

= Inglourious Basterds =

Inglourious Basterds is a 2009 German @-@ American war film written and directed by Quentin Tarantino and starring Brad Pitt , Christoph Waltz and Mélanie Laurent . The film tells the fictional alternate history story of two plots to assassinate Nazi Germany 's political leadership , one planned by Shosanna Dreyfus ( Laurent ) , a young French Jewish cinema proprietor , and the other by a team of Jewish @-@ American soldiers led by First Lieutenant Aldo Raine ( Pitt ) . Christoph Waltz co @-@ stars as Hans Landa , an SS colonel tracking down Raine 's group who has a connection to Shosanna 's past . The film 's title was inspired by Italian director Enzo G. Castellari 's macaroni combat film , The Inglorious Bastards ( 1978 ) .

Tarantino wrote the script in 1998 but struggled with the ending and chose to hold off filming and instead direct the two @-@ part film Kill Bill . After directing Death Proof in 2007 ( as part of the double feature Grindhouse ) , Tarantino returned to work on Inglourious Basterds . A co @-@ production of the United States and Germany , the film began principal photography in October 2008 and was filmed in Germany and France with a \$ 70 million production budget . Inglourious Basterds premiered on May 20 , 2009 , at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival . It was widely released in theaters in the United States and Europe in August 2009 by The Weinstein Company and Universal Pictures .

The film was commercially successful , grossing over \$ 321 million in theaters worldwide , making it Tarantino 's highest @-@ grossing film at that point , and second @-@ highest to date , after Django Unchained ( 2012 ) . It received multiple awards and nominations , among them eight Academy Award nominations , including Best Picture , Best Director and Best Original Screenplay . For his role as Landa , Waltz won the Cannes Film Festival 's Best Actor Award , as well as the BAFTA , Screen Actors Guild , Golden Globe , and Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor .

= = Plot = =

= = = Chapter One : Once Upon a Time ... In Nazi @-@ Occupied France = = =

In 1941 , SS colonel Hans Landa , the " Jew Hunter , " interrogates French dairy farmer Perrier La Padite as to the whereabouts of the last unaccounted @-@ for Jewish family in the area . In exchange for the Germans agreeing to leave his family alone for the rest of the war , La Padite reveals that the Dreyfus family is hidden under the floor . Landa orders SS soldiers to shoot through the floorboards . The whole family is killed except for Shosanna , a young woman who escapes when Landa decides not to shoot her as she flees .

= = = Chapter Two : Inglourious Basterds = = =

Three years later , Lieutenant Aldo " The Apache " Raine of the First Special Service Force recruits Jewish @-@ American soldiers to the Basterds , who spread fear among the German soldiers by brutally killing and scalping them . The Basterds also recruit Sergeant Hugo Stiglitz , a German soldier who murdered thirteen Gestapo officers . Adolf Hitler interviews a German soldier , Private Butz , the only survivor of a Basterd attack on his squad . Raine carved the Nazi swastika into Butz 's forehead with a knife so he could never hide that he served in the German Heer .

= = = Chapter Three : German Night in Paris = = =

Meanwhile , Shosanna is operating a cinema in Paris under an assumed name . She meets Fredrick Zoller , a German sniper who killed 250 soldiers in a single battle ; Zoller is to star in a Nazi propaganda film , Stolz der Nation ( Nation 's Pride ) . Infatuated with Shosanna , Zoller convinces Joseph Goebbels to hold the premiere of the film at her cinema . Shosanna plots with her projectionist and lover , Marcel , to kill the Nazi leaders attending the premiere by setting the cinema

ablaze .

#### = = = Chapter Four : Operation Kino = = =

Unknown to Shosanna , British Army Lieutenant Archie Hicox is working with the Basterds to plan an attack on the same premiere . Hicox goes to a tavern with Hugo Stiglitz and Basterd Wilhelm Wicki to meet with an undercover agent , the German film star Bridget von Hammersmark . A German soldier named Wilhelm engages them in friendly conversation , but Gestapo Major Dieter Hellstrom overhears them and becomes suspicious of Hicox 's German accent . Hicox convinces him that he is from the Swiss mountains , but then gives himself away by ordering three drinks and gestures three with his fingers , but the German three is the thumb with your first two fingers . After they are discovered , the Basterds open fire and everyone is killed except Wilhelm and Hammersmark , who is wounded . Raine arrives and negotiates with Wilhelm for Hammersmark to be released , but the actress kills Wilhelm when he lowers his guard . Raine learns from Hammersmark that Hitler himself will be attending the film premiere and decides to continue the mission . Later , Landa investigates the aftermath at the tavern and finds one of Hammersmark 's shoes and a napkin with her signature , clues that will lead him to her .

