

= Independence Day (1996 film) =

Independence Day (sometimes styled as ID4) is a 1996 American epic , science fiction film . Directed and co -@-@ written by Roland Emmerich , it is now considered a significant turning point in the history of the Hollywood blockbuster . The film focuses on disparate groups of people who converge in the Nevada desert in the aftermath of a calamitous attack by an ostensibly powerful extraterrestrial race from an unknown origin . Along with the rest of the human population , they launch a last @-@ ditch counterattack on July 4 ? the same date as the Independence Day in the United States .

While promoting Stargate in Europe , Emmerich came up with the idea for the film when fielding a question about his own belief in the existence of alien life . He and Devlin decided to incorporate a large @-@ scale attack having noticed that aliens in most invasion films travel long distances in outer space only to remain hidden when reaching Earth . Shooting began in July 1995 in New York City , and the film was officially completed on June 20 , 1996 .

The film was scheduled for release on July 3 , 1996 , but began showing on July 2 (the same day the film 's story begins) in many theaters the result of a high level of anticipation among moviegoers . The film grossed over \$ 817 @. @ 4 million worldwide , becoming the highest @-@ grossing film of 1996 , and briefly , the second highest @-@ grossing film worldwide of all time behind 1993 's Jurassic Park . As of June 2016 , it ranks 55th among the highest @-@ grossing films worldwide , and was at the forefront of the large @-@ scale disaster film and sci @-@ fi resurgence of the mid @-@ 1990s . The film received positive reviews upon its release , with critics praising its groundbreaking special effects , musical score , patriotic theme , and acting , which focused primarily on the performances of Smith and Goldblum . Others criticized its storyline and character development . It won the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Sound Mixing . A sequel , Independence Day : Resurgence , was released on June 24 , 2016 .

= = Plot = =

On July 2 , 1996 , an enormous alien mothership that has one fourth the mass of the Moon enters orbit around Earth , deploying 36 smaller spacecraft , each 15 miles (24 km) wide , that take positions over some of Earth 's major cities and military bases . David Levinson , an MIT @-@ trained satellite technician , decodes a signal embedded in the global satellite transmissions that he determines is a timer counting down to a coordinated attack . With the help of his former wife , White House Communications Director Constance Spano , Levinson , and his father Julius , gain access to the Oval Office and warn President Thomas J. Whitmore that the aliens are hostile . Whitmore orders large @-@ scale evacuations of New York City , Los Angeles , and Washington D.C. , but it is too late ; the timer reaches zero and the ships activate devastating directed @-@ energy weapons , killing millions . Whitmore , the Levinsons , and a few others , narrowly escape aboard Air Force One as the capital is destroyed , along with other locations over which the ships are positioned .

On July 3 , international military leaders begin ordering individual counterattacks . Their aviation forces attack destroyer ships positioned above the ruins of the cities , but they are protected by force fields . Each destroyer launches a swarm of attack fighters , which wipe out the human fighter squadrons . Captain Steven Hiller of the Los Angeles USMC squadron survives by luring his attacker to the enclosed spaces of the Grand Canyon and sacrificing his plane , forcing the alien to crash @-@ land . He subdues the injured alien pilot and flags down a convoy of refugees , hitching a ride with former combat pilot Russell Casse . They transport the unconscious alien to nearby Area 51 where Whitmore 's group has landed . Through Secretary of Defense Albert Nimzicki , they learn that a faction of the government has been involved in a UFO conspiracy since 1947 , when one of the invaders ' attack fighters crashed in Roswell . Area 51 houses the refurbished attacker ship and three alien corpses recovered from the crash .

When eccentric scientist Brackish Okun examines the alien , it regains consciousness and attacks .

It telepathically invades Okun 's mind and uses his vocal cords to communicate with Whitmore before launching a psychic attack against him . Whitmore begins seeing visions of the aliens collecting resources by moving from planet to planet and exterminating all life . After Secret Service agents and military officers kill the alien , he reluctantly authorizes a nuclear attack ; a B @-@ 2 Spirit fires a nuclear cruise missile at a destroyer positioned above Houston , but the ship remains intact .

