

= Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade =

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade is a 1989 American action @-@ adventure film directed by Steven Spielberg , from a story co @-@ written by executive producer George Lucas . It is the third installment in the Indiana Jones franchise . Harrison Ford reprises the title role and Sean Connery plays Indiana 's father , Henry Jones , Sr. Other cast members featured include Alison Doody , Denholm Elliott , Julian Glover , River Phoenix , and John Rhys @-@ Davies . In the film , set largely in 1938 , Indiana searches for his father , a Holy Grail scholar , who has been kidnapped by Nazis .

After the mixed reaction to Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom , Spielberg chose to compensate with a film that toned down the violence and gore . During the five years between Temple of Doom and Last Crusade , he and executive producer Lucas reviewed several scripts before accepting Jeffrey Boam 's . Filming locations included Spain , Italy , the United Kingdom , Turkey and Jordan .

The film was released in North America on May 24 , 1989 , to mostly positive reviews . It was a financial success , earning \$ 474 @,@ 171 @,@ 806 at the worldwide box office totals . It won an Academy Award for Best Sound Editing .

= = Plot = =

In 1912 , 13 @-@ year @-@ old Indiana Jones is horseback riding with his Boy Scout troop at Arches National Park in Utah . While scouting caves , Indy discovers a group of grave robbers who have found a golden crucifix belonging to Coronado and steals it from them , hoping to donate it to a museum . The men give chase through a passing circus train , leaving Indy with a bloody cut across his chin from a bullwhip and a new phobia of snakes . Indy escapes , but the local sheriff makes him return the crucifix to the robbers . Impressed with Indy 's bravery , the leader of the robbers gives Indy his fedora , and encourages him to not give up .

In 1938 , Indy recovers the crucifix off the coast of Portugal and donates it to Marcus Brody 's museum . Later , Indy is introduced to Walter Donovan , who informs him that Indy 's father , Henry Jones , Sr. , has vanished while searching for the Holy Grail , using an incomplete inscription as his guide . Indy then receives Henry 's Grail diary via mail from Venice . Realizing that he would not have sent the diary unless he was in trouble , Indy and Marcus travel to Venice , where they meet Henry 's Austrian colleague , Dr. Elsa Schneider . Beneath the library where Henry was last seen , Indy and Elsa discover the tomb of a First Crusade knight , which also contains a complete version of the inscription that Henry had used , this one revealing the location of the Grail . They flee , however , when the catacombs are set aflame by the Brotherhood of the Cruciform Sword , a secret society that protects the Grail from evildoers . After a speedboat chase , Indy and Elsa capture one of the Brotherhood , Kazim , and Indy tells him that his goal is only to find his father and that he has no interest in finding the Grail . Kazim tells him that Henry is being held in Castle Brunwald on the Austrian @-@ German border . Marcus later reveals a map drawn by Henry of the route to the Grail , which begins in Alexandretta . Indy sends Marcus to ?skenderun , the city built on the ruins of Alexandretta to rendezvous with their old friend Sallah , and he and Elsa head to Castle Brunwald .

At Castle Brunwald , Indy rescues Henry , but learns that Elsa and Donovan are actually working with the Nazis , and are using him to find the Grail for them . Meanwhile , Marcus is captured in Hatay , while waiting with Sallah for the Joneses . The Joneses escape from Castle Brunwald and recover the diary from Elsa at a Nazi book burning rally in Berlin . They board a Zeppelin to leave Germany , but the Zeppelin soon turns around and the Joneses escape in a parasite biplane . They crash while engaging in a dogfight with the Luftwaffe due to Henry 's accidentally shooting the plane 's tail off , but Henry redeems himself on the ground by alarming a flock of birds to take flight in front of the Luftwaffe fighter causing the pilot to crash .

The two meet up with Sallah in Hatay , where they learn of Marcus 's abduction . The Nazis are already moving toward the Grail 's location , using the map possessed by Marcus . In exchange for a Rolls @-@ Royce Phantom II , the Sultan of Hatay has given the Nazis full access to his

equipment for the expedition , including a large tank . Indy , Henry , and Sallah find the Nazi expedition , which is ambushed by the Brotherhood . During the battle , Henry is captured by SS Colonel Ernst Vogel while attempting to rescue Marcus from the tank ; Kazim and his comrades are killed . The younger Jones pursues the tank on horseback and , with the aid of Sallah , saves Henry and Marcus . He is then caught up in a fight with Vogel , and barely escapes before the tank goes over a cliff , crushing Vogel to death .