#### = = = Chapter Five : Revenge of the Giant Face = = =

At the premiere , two of the Basterds , Donny " The Bear Jew " Donowitz and Omar Ulmer , join him in posing as Italians , hoping to fool the Germans unfamiliar with the language . However , Landa , who speaks fluent Italian , converses briefly with the Basterds before sending Donowitz and Ulmer to their seats . He takes Hammersmark to a private room , verifies that the shoe from the tavern fits her foot , then strangles her to death . Raine and another of his men , Smithson " The Little Man " Utivich , are taken prisoner , but Landa has Raine contact his superior with the OSS and cuts a deal : He will allow the mission to proceed in exchange for immunity and rewards .

During the screening , Zoller slips away to the projection room to see Shosanna . After she rejects his advances , he becomes aggressive . She pretends to acquiesce , then pulls a pistol from her bag and shoots him . Zoller , mortally wounded , raises his pistol and shoots her before they both die .

As the film reaches its climax , spliced @-@ in footage of Shosanna tells the audience that they are about to be killed by a Jew . Marcel , having locked the doors of the cinema , ignites a pile of flammable nitrate film behind the screen as Shosanna 's image laughs . Ulmer and Donowitz break into the box containing Hitler and Goebbels , killing them , then fire their submachine guns into the crowd until the bombs go off , killing everyone in the theater .

Landa and his radio operator drive Raine and Utivich into Allied territory , where they surrender . Raine shoots the radio operator , carves a swastika into Landa 's forehead , and tells Utivich with a grin , " This just might be my masterpiece . "

#### = = Cast = =

Quentin Tarantino as scalped Nazi

#### = = Production = =

#### = = = Development = = =

Tarantino spent just over a decade writing the film 's script because , as he told Charlie Rose in an interview , he became " too precious about the page , " meaning the story kept growing and expanding . Tarantino viewed the script as his masterpiece in the making , so he felt it had to become the best thing he had ever written . Tarantino described an early premise of the film as his "

bunch @-@ of @-@ guys @-@ on @-@ a @-@ mission " film . He said it was " my Dirty Dozen or Where Eagles Dare or Guns of Navarone kind of thing " . According to Tarantino , all his films make the audience laugh at things that are not supposed to be funny , but the sense of humor differs in each .

By 2002 , Tarantino found Inglourious Basterds to be a bigger film than planned and saw that other directors were working on World War II films . At this point , Tarantino had produced three nearly finished scripts , proclaiming that it was " some of the best writing I 've ever done . But I couldn 't come up with an ending . " Consequently , the director held off his planned film and moved on to direct the two @-@ part film Kill Bill ( 2003 ? 2004 ) . After the completion of Kill Bill , Tarantino went back to his first storyline draft and came up with the idea of turning it into a mini @-@ series . Instead he trimmed the script , using his script for Pulp Fiction as a guide to the right length . He then planned to begin production of Inglourious Basterds in 2005 . The revised premise focused on a group of soldiers who escape from their executions and embark on a mission to help the Allies . He described the men as " not your normal hero types that are thrown into a big deal in the Second World War " .

In November 2004 , Tarantino decided to hold off the film 's production and instead took an acting role in Takashi Miike 's Western film Sukiyaiki Western Django and intended to make a kung fu film entirely in Mandarin . This project foundered as well , and he ultimately directed a part of the 2007 Grindhouse before returning to work on Inglourious Basterds . The film 's title was inspired by the English @-@ language title of director Enzo G. Castellari 's 1978 war film , The Inglorious Bastards . When asked for an explanation of the film 's title 's spelling during a news conference at the Cannes Film Festival , Tarantino said , " I 'm never going to explain that " . When pushed on it , Tarantino would not explain the first u in Inglourious , but said , " The Basterds ? That 's just the way you say it : Basterds . " Tarantino later stated in an interview that the misspelled title is " a Basquiat @-@ esque touch . " He further commented on Late Show with David Letterman that Inglourious Basterds is a " Quentin Tarantino spelling . "

= = = Casting = = =

Tarantino originally sought Leonardo DiCaprio to be cast as Hans Landa , before deciding to have the character played by a German actor . The role ultimately went to Austrian Christoph Waltz , who , according to Tarantino , " gave me my movie " as he feared the part was " unplayable . " Pitt and Tarantino had wanted to work together for a number of years , but were forced to wait for the right project . When Tarantino was halfway through the film 's script , he sensed that Pitt was a strong possibility for the role of Aldo Raine . By the time he had finished writing , Tarantino thought Pitt " would be terrific " and called Pitt 's agent to ask if he was available .

