@ based television series , but found this difficult . After receiving a series of negative responses , they met with J. J. Abrams who was starting work on Alias at the time . The meeting went well , and resulted in them working on the series . They would go on to work together again on the Fox science fiction series Fringe where all three were listed as co @-@ creators .

Orci and Kurtzman received their break in writing for films in 2004 , with the Michael Bay film The Island , for which they developed the spec script by Caspian Tredwell @-@ Owen . When Kurtzman and Orci first met Bay , he asked the pair " Why should I trust you ? " , to which Orci replied " You shouldn 't yet . Let 's see what happens . " While the film was not an overwhelming success , they were brought back for Bay 's following film , Transformers , after producer Steven Spielberg asked them to come in for a meeting . The movie took in \$ 710 million at the box office .

Following their work on that film , the duo were brought in to revise the script for Zack Snyder 's Watchmen , in an uncredited capacity . They worked once more with Abrams , on Mission : Impossible III . When they collaborated once more with Bay for Transformers : Revenge of the Fallen , they were under significant time pressures due to the 2007 ? 08 Writers Guild of America strike . Kurtzman and Orci had two weeks to outline the film , and after the strike Bay had them moved into the Hotel Casa del Mar. The hotel was six blocks away from his office , enabling Bay to conduct surprise inspections .

In the period between 2005 and 2011 , the films written by Kurtzman and Orci grossed more than \$ 3 billion , leading to Forbes describing them as " Hollywood 's secret weapons " . The busyness of their screenwriting careers required them to collaborate with other writers due to the number of projects they were involved in . For example , on Transformers : Revenge of the Fallen , they teamed up with Ehren Kruger , who took over from them on the writing duties for the Transformers franchise from Transformers : Dark of the Moon onwards .

= = = Becoming a producer = = =

Orci 's first credit solely as a producer came with the film Eagle Eye , where he worked once again alongside Kurtzman . He said in an interview with the magazine Extra that he had previously been involved in productions where the producers had writing backgrounds and had looked to them for help , and he was happy to provide that same support to the writers on Eagle Eye . The director of the film , D. J. Caruso , praised the duo saying that " What 's unusually cool about them is that they have maintained the producer @-@ writer power that they earned in television and carried that over into the feature film area , and that is extremely rare . " Following their work on Eagle Eye , they were executive producers on the Sandra Bullock film , The Proposal .

Despite their film careers , Orci and Kurtzman continued to create television series . These included Sleepy Hollow , which they developed alongside Phillip Iscove . They pitched the series to a number of networks , and it was picked up by Fox . Orci took five years to bring the series Matador to television , with it originating from a conversation with his cousin Andrew . It was created for Robert Rodriguez 's El Rey Network , and Rodriguez 's one demand of the show was that he could direct the pilot episode . Orci later explained in an interview that it was an easy decision , and he needed to pretend to consider it .

Orci and Kurtzman also worked together as executive producers on the animated television series , Transformers : Prime , due to their involvement with the live action movies . Following the end of the series they were hopeful to be involved in a future animated series based on the premise , which Orci saw less like a reboot of the show and more of a continuation in a different guise . He felt that while Prime was sophisticated , there were concerns that it was leaving younger viewers behind because of its complexity and intensity .

= = = Star Trek reboot = = =

Orci and Kurtzman were asked to write the script for a new Star Trek film , but initially turned it down despite Orci being a fan of the series . Orci suggested rebooting the timeline as seen

previously in the films and television series , and adding the return of Leonard Nimoy as Spock from Star Trek : The Original Series . He considered the first two films in the reboot series to be the origin story for the crew , and that the third film would start where the crew was at the beginning of Star Trek : The Original Series . Orci felt that the relationship between the James T. Kirk and the younger Spock was reflective of the partnership of himself and Kurtzman , he said that " We didn 't even realize we were writing about ourselves until we were halfway through the script , that was a little embarrassing .

Star Trek was the series ' biggest grossing film at the domestic box @-@ office in the United States , resulting in a sequel being greenlit by the studio and Kurtzman and Orci being asked to write it . The studio set aside a larger budget for the sequel , which was revealed by Orci in an interview with TrekMovie.com. Orci ruled out the " hero quitting " staple of a second movie , which had featured in the Transformers sequel , saying that the crew of the Enterprise were committed and that type of story does not have to apply to all sequels . During the buildup to the film , called Star Trek Into Darkness , Orci was one of the production team who didn 't give much away about the villain in the film and denied that Benedict Cumberbatch was to play Khan Noonian Singh .

The criticism of the sequel resulted in Orci posting controversial comments on a Star Trek fan site . In response to a fan upset over Into Darkness , Orci called him a " shitty fan " . He later apologized and deactivated his Twitter account .

= = = Breakup of the partnership = = =

In April 2014 , Orci and Kurtzman confirmed to Variety that they are no longer going to work together on film projects but will still collaborate together on television . Kurtzman wanted to work on the Spider @-@ Man film franchise , while Orci was linked to the directorial role for Star Trek 3 . Orci confirmed later that year in July that he was not involved in the production of The Amazing Spider @-@ Man 3 alongside Kurtzman . Orci and Kurtzman 's K / O Paper Products continues to operate as a production company within CBS Television Studios , and has created the series Scorpion inspired by the life of Walter O 'Brien for the 2014 @-@ 15 season and Limitless was created for the 2015 @-@ 16 season from the 2011 film .

Prior to the split of Kurtzman and Orci , the duo were lined up to write the third film in the new Star Trek series . In May 2014 , Skydance and Paramount Pictures announced that Orci was to direct the third installment of the Star Trek reboot franchise , after Abrams moved on to direct Star Wars : The Force Awakens . This would have marked Orci 's directorial debut , and he was to write the script alongside co @-@ writers JD Payne and Patrick McKay . Due to his commitment to Star Trek 3 , he dropped out of a new Power Rangers film , for which he would have been executive producer . But on December 5 , it was announced he would no longer be directing the Star Trek film . He remains credited as a producer on the film , and was replaced by Doug Jung and cast member Simon Pegg as the script writers after Orci 's initial script was dropped . Orci was replaced as director by Justin Lin , who had previously directed films in The Fast and the Furious franchise .

Orci created Matador with the idea that the main character would be a " soccer player by day who is a spy by night " , and called him a " Latin James Bond " . The series was broadcast on the El Rey Network created by Robert Rodriguez . It was renewed for a second season shortly before the pilot was broadcast , which had been directed by Rodriguez . But following the production of the first season , the series was cancelled despite the earlier renewal . This decision was blamed on poor international sales .

= = Awards and accolades = =

The Hollywood Reporter listed Orci as one of the 50 most powerful Latinos in Hollywood of 2007 . His first solo accolade was the Norman Lear Writer 's Award at the Imagen Awards in 2009 . He described the experience of receiving an award without Kurtzman as " bizarre " . Orci has also been awarded the Raul Julia Award for Excellence by the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts . Together with Kurtzman , Orci won The George Pal Memorial Award at the 2010 Saturn Awards .

Orci and Kurtzman were both honored by the nonprofit organization Chrysalis , alongside Josh Lieberman and Katherine Pope at the Butterfly Ball on June 8 , 2013 . The organization raises money for homeless people and low @-@ income families , Orci said that " When you hear the life stories from people right here in our own community , who are clients at Chrysalis , and when you come to learn of their lowest moments and how Chrysalis has led to their proudest triumphs , it 's easy to see why this local organization is so impactful . "

= = Filmography = =

= = = Films = = =

= = = Television credits = = =