Indy , Henry , Marcus , and Sallah catch up with the surviving Nazis , led by Donovan and Elsa , who have found the temple where the Grail is kept but are unable to pass through the three protective booby traps . Donovan mortally wounds Henry , forcing Indy to risk his life in the traps to find the Grail and use its healing power to save Henry . Using the information in the diary and followed by Donovan and Elsa , Indy safely overcomes the traps and reaches the Grail 's chamber , which is guarded by a knight . He has been kept alive for seven hundred years by the power of the Grail , which is hidden among dozens of false Grails ; only the true Grail brings life , while a false one claims it . Donovan ages rapidly and decays into dust upon drinking from a false grail . Indy selects the true Grail , a simple clay cup , which the knight warns cannot be taken beyond the temple 's entrance . Indy fills the Grail with holy water and takes it to Henry , which heals him instantly . Elsa , disregarding the knight 's warning , then takes the Grail and attempts to leave with it . The temple begins to collapse and Elsa falls to her death trying to recover the Grail . Indy nearly suffers the same fate but Henry persuades him to let it go . The Joneses , Marcus , and Sallah escape the temple and ride off into the sunset .

= = Cast = =

Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones : The archaeologist adventurer who seeks to rescue his father and find the Holy Grail . Ford said he loved the idea of introducing Indiana 's father because it allowed him to explore another side to Indiana 's personality : " These are men who have never made any accommodation to each other . Indy behaves differently in his father 's presence . Who else would dare call Indy ' junior ' ? " River Phoenix as the 13 @-@ year @-@ old Indiana . Phoenix had portrayed Ford 's son in *The Mosquito Coast* (1986) . Ford recommended Phoenix for the part ; he said that of the young actors working at the time , Phoenix looked the most like him when he was around that age .

Sean Connery as Professor Henry Jones : Indiana 's father , a professor of Medieval literature who cared more about looking for the Grail than raising his son . Spielberg had Connery in mind when he suggested introducing Indiana 's father , though he did not tell Lucas at first . Consequently , Lucas wrote the role as " a crazy , eccentric " professor resembling Laurence Olivier , whose relationship with Indiana is " strict schoolmaster and student rather than a father and son " . Spielberg had been a fan of Connery 's work as James Bond and felt that no @-@ one else could perform the role as well . Spielberg biographer Joseph McBride wrote , " Connery was already the father of Indiana Jones since the series had sprung from the desire of Lucas and Spielberg to rival (and outdo) Connery 's James Bond movies . " Connery initially turned the role down as he is only twelve years older than Ford , but he relented . Connery ? a student of history ? began to reshape the character , and revisions were made to the script to address his concerns . " I wanted to play Henry Jones as a kind of Sir Richard [Francis] Burton , " Connery commented . " I was bound to have fun with the role of a gruff , Victorian Scottish father . " Connery believed Henry should be a match for his son , telling Spielberg that " whatever Indy 'd done my character has done and my character has done it better " . Connery signed to the film on March 25 , 1988 . He improvised the line , " She talks in her sleep " , which was left in because it made everyone laugh ; in Boam 's scripts , Henry telling Indiana that he slept with Elsa occurs later.Alex Hyde @-@ White as Young Henry Jones , Sr.

Alison Doody as Dr. Elsa Schneider : An Austrian art professor who is in league with the Nazis . She seduces the Joneses to trick them . Doody was 21 when she auditioned and was one of the first actresses who met for the part .

Denholm Elliott as Dr. Marcus Brody : Indiana 's bumbling English colleague . Elliott returned after Spielberg sought to recapture the tone of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) , following the actor 's

absence in the darker Temple of Doom (1984) .

John Rhys @-@ Davies as Sallah : A friend of Indiana and a professional excavator living in Cairo . Like Elliott 's , Rhys @-@ Davies ' return was an attempt to recapture the spirit of Raiders of the Lost Ark .