Tarantino asked Adam Sandler to play the role of Donny Donowitz , but Sandler declined due to schedule conflicts with the film Funny People . Eli Roth was cast in the role instead . Roth also directed the film @-@ within @-@ the @-@ film , Nation 's Pride , which used 300 extras . The director also wanted to cast Simon Pegg in the film as Lt. Archie Hicox , but he was forced to drop out due to scheduling difficulties with Spielberg 's Tintin adaptation . Irish @-@ German actor Michael Fassbender began final negotiations to join the cast as Hicox in August 2008 , although he originally auditioned for the role of Landa . The Office actor and writer , B. J. Novak , was also cast in August 2008 as Private First Class Smithson Utivich , " a New York @-@ born soldier of ' slight build ' " .

Tarantino talked to actress Nastassja Kinski about playing the role of Bridget von Hammersmark and even flew to Germany to meet her , but a deal could not be reached and Tarantino cast Diane Kruger instead . Rod Taylor was effectively retired from acting and no longer had an agent , but came out of retirement when Tarantino offered him the role of Winston Churchill in the film . This would be Taylor 's last appearance on film before his death on January 7 , 2015 . In preparation for the role , Taylor watched dozens of DVDs with footage of Churchill in order to get the Prime Minister 's posture , body language , and voice , including a lisp , correct . Taylor initially recommended British actor Albert Finney for the role during their conversation , but agreed to take the part because

of Tarantino 's " passion . " Mike Myers , a fan of Tarantino , had inquired about being in the film since Myers ' parents had been in the British Armed Forces . In terms of the character 's dialect , Myers felt that it was a version of Received Pronunciation meeting the officer class , but mostly an attitude of " I 'm fed up with this war and if this dude can end it , great because my country is in ruins . " Tarantino met Mélanie Laurent in three rounds and played all the characters on the first . On the second one , he shared the lines with her , and the third one , it was dinner face @-@ to @-@ face . During the dinner , he told Laurent , " Do you know something ? there 's just something I don 't like . It 's that you ? re famous in your country , and I 'm really wanting to discover somebody . " Laurent replied " No , no , no . ? I 'm not so famous . " And after four days he called and finalized her for the role of Shosanna . Samm Levine was cast as PFC Hirschberg , because , according to Levine , Tarantino was a big fan of Freaks and Geeks , which starred Levine .

Director Enzo Castellari also makes a cameo appearance in the film at the movie premiere . He previously cameoed as a German in his own Inglorious Bastards and reprised the same role in this film , but under a different rank and SS organization . Bo Svenson , who starred in Castellari 's The Inglorious Bastards , also has a small cameo in the film as a US colonel in the Nation 's Pride movie . Samuel L. Jackson and Harvey Keitel , who have both previously starred in Tarantino 's films , make small voice @-@ only contributions as the narrator and an OSS commander , respectively . German musician Bela B. has an uncredited cameo appearance as an usher at the cinema . Two characters , Mrs. Himmelstein and Madame Ada Mimieux , played by Cloris Leachman and Maggie Cheung respectively , were both cut from the final film due to length reasons .

= = = Filming = = =

Tarantino teamed with The Weinstein Company to prepare what he planned to be his film for production . In July 2008 , Tarantino and executive producers Harvey and Bob Weinstein set up an accelerated production schedule to be completed for release at the Cannes Film Festival in 2009 , where the film would compete for the Palme d 'Or . The Weinstein Company co @-@ financed the film and distributed it in the United States , and signed a deal with Universal Pictures to finance the rest of the film and distribute it internationally . Germany and France were scheduled as filming locations and principal photography started in October 2008 on location in Germany . Filming was scheduled to begin on October 13 , 2008 , and shooting started that week . Special effects were handled by KNB EFX Group with Greg Nicotero and much of the film was shot and edited in the Babelsberg Studios in Potsdam , Germany and in Bad Schandau , a small spa town near Germany 's border with the Czech Republic . Roth claimed that they " almost got incinerated " , during the theater fire scene , as they projected the fire would burn at 400 ° C ( 750 ° F ) , but it instead burned at 1200 ° C ( 2000 ° F ) . He claimed the swastika was not supposed to fall either , as it was fastened with steel cables , but the steel softened and snapped . On January 11 , 2013 , on the BBC 's The Graham Norton Show , Tarantino claimed that for the scene where Kruger was strangled , he personally strangled the actress , with his own bare hands , in one take , to aid authenticity .