On July 4 , Levinson demonstrates that the key to defeating the aliens is deactivating their force fields , and devises a way to do it by uploading a computer virus into the mothership . He proposes using the refurbished attack ship to gain entry which Hiller volunteers to pilot . The two are able to implant the virus and deploy a nuclear weapon on board . With military pilots in short supply , Whitmore enlists the help of volunteers with flight experience including Casse and leads an attack on a destroyer ship bearing down on Area 51 . Although the fighters are able to inflict damage , their supply of missiles is quickly exhausted . As the destroyer prepares to fire on the base , the last missile jams and Casse decides to sacrifice his own life . He flies his plane kamikaze @-@ style into the directed @-@ energy weapon port , which results in an explosion that destroys the ship . Human resistance forces around the world successfully destroy the other craft using this vulnerability . As humankind is rejoicing in victory , Hiller and Levinson have returned to Area 51 unharmed and reunite with their families . They and military officers nearby accompany Whitmore and his daughter and watching the wreckage from the mothership burns up , resembling a fireworks display , as it enters Earth 's atmosphere .

= = Cast = =

Will Smith as Captain Steven Hiller , United States Marine Corps (USMC) , an assured F / A @-@ 18 pilot with VMFA @-@ 314 who aspires to be an astronaut , even after being turned down by NASA . Devlin and Emmerich had always envisioned an African @-@ American for the role , and specifically wanted Smith after seeing his performance in Six Degrees of Separation .

Bill Pullman as Thomas J. Whitmore , the 42nd President of the United States and a former Persian Gulf War fighter pilot . To prepare for the role , Pullman read Bob Woodward 's The Commanders and watched the documentary film The War Room .

Jeff Goldblum as David Levinson , an MIT @-@ educated computer expert , chess enthusiast , and environmentalist , working as a satellite technician for a cable television company in New York City .

Mary McDonnell as First Lady of the United States Marilyn Whitmore , President Whitmore 's wife .

Judd Hirsch as Julius Levinson , David 's widowed father , who shares his son 's enthusiasm for chess . The character was based on one of producer Dean Devlin 's uncles .

Robert Loggia as General William Grey , USMC , the head of the United States Space Command . Loggia modeled the character after World War II generals , particularly George S. Patton .

Randy Quaid as Russell Casse , a widowed , alcoholic crop duster and veteran Vietnam War pilot ; he claims he was abducted by aliens ten years prior to the film 's events , shortly after completing his military service .

Margaret Colin as Constance Spano , White House Communications Director and David 's former wife .

Vivica A. Fox as Jasmine Dubrow , a single mother , Steven 's girlfriend (later wife) , and exotic dancer .

James Rebhorn as Albert Nimzicki , the United States Secretary of Defense , former Director of the CIA , and a member of UFO conspirators within the government . Rebhorn described the character as being much like Oliver North . The character 's eventual firing lampoons Joe Nimziki , MGM 's head of advertising , who reportedly created unpleasant experiences for Devlin and Emmerich when studio executives forced recuts of Stargate .

Harvey Fierstein as Marty Gilbert , David 's boss .

Adam Baldwin as Major Mitchell , United States Air Force (USAF) , Area 51 's commanding officer .

Brent Spiner as Dr. Brackish Okun , the unkempt and highly excitable scientist in charge of

research at Area 51 . Dr. Okun appeared to have been killed by an alien but returned in the sequel , where it was revealed that the character had merely been in a coma . The character 's appearance and verbal style are based upon those of visual effects supervisor Jeffrey A. Okun , with whom Emmerich had worked on Stargate .

James Duval as Miguel Casse , the eldest of the Casse children and Russel 's stepson according to a novelization .

Lisa Jakub as Alicia Casse , Russell 's teenage daughter .

Giuseppe Andrews as Troy Casse , Russell 's young son .

Ross Bagley as Dylan Dubrow , Jasmine Dubrow 's son and later Steven Hiller 's stepson .

Mae Whitman as Patricia Whitmore , President Whitmore 's daughter .

Bill Smitrovich as Captain Watson .

Kiersten Warren as Tiffany , Jasmine 's exotic dancer friend .

Harry Connick Jr. as Captain Jimmy Wilder , Steve 's best friend and fellow pilot . Connick took over the part from Matthew Perry , originally cast in the role .

Corin Nemec as Connor Mcgrady , a fellow fighter pilot .