Julian Glover as Walter Donovan : An American businessman who sends the Joneses on their quest for the Holy Grail . Donovan works for the Nazis and desires immortality . Glover previously appeared as General Veers in Lucas 's The Empire Strikes Back . He originally auditioned for the role of Vogel . Glover , who is English , adopted an American accent for the film , but was dissatisfied with the result .

Michael Byrne as Colonel Vogel : A brutal SS colonel . Byrne and Ford had previously starred in Force 10 from Navarone (1978) , in which they also played a German and an American .

Kevork Malikyan as Kazim : The leader of the Brotherhood of the Cruciform Sword , an organization that protects the Holy Grail . Malikyan had impressed Spielberg with his performance in Midnight Express (1978) and would have auditioned for the role of Sallah in Raiders of the Lost Ark had a traffic jam not delayed his meeting with the director .

Robert Eddison as the Grail Knight : The guardian of the Grail who drank from the cup of Christ during the Crusades and is immortal as long as he stays within the temple . Eddison was a stage and television veteran only appearing once before in film (a supporting role in Peter Ustinov 's 1948 comedy Vice Versa) . Glover recalled Eddison was excited and nervous for his film debut , often asking if he had performed correctly .

Michael Sheard (uncredited) as Adolf Hitler . Jones briefly encounters him at a book burning rally in Berlin . Sheard had already portrayed Hitler three times during his career and appeared as Admiral Ozzel in The Empire Strikes Back .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Lucas and Spielberg had intended to make a trilogy of Indiana Jones films since Lucas had first pitched Raiders of the Lost Ark to Spielberg in 1977 . After the mixed critical and public reaction to Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom , Spielberg decided to complete the trilogy to fulfill his promise to Lucas and " to apologize for the second one " . The pair had the intention of revitalizing the series by evoking the spirit and tone of Raiders of the Lost Ark . Throughout the film 's development and pre @-@ production , Spielberg admitted he was " consciously regressing " in making the film . Due to his commitment to the film , the director had to drop out of directing Big and Rain Man .

Lucas initially suggested making the film " a haunted mansion movie " , for which Romancing the Stone writer Diane Thomas wrote a script . Spielberg rejected the idea because of the similarity to Poltergeist , which he had co @-@ written and produced . Lucas first introduced the Holy Grail in an idea for the film 's prologue , which was to be set in Scotland . He intended the Grail to have a pagan basis , with the rest of the film revolving around a separate Christian artifact in Africa . Spielberg did not care for the Grail idea , which he found too esoteric , even after Lucas suggested giving it healing powers and the ability to grant immortality . In September 1984 , Lucas completed an eight @-@ page treatment titled Indiana Jones and the Monkey King , which he soon followed with an 11 @-@ page outline . The story saw Indiana battling a ghost in Scotland before finding the Fountain of Youth in Africa .

Chris Columbus ? who had written the Spielberg @-@ produced Gremlins , The Goonies , and Young Sherlock Holmes ? was hired to write the script . His first draft , dated May 3 , 1985 , changed the main plot device to a Garden of Immortal Peaches . It begins in 1937 , with Indiana battling the murderous ghost of Baron Seamus Seagrove III in Scotland . Indiana travels to Mozambique to aid Dr. Clare Clarke (a Katharine Hepburn type according to Lucas) , who has found a 200 @-@ year @-@ old pygmy . The pygmy is kidnapped by the Nazis during a boat chase

, and Indiana , Clare and Scraggy Brier ? an old friend of Indiana ? travel up the Zambezi river to rescue him . Indiana is killed in the climactic battle but is resurrected by the Monkey King . Other characters include a cannibalistic African tribe ; Nazi Sergeant Gutterbuhg , who has a mechanical arm ; Betsy , a stowaway student who is suicidally in love with Indiana ; and a pirate leader named Kezure (described as a Toshiro Mifune type) , who dies eating a peach because he is not pure of heart .