Following the film 's screening at Cannes , Tarantino stated that he would be re @-@ editing the film in June before its ultimate theatrical release , allowing him time to finish assembling several scenes that were not completed in time for the hurried Cannes première .

= = = Music = = =

Tarantino originally wanted Ennio Morricone to compose the film 's soundtrack . Morricone was unable to , because the film 's sped @-@ up production schedule conflicted with his scoring of Giuseppe Tornatore 's Baaria . However , Tarantino did use eight tracks composed by Morricone in the film , with four of them included on the CD .

The opening theme is taken from the pseudo @-@ folk ballad " The Green Leaves of Summer " , which was composed by Dimitri Tiomkin and Paul Francis Webster for the opening of the 1960 film The Alamo . The soundtrack uses a variety of music genres , including spaghetti western , R & B and David Bowie 's theme from the 1982 film Cat People . This is the first of Tarantino 's

soundtracks that does not include dialogue excerpts from the film . The soundtrack was released on August 18 , 2009 .

= = Release = =

When the script 's final draft was finished , it was leaked on the Internet and several Tarantino fan sites began posting reviews and excerpts from the script .

The film 's first full teaser trailer premiered on Entertainment Tonight on February 10 , 2009 , and was shown in US theaters the following week attached to Friday the 13th . The trailer features excerpts of Lt. Aldo Raine talking to the Basterds , informing them of the plan to ambush and kill , torture , and scalp unwitting Nazi servicemen , intercut with various other scenes from the film . It also features the spaghetti @-@ westernesque terms Once Upon A Time In Nazi Occupied France , which was considered for the film 's title , and A Basterd 's Work Is Never Done , a line not spoken in the final film ( the line occurs in the script during the Bear Jew 's backstory ) .

The film was released on August 19 , 2009 in the United Kingdom and France , two days earlier than the US release date of August 21 , 2009 . It was released in Germany on August 20 , 2009 . Some European cinemas , however , showed previews starting on August 15 . In Poland , the artwork on all advertisements and on DVD packaging is unchanged , but the title was translated non @-@ literally to B?karty Wojny ( Bastards of War ) , so that Nazi iconography could stylize the letter " O " .

= = = Promotion in Germany = = =

Universal Pictures adjusted the film 's German publicity website to the German penal law , as the display of Nazi iconography is restricted in Germany . The title has the swastika removed and the steel helmet has a bullet hole instead of the Nazi symbol . The German site 's download section was revised to exclude wallpaper downloads that openly feature the swastika . Though the advertisement posters and wallpapers may not show Nazi iconography , this does not apply to " works of art " according to German law , so the film itself is not censored in Germany .

= = = Home media = = =

The film was released on single @-@ disc DVD and a two @-@ disc special edition DVD and Blu @-@ ray Disc on December 15 , 2009 , by Universal Studios Home Entertainment in the United States and Australia . It was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray Disc on December 7 , 2009 , in the UK . On its first week of release , the film was number two , only behind The Hangover , selling an estimated 1 @, @ 581 @, @ 220 DVDs making \$ 28 @, @ 467 @, @ 652 in the United States .

The German version is 50 seconds longer than the American version . The scene in the tavern has been extended . Although in other countries , the extended scene was released as a bonus feature , the German theatrical , DVD , and Blu @-@ ray versions are the only ones to include the full scene . To comply with Germany 's prohibition of the swastika symbol , some German DVD and Blu @-@ ray releases of the film show a bullet hole partially obscuring the swastika on the cover .

= = Reception = =

= = = Box office = = =

Opening in 3 @, @ 165 screens , the film earned \$ 14 @. @ 3 million on the opening Friday of its North American release , on the way to an opening weekend gross of \$ 38 million , giving Tarantino a personal best weekend opening and the number one spot at the box office , ahead of District 9 . The film fell to number two in its second weekend , behind The Final Destination , with earnings of \$ 20 million , and grossed \$ 73 @. @ 8 million in its first ten days . Inglourious Basterds opened

internationally at number one in 22 markets on 2 @, @ 650 screens making \$ 27 @. @ 49 million . First place openings included France , taking in \$ 6 @. @ 09 million on 500 screens . The United Kingdom was not far behind making \$ 5 @. @ 92 million ( £ 3.8m ) on 444 screens . Germany took in \$ 4 @. @ 20 million on 439 screens and Australia with \$ 2 @. @ 56 million ( A \$ 2.8m ) on 266 screens . It has come to gross \$ 120 @. @ 5 million in the United States and Canada and \$ 200 @. @ 9 million in other territories , making its worldwide gross \$ 321 @. @ 4 million . Inglourious Basterds was Tarantino 's highest grossing film , both in the U.S. and worldwide until Django Unchained in 2012 .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes reports that 89 % of 297 critics have given the film a positive review , with a rating average of 7 @. @ 8 out of 10 . According to the site 's critical consensus , " A classic Tarantino genre @-@ blending thrill ride , Inglourious Basterds is violent , unrestrained , and thoroughly entertaining . " Metacritic , which assigns a score of 1 ? 100 to individual film reviews , gives the film an averaged rating of 69 based on 36 reviews .