Frank Welker as Alien Vocal Effects

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

The idea for the film came when Emmerich and Devlin were in Europe promoting their film Stargate . A reporter asked Emmerich why he made a film with content like Stargate if he did not believe in aliens . Emmerich stated he was still fascinated by the idea of an alien arrival , and further explained his response by asking the reporter to imagine what it would be like to wake up one morning and to discover 15 mile @-@ wide spaceships were hovering over the world 's largest cities . Emmerich then turned to Devlin and said , " I think I have an idea for our next film . "

Emmerich and Devlin decided to expand on the idea by incorporating a large @-@ scale attack , with Devlin saying he was bothered by the fact that " for the most part , in alien invasion movies , they come down to Earth and they 're hidden in some back field ... [o] r they arrive in little spores and inject themselves into the back of someone 's head . " Emmerich agreed by asking Devlin if arriving from across the galaxy , " would you hide on a farm or would you make a big entrance ? " The two wrote the script during a month @-@ long vacation in Mexico , and just one day after they sent it out for consideration , 20th Century Fox chairman Peter Chernin greenlit the screenplay . Pre @-@ production began just three days later in February 1995 . The U.S. military originally intended to provide personnel , vehicles , and costumes for the film ; however , they backed out when the producers refused to remove the script 's Area 51 references .

A then @-@ record 3 @,@ 000 @-@ plus special effects shots would ultimately be required for the film . The shoot utilized on @-@ set , in @-@ camera special effects more often than computer @-@ generated effects in an effort to save money and get more authentic pyrotechnic results . Many of these shots were accomplished at Hughes Aircraft in Culver City , California , where the film 's art department , motion control photography teams , pyrotechnics team , and model shop were headquartered . The production 's model @-@ making department built more than twice as many miniatures for the production than had ever been built for any film before by creating miniatures for buildings , city streets , aircraft , landmarks , and monuments . The crew also built miniatures for several of the spaceships featured in the film , including a 30 @-@ foot (9 @.@ 1 m) destroyer model and a version of the mother ship spanning 12 feet (3 @.@ 7 m) . City streets were recreated , then tilted upright beneath a high @-@ speed camera mounted on a scaffolding filming downwards . An explosion would be ignited below the model , and flames would rise towards the camera , engulfing the tilted model and creating the rolling " wall of destruction " look seen in the film . A model of the White House was also created , covering 10 feet (3 @.@ 0 m) by 5 feet (1 @.@ 5 m) , and was used in forced @-@ perspective shots before being destroyed in a similar fashion for its

destruction scene . The detonation took a week to plan and required 40 explosive charges .

The film 's aliens were designed by production designer Patrick Tatopoulos . The actual aliens in the film are diminutive and based on a design Tatopoulos drew when tasked by Emmerich to create an alien that was " both familiar and completely original " . These creatures wear " bio @-@ mechanical " suits that are based on another design Tatopoulos pitched to Emmerich . These suits were 8 feet (2 @.@ 4 m) tall , equipped with 25 tentacles , and purposely designed to show it could not sustain a person inside so it would not appear to be a " man in a suit " .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography began in July 1995 in New York City . A second unit gathered plate shots and establishing shots of Manhattan , Washington D.C. , an RV community in Flagstaff , Arizona , and the Very Large Array on the Plains of San Agustin , New Mexico . The main crew also filmed in nearby Cliffside Park , New Jersey before moving to the former Kaiser Steel mill in Fontana , California to film the post @-@ attack Los Angeles sequences . The production then moved to Wendover , Utah , and West Wendover , Nevada , where the deserts doubled for Imperial Valley , and the Wendover Airport doubled for the El Toro and Area 51 exteriors . It was here where Pullman filmed his pre @-@ battle speech . Immediately before filming the scene , Devlin and Pullman decided to add " Today , we celebrate our Independence Day ! " to the end of the speech . At the time , the production was nicknamed " ID4 " because Warner Bros. owned the rights to the title Independence Day , and Devlin had hoped that if Fox executives noticed the addition in dailies , the impact of the new dialogue would help them to win the rights to the title . The right to use the title was eventually won two weeks later .

The production team moved to the Bonneville Salt Flats to film three scenes , then returned to California to film in various places around Los Angeles , including Hughes Aircraft where sets for the cable company and Area 51 interiors were constructed at a former aircraft plant . Sets for the latter included corridors containing windows that were covered with blue material . The filmmakers originally intended to use the chroma key technique to make it appear as if activity was happening on the other side of the glass ; but the composited images were not added to the final print because production designers decided the blue panels gave the sets a " clinical look " . The attacker hangar set contained an attacker mock @-@ up 65 feet (20 m) wide that took four months to build . The White House interior sets used had already been built for The American President and had previously been used for Nixon . Principal photography completed on November 3 , 1995 .