Columbus 's second draft , dated August 6 , 1985 , removed Betsy and featured Dash ? an expatriate bar owner for whom the Nazis work ? and the Monkey King as villains . The Monkey King forces Indiana and Dash to play chess with real people and disintegrates each person who is captured . Indiana subsequently battles the undead , destroys the Monkey King 's rod , and marries Clare . Location scouting commenced in Africa but Spielberg and Lucas abandoned Monkey King because of its negative depiction of African natives , and because the script was too unrealistic . Spielberg acknowledged that it made him " ... feel very old , too old to direct it . " Columbus 's script was leaked onto the Internet in 1997 , and many believed it was an early draft for the fourth film because it was mistakenly dated to 1995 .

Unsatisfied , Spielberg suggested introducing Indiana 's father , Henry Jones , Sr. Lucas was dubious , believing the Grail should be the story 's focus , but Spielberg convinced him that the father ? son relationship would serve as a great metaphor in Indiana 's search for the artifact . Spielberg hired Menno Meyjes , who had worked on Spielberg 's *The Color Purple* and *Empire of the Sun* , to begin a new script on January 1 , 1986 . Meyjes completed his script ten months later . It depicted Indiana searching for his father in Montségur , where he meets a nun named Chantal . Indiana travels to Venice , takes the Orient Express to Istanbul , and continues by train to Petra , where he meets Sallah and reunites with his father . Together they find the grail . At the climax , a Nazi villain touches the Grail and explodes ; when Henry touches it , he ascends a stairway to Heaven . Chantal chooses to stay on Earth because of her love for Indiana . In a revised draft dated two months later , Indiana finds his father in Krak des Chevaliers , the Nazi leader is a woman named Greta von Grimm , and Indiana battles a demon at the Grail site , which he defeats with a dagger inscribed with " God is King " . The prologue in both drafts has Indiana in Mexico battling for possession of Montezuma 's death mask with a man who owns gorillas as pets .

Spielberg suggested Innerspace writer Jeffrey Boam perform the next rewrite . Boam spent two weeks reworking the story with Lucas , which yielded a treatment that is largely similar to the final film . Boam told Lucas that Indiana should find his father in the middle of the story . " Given the fact that it 's the third film in the series , you couldn 't just end with them obtaining the object . That 's how the first two films ended , " he said , " So I thought , let them lose the Grail , and let the father ? son relationship be the main point . It 's an archaeological search for Indy 's own identity and coming to accept his father is more what it 's about [than the quest for the Grail] . " Boam said he felt there was not enough character development in the previous films . In Boam 's first draft , dated September 1987 , the film is set in 1939 . The prologue has adult Indiana retrieving an Aztec relic for a museum curator in Mexico and features the circus train . Henry and Elsa (who is described as having dark hair) were searching for the Grail on behalf of the Chandler Foundation , before Henry went missing . The character of Kazim is here named Kemal , and is an agent of the Republic of Hatay , which seeks the grail for its own . Kemal shoots Henry and dies drinking from the wrong chalice . The Grail Knight battles Indiana on horseback , while Vogel is crushed by a boulder when stealing the Grail .

Boam 's February 23 , 1988 rewrite utilized many of Connery 's comic suggestions . It included the prologue that was eventually filmed ; Lucas had to convince Spielberg to show Indiana as a boy because of the mixed response to *Empire of the Sun* , which was about a young boy . Spielberg ? who was later awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award ? had the idea of making Indiana a Boy Scout . Indiana 's mother , named Margaret in this version , dismisses Indiana when he returns home with the Cross of Coronado , while his father is on a long distance call . Walter Chandler of the Chandler Foundation features , but is not the main villain ; he plunges to his death in the tank . Elsa introduces Indiana and Brody to a large Venetian family that knows Henry . Leni Riefenstahl appears at the Nazi rally in Berlin . Vogel is beheaded by the traps guarding the Grail . Kemal tries

to blow up the Grail Temple during a comic fight in which gunpowder is repeatedly lit and extinguished . Elsa shoots Henry , then dies drinking from the wrong Grail , and Indiana rescues his father from falling into the chasm while grasping for the Grail . Boam 's revision on March 1 showed Henry causing the seagulls to strike the plane , and has Henry saving Indiana at the end .