Critics ' initial reactions at the Cannes Film Festival were mixed . The film received an eight- to eleven @-@ minute standing ovation from critics after its first screening at Cannes , although Le Monde , a leading French newspaper , dismissed it , saying " Tarantino gets lost in a fictional World War II " . Despite this , Anne Thompson of Variety praised the film , but opined that it was not a masterpiece , claiming , " Inglourious Basterds is great fun to watch , but the movie isn 't entirely engaging ... You don 't jump into the world of the film in a participatory way ; you watch it from a distance , appreciating the references and the masterful mise en scène . This is a film that will benefit from a second viewing " . Critic James Berardinelli gave the film his first four @-@ star review of 2009 , stating , " With Inglourious Basterds , Quentin Tarantino has made his best movie since Pulp Fiction , " and that it was " one hell of an enjoyable ride . " Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times also gave the film a four @-@ star review , writing that " Quentin Tarantino 's Inglourious Basterds is a big , bold , audacious war movie that will annoy some , startle others and demonstrate once again that he 's the real thing , a director of quixotic delights . " Author and critic Daniel Mendelsohn was disturbed by the portrayal of Jewish @-@ American soldiers mimicking German atrocities done to European Jews , stating , " In Inglourious Basterds , Tarantino indulges this taste for vengeful violence by ? well , by turning Jews into Nazis " . Peter Bradshaw of The Guardian stated he was " struck ... by how exasperatingly awful and transcendently disappointing it is " . While praising Christoph Waltz 's performance ( " a good actor new to American audiences " ) , David Denby , of The New Yorker , dismissed the film with the following words : " The film is skillfully made , but it 's too silly to be enjoyed , even as a joke . [ ... ] Tarantino has become an embarrassment : his virtuosity as a maker of images has been overwhelmed by his inanity as an idiot de la cinémathèque . " Christopher Hitchens likened the experience of watching the film to " sitting in the dark having a great pot of warm piss emptied very slowly over your head . "

The film has met some criticism from Jewish press , as well . In Tablet , Liel Liebowitz criticizes the film as lacking moral depth . He argues that the power of film lies in its ability to impart knowledge and subtle understanding , but Inglourious Basterds serves more as an " alternative to reality , a magical and Manichaeian world where we needn 't worry about the complexities of morality , where violence solves everything , and where the Third Reich is always just a film reel and a lit match away from cartoonish defeat " . Anthony Frosh , writer for the online magazine Galus Australis , has criticized the film for failing to develop its characters sufficiently , labeling the film " Enthralling , but lacking in Jewish content " .

= = = Accolades = = =

Christoph Waltz was singled out for Cannes honors , receiving the Best Actor Award at the festival 's end . Film critic Devin Faraci of CHUD.com stated : " The cry has been raised long before this review , but let me continue it : Christoph Waltz needs not an Oscar nomination but rather an actual

Oscar in his hands .... he must have gold " . The film received four Golden Globe Award nominations including Best Motion Picture ? Drama and Best Supporting Actor for Waltz , who went on to win the award . The film also received three Screen Actors Guild Award nominations and went on to win the awards for Best Cast and Best Supporting Actor , which was awarded to Waltz . The film was nominated for six BAFTA Awards , including Best Director for Tarantino , winning only one award ? Best Supporting Actor for Waltz . In February 2010 , the film was nominated for eight Academy Awards , including Best Picture , Best Director , Best Supporting Actor for Waltz , and Best Original Screenplay . Waltz was awarded the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor .

= = In popular culture = =

On December 5 , 2010 , " The Fight Before Christmas " , the eighth episode of The Simpsons ' 22nd season , featured an Inglourious Basterds sequence during a World War II flashback .

When the Jewish , 6 feet 7 inches ( 2 @. @ 01 m ) , 314 @- @ pound American football player Gabe Carimi was drafted in the 2011 NFL Draft 's first round by the Chicago Bears , he was nicknamed " The Bear Jew " , a reference to the character in Inglourious Basterds .

In the American sitcom Community , the character Chang recruits a group of bodyguards he names " The Changlourious Bastards " ' .