The film originally depicted Russell Casse being rejected as a volunteer for the July 4 aerial counteroffensive because of his alcoholism . He then uses a stolen missile tied to his red biplane to carry out his suicide mission . According to Dean Devlin , test audiences responded well to the scene 's irony and comedic value . However , the scene was re @-@ shot to include Russell 's acceptance as a volunteer , his crash course on flying modern fighter aircraft , and him flying an F / A @-@ 18 instead of the biplane . Devlin preferred the alteration because the viewer now witnesses Russell ultimately making the decision to sacrifice his life , and seeing the biplane keeping pace and flying amongst F / A @-@ 18s was " just not believable " . The film was officially completed on June 20 , 1996 .

= = = Music = = =

The Grammy Award @-@ winning score for the film was composed by David Arnold and recorded with an orchestra of 90 , a choir of 46 , and " and every last ounce of stereotypical Americana he could muster for the occasion " . The film 's producer Dean Devlin commented that " you can leave it up to a Brit to write some of the most rousing and patriotic music in the history of American cinema . " The soundtrack has received two official CD releases . RCA released a 50 @-@ minute album at the time of the film 's release , then in 2010 , La @-@ La Land Records released a limited edition 2 @-@ CD set that comprised the complete score plus 12 alternate cues . The premiere of Independence Day live will take place at the Royal Albert Hall in September 2016 , with the film 's

score performed live to a screening of the film . This celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the film 's release , and the event will also feature a pre @-@ film talk by David Arnold .

= = Release = =

While the film was still in post @-@ production , Fox began a massive marketing campaign to help promote the film , beginning with the airing of a dramatic commercial during Super Bowl XXX , for which it paid \$ 1 @. @ 3 million . The film 's subsequent success at the box office resulted in the trend of using Super Bowl air time to kick off the advertising campaign for potential blockbusters .

Fox 's Licensing and Merchandising division also entered into co @-@ promotional deals with Apple Inc . The co @-@ marketing project was dubbed " The Power to Save the World " campaign , in which the company used footage of David using his PowerBook laptop in their print and television advertisements . Trendmasters entered a merchandising deal with the film 's producers to create a line of tie @-@ in toys . In exchange for product placement , Fox also entered into co @-@ promotional deals with Molson Coors Brewing Company and Coca @-@ Cola .

The film was marketed with several taglines , including : " We 've always believed we weren 't alone . On July 4 , we 'll wish we were " , " Earth . Take a good look . It could be your last " , and " Don 't make plans for August " . The weekend before the film 's release , the Fox Network aired a half @-@ hour special on the film , the first third of which was a spoof news report on the events that happen in the film . Roger Ebert attributed most of the film 's early success to its teaser trailers and marketing campaigns , acknowledging them as " truly brilliant " .

The film had its official premiere held at Los Angeles ' now @-@ defunct Mann Plaza Theater on June 25 , 1996 . It was then screened privately at the White House for President Bill Clinton and his family before receiving a nationwide release in the United States on July 2 , 1996 , a day earlier than its previously scheduled opening .

After a six @-@ week , \$ 30 million marketing campaign , Independence Day was released on VHS on November 22 , 1996 . It became available on DVD on June 27 , 2000 , and has since been re @-@ released , in several different versions of this format , with varying supplemental material , including one instance where it was packaged with a lenticular cover . Often accessible on these versions is a special edition of the film , which features nine minutes of additional footage not seen in the original theatrical release . Independence Day became available on Blu @-@ ray discs in the United Kingdom on December 24 , 2007 , and in North America on March 11 , 2008 and in Australia on March 5 , 2008 . The Blu @-@ ray edition does not include the deleted scenes . It was re @-@ released on Blu @-@ ray , DVD , and Digital HD on May 3 , 2016 and was released on 4K Ultra HD Blu @-@ ray on June 7 , 2016 for the 20th Anniversary Edition . The new Blu @-@ ray edition includes both the theatrical and special edition , unlike the original .