Between an undated " Amblin " revision and a rewrite by Tom Stoppard (under the pen name Barry Watson) dated May 8 , 1988 , further changes were made . Stoppard polished most of the dialogue , and created the " Panama Hat " character to link the prologue 's segments featuring the young and adult Indianas . The Venetian family is cut . Kemal is renamed Kazim and now wants to protect the grail rather than find it . Chandler is renamed Donovan . The scene of Brody being captured is added . Vogel now dies in the tank , while Donovan shoots Henry and then drinks from the false grail , and Elsa falls into the chasm . The Grail trials are expanded to include the stone @-@ stepping and leap of faith .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography began on May 16 , 1988 , in the Tabernas Desert in Spain 's Almería province . Spielberg originally had planned the chase to be a short sequence shot over two days , but he drew up storyboards to make the scene an action @-@ packed centerpiece . Thinking he would not surpass the truck chase from Raiders of the Lost Ark (because the truck was much faster than the tank) , he felt this sequence should be more story @-@ based and needed to show Indiana and Henry helping each other . He later said he had more fun storyboarding the sequence than filming it . The second unit had begun filming two weeks before . After approximately ten days , the production moved to Bellas Artes to film the scenes set in the Sultan of Hatay 's palace . Cabo de Gata @-@ Níjar Natural Park was used for the road , tunnel and beach sequence in which birds strike the plane . The shoot 's Spanish portion wrapped on June 2 , 1988 , in Guadix , Granada , with filming of Brody 's capture at ?skenderun train station . The filmmakers built a mosque near the station for atmosphere , rather than adding it as a visual effect .

Filming for the castle interiors took place in the United Kingdom from June 5 to 10 , 1988 , at Elstree Studios in Borehamwood , England . On June 16 Lawrence Hall , London , was used for the airport interiors . Filming returned to Elstree the next day to capture the motorcycle escape , continuing at the studio for interior scenes until July 18 . One day was spent at North Weald Airfield on June 29 to film Indiana leaving for Venice . Ford and Connery acted much of the Zeppelin table conversation without trousers on because of the overheated set . Spielberg , Marshall and Kennedy interrupted the shoot to make a plea to the Parliament of the United Kingdom to support the economically " depressed " British studios . July 20 ? 22 was spent filming the temple interiors . The temple set , which took six weeks to build , was supported on 80 feet of hydraulics and ten gimbals for use during the earthquake scene . Resetting between takes took twenty minutes while the hydraulics were put to their starting positions and the cracks filled with plaster . The shot of the Grail falling to the temple floor ? causing the first crack to appear ? was attempted on the full @-@ size set , but proved too difficult . Instead , crews built a separate floor section that incorporated a pre @-@ scored crack sealed with plaster . It took several takes to throw the Grail from six feet onto the right part of the crack . July 25 ? 26 was spent on night shoots at Stowe School , Stowe , Buckinghamshire , for the Nazi rally .

Filming resumed two days later at Elstree , where Spielberg swiftly filmed the library , Portuguese freighter , and catacombs sequences . The steamship fight in the prologue 's 1938 portion was filmed in three days on a sixty @-@ by @-@ forty @-@ feet deck built on gimbals at Elstree . A dozen dump tanks ? each holding three hundred imperial gallons (360 U.S. gallons ; 3000 lb .) of water ? were used in the scene . Henry 's house was filmed at Mill Hill , London . Indiana and Kazim 's fight in Venice in front of a ship 's propeller was filmed in a water tank at Elstree . Spielberg used a long focus lens to make it appear the actors were closer to the propeller than they really were . Two days later , on August 4 , another portion of the boat chase using Hacker Craft sport boats , was filmed at Tilbury Docks in Essex . The shot of the boats passing between two ships was achieved by first cabling the ships off so they would be safe . The ships were moved together while the boats

passed between , close enough that one of the boats scraped the sides of the ships . An empty speedboat containing dummies was launched from a floating platform between the ships amid fire and smoke that helped obscure the platform . The stunt was performed twice because the boat landed too short of the camera in the first attempt . The following day , filming in England wrapped at the Royal Masonic School in Rickmansworth , which doubled for Indiana 's college (as it had in Raiders of the Lost Ark) .

Shooting in Venice took place on August 8 . For scenes such as Indiana and Brody greeting Elsa , shots of the boat chase , and Kazim telling Indiana where his father is , Robert Watts gained control of the Grand Canal from 7 am to 1 pm , sealing off tourists for as long as possible . Cinematographer Douglas Slocombe positioned the camera to ensure no satellite dishes would be visible . San Barnaba di Venezia served as the library 's exterior . The next day , filming moved to the ancient city of Petra , Jordan , where Al Khazneh (The Treasury) stood in for the temple housing the Grail . The cast and crew became guests of King Hussein and Queen Noor . The Treasury had previously appeared in Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger . The main cast completed their scenes that week , after 63 days of filming .

The second unit filmed part of the prologue 's 1912 segment from August 29 to September 3 . The main unit began two days later with the circus train sequence at Alamosa , Colorado , on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad . They filmed at Pagosa Springs on September 7 , and then at Cortez on September 10 . From September 14 to 16 , filming of Indiana falling into the train carriages took place in Los Angeles . The production then moved to Utah 's Arches National Park to shoot more of the opening . A house in Antonito , Colorado was used for the Jones family home . The production had intended to film at Mesa Verde National Park , but Native American representatives had religious objections to its use . When Spielberg and editor Michael Kahn viewed a rough cut of the film in late 1988 , they felt it suffered from a lack of action . The motorcycle chase was shot during post @-@ production at Mount Tamalpais and Fairfax near Skywalker Ranch . The closing shot of Indiana , Henry , Sallah and Brody riding into the sunset was filmed in Texas in early 1989 .

= = = Design = = =

Mechanical effects supervisor George Gibbs said the film was the most difficult one of his career . He visited a museum to negotiate renting a small French World War I tank , but decided he wanted to make one . The tank was based on the Tank Mark VIII , which was 36 feet (11 m) long and weighed 28 short tons (25 t) . Gibbs built the tank over the framework of a 28 @-@ short @-@ ton (25 t) excavator and added 7 @-@ short @-@ ton (6 @.@ 4 t) tracks that were driven by two automatic hydraulic pumps , each connected to a Range Rover V8 engine . Gibbs built the tank from steel rather than aluminum or fiberglass because it would allow the realistically suspensionless vehicle to endure the rocky surfaces . Unlike its historical counterpart , which had only the two side guns , the tank had a turret gun added as well . It took four months to build and was transported to Almería on a Short Belfast plane and then a low loader truck .

The tank broke down twice . The distributor 's rotor arm broke and a replacement had to be sourced from Madrid . Then two of the device 's valves used to cool the oil exploded , due to solder melting and mixing with the oil . It was very hot in the tank , despite the installation of ten fans , and the lack of suspension meant the driver was unable to stop shaking during filming breaks . The tank only moved at 10 to 12 miles per hour (16 to 19 km / h) , which Vic Armstrong said made it difficult to film Indiana riding a horse against the tank while making it appear faster . A smaller section of the tank 's top made from aluminum and which used rubber tracks was used for close @-@ ups . It was built from a searchlight trailer , weighed eight tons , and was towed by a four @-@ wheel drive truck . It had safety nets on each end to prevent injury to those falling off . A quarter @-@ scale model by Gibbs was driven over a 50 @-@ foot (15 m) cliff on location ; Industrial Light & Magic created further shots of the tank 's destruction with models and miniatures .

Michael Lantieri , mechanical effects supervisor for the 1912 scenes , noted the difficulty in shooting the train sequence . " You can 't just stop a train , " he said , " If it misses its mark , it takes blocks

and blocks to stop it and back up . " Lantieri hid handles for the actors and stuntmen to grab onto when leaping from carriage to carriage . The carriage interiors shot at Universal Studios Hollywood were built on tubes that inflated and deflated to create a rocking motion . For the close @-@ up of the rhinoceros that strikes at (and misses) Indiana , a foam and fiberglass animatronic was made in London . When Spielberg decided he wanted it to move , the prop was sent to John Carl Buechler in Los Angeles , who resculpted it over three days to blink , snarl , snort and wiggle its ears . The giraffes were also created in London . Because steam locomotives are very loud , Lantieri 's crew would respond to first assistant director David Tomblin 's radioed directions by making the giraffes nod or shake their heads to his questions , which amused the crew . For the villains ' cars , Lantieri selected a 1914 Ford Model T , a 1919 Ford Model T truck and a 1916 Saxon Model 14 , fitting each with a Ford Pinto V6 engine . Sacks of dust were hung under the cars to create a dustier environment .