= = = Censorship = = =

In Lebanon , certain Jewish and Israel @-@ related content in the film was censored . One cut scene involved Judd Hirsch 's character donning a kippah , and leading soldiers and White House officials in a Jewish prayer . Other removed footage showed Israeli and Arab troops working together in preparation for countering the alien invasion . The Lebanese Shi 'a Islamist militant group Hezbollah called for Muslims to boycott the film , describing it as " propaganda for the so @-@ called genius of the Jews and their concern for humanity . " In response , Jewish actor Jeff Goldblum said : " I think Hezbollah has missed the point : the film is not about American Jews saving the world ; it 's about teamwork among people of different religions and nationalities to defeat a common enemy . "

= = = Twentieth anniversary release = = =

The film will have both its twentieth anniversary and premiere at a special live @-@ orchestral screening performance at the Royal Albert Hall on September 22 , 2016 . The Royal Philharmonic

Orchestra , conducted by the original orchestrator Nicholas Dodd , will perform the score live during the film , and the film 's composer , David Arnold , will be a presenter at the event .

= = Reception = =

= = = Box office = = =

Independence Day was the highest @-@ grossing film of 1996 . In the United States , Independence Day earned \$ 104 @.@ 3 million in its first full week , including \$ 96 @.@ 1 million during its five @-@ day holiday opening , and \$ 50 @.@ 2 million during its opening weekend . All three figures broke records set by Jurassic Park three years earlier . That film 's sequel , The Lost World : Jurassic Park , claimed all three records when it was released the following year . Independence Day stayed in the number @-@ one spot for three consecutive weeks , and grossed \$ 306 @,@ 169 @,@ 268 in North America , and \$ 511 @,@ 231 @,@ 623 in other territories during its theatrical run . The combined total of \$ 817 @,@ 400 @,@ 891 once trailed only the worldwide earnings of Jurassic Park as the highest of all time . Box Office Mojo estimates that the film sold over 69 @.@ 26 million tickets in the US . It has been surpassed by multiple 21st century films since , and currently holds the 51st @-@ highest worldwide gross of all time for a film . Hoping to capitalize on the film 's success , several studios released large @-@ scale disaster films , and the already rising interest in science fiction @-@ related media was further increased by the film 's popularity .

A month after the film 's release , jewelry designers and marketing consultants reported an increased interest in dolphin @-@ themed jewelry , as the character Jasmine (Vivica A. Fox) wears dolphin earrings , and is presented with a wedding ring featuring a gold dolphin .

= = = Critical response = = =

Upon its release , Independence Day received praise for its visuals and sense of fun , but criticism of its writing . Rotten Tomatoes reports a score of 61 % , based on 59 reviews , with the site 's critical consensus reading : " The plot is thin and so is character development , but as a thrilling , spectacle @-@ filled summer movie , Independence Day delivers . " On Metacritic , the film has a score of 59 out of 100 , based on 19 critics , indicating " mixed or average reviews " .

Critics noted that the film had " cardboard " and " stereotypical " characters , and weak dialogue . Yet the shot of the White House 's destruction has been declared a milestone in visual effects , and one of the most memorable scenes of the 1990s . In a 2010 poll , readers of Entertainment Weekly rated it the second @-@ greatest summer film of the previous 20 years , ranking only behind Jurassic Park .

Mick LaSalle of the San Francisco Chronicle gave the film his highest rating , declaring it the " apotheosis " of Star Wars . Lisa Schwarzbaum of Entertainment Weekly gave it a B + for living up to its massive hype , adding " charm is the foremost of this epic 's contemporary characteristics . The script is witty , knowing , cool . " Eight years later , Entertainment Weekly would rate the film as one of the best disaster films of all time . Kenneth Turan of the Los Angeles Times felt that the film did an " excellent job conveying the boggling immensity of [the] extraterrestrial vehicles [...] and panic in the streets " and the scenes of the alien attack were " disturbing , unsettling and completely convincing " .

However , the film 's nationalistic overtones were widely criticized by reviewers outside the U.S. Movie Review UK described the film as " a mish @-@ mash of elements from a wide variety of alien invasion movies and gung @-@ ho American jingoism . " The speech during which Whitmore states that victory in the coming war would see the entire world henceforth describe July 4 as its Independence Day , was described in a BBC review as " the most jaw @-@ droppingly pompous soliloquy ever delivered in a mainstream Hollywood movie . " In 2003 , readers of Empire , voted the scene that contained this speech as the " Cheesiest Movie Moment of All @-@ Time " . Conversely

, Empire critic Kim Newman gave the film a five @-@ star rating in the magazine 's original review of the film .