Spielberg used doves for the seagulls that Henry scares into striking the German plane because the real gulls used in the first take did not fly . In December 1988 , Lucasfilm ordered 1 @,@ 000 disease @-@ free gray rats for the catacombs scenes from the company that supplied the snakes and bugs for the previous films . Within five months , 5 @,@ 000 rats had been bred for the sequence ; 1 @,@ 000 mechanical rats stood in for those that were set on fire . Several thousand snakes of five breeds ? including a boa constrictor ? were used for the train scene , in addition to rubber ones onto which Phoenix could fall . The snakes would slither from their crates , requiring the crew to dig through sawdust after filming to find and return them . Two lions were used , which became nervous because of the rocking motion and flickering lights .

Costume designer Anthony Powell found it a challenge to create Connery 's costume because the script required the character to wear the same clothes throughout . Powell thought about his own grandfather and incorporated tweed suits and fishing hats . Powell felt it necessary for Henry to wear glasses , but did not want to hide Connery 's eyes , so chose rimless ones . He could not find any suitable , so he had them specially made . The Nazi costumes were genuine and were found in Eastern Europe by Powell 's co @-@ designer Joanna Johnston , to whom he gave research pictures and drawings for reference . The motorcycles used in the chase from the castle were a mixed bag : the scout model with sidecar in which Indy and Henry escape was an original Dnepr , complete with machine gun pintle on the sidecar , while the pursuing vehicles were more modern machines dressed up with equipment and logos to make them resemble German army models . Gibbs used Swiss Pilatus P @-@ 2 army training planes standing in for Messerschmitt Bf @-@ 109s . He built a device based on an internal combustion engine to simulate gunfire , which was safer and less expensive than firing blanks . Baking soda was applied to Connery to create Henry 's bullet wound . Vinegar was applied to create the foaming effect as the water from the Grail washes it away . At least one reproduction Kubelwagen was used during filming despite the film being set two years prior to manufacture of said vehicles .

= = = Effects = = =

Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) built an eight @-@ foot foam model of the Zeppelin to complement shots of Ford and Connery climbing into the biplane . A biplane model with a two @-@ foot wingspan was used for the shot of the biplane detaching . Stop motion animation was used for the shot of the German fighter 's wings breaking off as it crashes through the tunnel . The tunnel was a 210 feet model that occupied 14 of ILM 's parking spaces for two months . It was built in eight @-@ foot sections , with hinges allowing each section to be opened to film through . Ford and Connery were filmed against bluescreen ; the sequence required their car to have a dirty windscreen , but to make the integration easier this was removed and later composited into the shot . Dust and shadows were animated onto shots of the plane miniature to make it appear as if it disturbed rocks and dirt before it exploded . Several hundred tim @-@ birds were used in the background shots of the seagulls striking the other plane ; for the closer shots , ILM dropped feather @-@ coated crosses onto the camera . These only looked convincing because the scene 's quick cuts merely required shapes that suggested gulls . ILM 's Wes Takahashi supervised the film 's effects

sequences .

Spielberg devised the three trials that guard the Grail . For the first , the blades under which Indiana ducks like a penitent man were a mix of practical and miniature blades created by Gibbs and ILM . For the second trial , in which Indiana spells " lehova " on stable stepping stones , it was intended to have a tarantula crawl up Indiana after he mistakenly steps on " J " . This was filmed and deemed unsatisfactory , so ILM filmed a stuntman hanging through a hole that appears in the floor , 30 feet above a cavern . As this was dark , it did not matter that the matte painting and models were rushed late in production . The third trial , the leap of faith that Indiana makes over an apparently impassable ravine after discovering a bridge hidden by forced perspective , was created with a model bridge and painted backgrounds . This was cheaper than building a full @-@ size set . A puppet of Ford was used to create a shadow on the 9 @-@ foot @-@ tall (2 @.@ 7 m) by 13 @-@ foot @-@ wide (4 @.@ 0 m) model because Ford had filmed the scene against bluescreen , which did not incorporate the shaft of light from the entrance .