Several prominent critics expressed disappointment with the quality of the film 's special effects . Newsweek 's David Ansen claimed the special effects were of no better caliber than those seen nineteen years earlier in Star Wars . Todd McCarthy of Variety felt the production 's budget @-@ conscious approach resulted in " cheesy " shots that lacked in quality relative to the effects present in films directed by James Cameron and Steven Spielberg . In his review , Roger Ebert took note of a lack of imagination in the spaceship and creature designs . Gene Siskel expressed the same sentiments on At the Movies review of the film .

American Film Institute lists

AFI 's 100 Years ... 100 Thrills ? Nominated

AFI 's 10 Top 10 ? Nominated Science Fiction Film

= = = Accolades = = =

= = = Legacy = = =

Disaster elements portrayed in Independence Day represented a significant turning point for Hollywood blockbuster films . With advancements in CGI special effects , events depicting mass destruction became commonplace in films that soon followed , such as 1998 's Armageddon and Deep Impact . The trend continued throughout the 2000s and 2010s , evident in films like 2004 's The Day After Tomorrow and 2012 's The Avengers .

= = In other media = =

= = = Books = = =

Author Stephen Molstad wrote a tie @-@ in novel to help promote the film shortly before its release . The novel goes into further detail on the characters , situations , and overall concepts not explored in the film . The novel presents the film 's finale as originally scripted , with the character played by Randy Quaid stealing a missile and roping it to his cropduster biplane .

Following the film 's success , a prequel novel entitled Independence Day : Silent Zone was written by Molstad in February 1998 . The novel is set in the late 1960s and early 1970s , and details the early career of Dr. Brackish Okun .

Molstad wrote a third novel , Independence Day : War in the Desert in July 1999 . Set in Saudi Arabia on July 3 , it centers around Captain Cummins and Colonel Thompson , the two Royal Air Force officers seen receiving the Morse code message in the film .

A Marvel comic book was also written based on the first two novelizations .

= = = Radio = = =

On August 4 , 1996 , BBC Radio 1 broadcast the one @-@ hour play Independence Day UK , written , produced , and directed by Dirk Maggs , a spin @-@ off depicting the alien invasion from a British perspective . None of the original cast was present . Dean Devlin gave Maggs permission to produce an original version , on the condition that he did not reveal certain details of the movie 's plot , and that the British were not depicted as saving the day . Independence Day UK was set up to be similar to the 1938 radio broadcast of The War of the Worlds - the first 20 minutes were live .

= = = Video games = = =

An Independence Day video game was released in February 1997 for the PlayStation , Sega

Saturn , and PC , each version receiving mostly tepid reviews . The multi @-@ view shooter game contains various missions to perform , with the ultimate goal of destroying the aliens ' primary weapon . A wireless mobile version was released in 2005 . A computer game entitled ID4 Online was released in 2000 .

= = = Toys = = =

Trendmasters released a toy line for the film in 1996 . Each action figure , vehicle or playset came with a 3 1/2 " floppy disk that contained an interactive computer game .

= = Sequel = =

In June 2011 , Devlin confirmed that he and Emmerich had written a treatment for two sequels to form a trilogy ; both expressed the desire for Will Smith to return . In October 2011 , however , discussions over Smith returning were halted , due to Fox 's refusal to provide the \$ 50 million salary demanded by Smith for the two sequels . Emmerich , however , made assurances that the films would be shot back @-@ to @-@ back , regardless of Smith 's involvement .

In March 2013 , Emmerich stated that the titles of the new films would be ID Forever Part I and ID Forever Part II . In November 2014 , the sequel was given the green light by 20th Century Fox , with a release date of June 24 , 2016 . This would be a stand @-@ alone sequel , that would not split into two parts as originally planned , with filming beginning in May 2015 and casting being done after the studio locked down Emmerich as the director of the film . In December 2014 , Devlin confirmed that Emmerich would indeed be directing the sequel . On June 22 , 2015 , Emmerich announced the official title , Independence Day : Resurgence .

With respect to Smith 's decision not to return to film a sequel , Emmerich told Screen Crush that : " In the very beginning , I wanted to work with him and he was excited to be in it but then after a while he was tired of sequels , and he did another science fiction film , which was his father @-@ son story [After Earth] , so he opted out . "

Independence Day : Resurgence was released on June 24 , 2016 .