Spielberg wanted Donovan 's death shown in one shot , so it would not look like an actor having makeup applied between takes . Inflatable pads were applied to Julian Glover 's forehead and cheeks that made his eyes seem to recede during the character 's initial decomposition , as well as a mechanical wig that grew his hair . The shot of Donovan 's death was created over three months by morphing together three puppets of Donovan in separate stages of decay , a technique ILM mastered on Willow (1988) . A fourth puppet was used for the decaying clothes , because the puppet 's torso mechanics had been exposed . Complications arose because Alison Doody 's double had not been filmed for the scene 's latter two elements , so the background and hair from the first shot had to be used throughout , with the other faces mapped over it . Donovan 's skeleton was hung on wires like a marionette ; it required several takes to film it crashing against the wall because not all the pieces released upon impact .

Ben Burt designed the sound effects . He recorded chickens for the sounds of the rats , and digitally manipulated the noise made by a Styrofoam cup for the castle fire . He rode in a biplane to record the sounds for the dogfight sequence , and visited the demolition of a wind turbine for the plane crashes . Burt wanted an echoing gunshot for Donovan wounding Henry , so he fired a .357 Magnum in Skywalker Ranch 's underground car park , just as Lucas drove in . A rubber balloon was used for the earthquake tremors at the temple . The film was released in selected theaters in the 70 mm Full @-@ Field Sound format , which allowed sounds to not only move from side to side , but also from the theater 's front to its rear .

Matte paintings of the Austrian castle and German airport were based on real buildings ; the Austrian castle was a small West German castle that was made to look larger . Rain was created by filming granulated Borax soap against black at high speed . It was only lightly double exposed into the shots so it would not resemble snow . The lightning was animated . The airport used was at San Francisco 's Treasure Island , which already had appropriate art deco architecture . ILM added a control tower , Nazi banners , vintage automobiles and a sign stating " Berlin Flughafen " . The establishing shot of the Hatayan city at dusk was created by filming silhouetted cutouts that were backlit and obscured by smoke . Matte paintings were used for the sky and to give the appearance of fill light in the shadows and rim light on the edges of the buildings .

= = Themes = =

A son 's relationship with his estranged father is a common theme in Spielberg 's films , including E.T. the Extra @-@ Terrestrial and Hook .

The film 's exploration of fathers and sons coupled with its use of religious imagery is comparable to two other 1989 films , Star Trek V : The Final Frontier and Field of Dreams . Writing for The New York Times , Caryn James felt the combination in these films reflected New Age concerns , where the worship of God was equated to searching for fathers . James felt that neither Indiana or his father is preoccupied with finding the Grail or defeating the evil Nazis , but that , rather , both seek professional respect for one another in their boys ' own adventure . James contrasted the temple 's biblically epic destruction with the more effective and quiet conversation between the Joneses at the

film 's end . James noted that Indiana 's mother does not appear in the prologue , being portrayed as already having died before the film 's events began .

= = Cultural references = =

The 1912 prologue refers to events in the lives of Indiana 's creators . When Indiana cracks the bullwhip to defend himself against a lion , he accidentally lashes and scars his chin . Ford gained this scar in a car accident as a young man . Indiana taking his nickname from his pet Alaskan Malamute is a reference to the character being named after Lucas 's dog . The train carriage Indiana enters is named " Doctor Fantasy 's Magic Caboose " , which was the name producer Frank Marshall used when performing magic tricks . Spielberg suggested the idea , Marshall came up with the false @-@ bottomed box through which Indiana escapes , and production designer Elliott Scott suggested the trick be done in a single , uninterrupted shot . Spielberg intended the shot of Henry with his umbrella ? after he causes the bird strike on the German plane ? to evoke Ryan 's Daughter .

= = Release = =

= = = Marketing = = =

The film 's teaser trailer debuted in November 1988 with Scrooged and The Naked Gun . Rob MacGregor wrote the tie @-@ in novelization that was released in June 1989 ; it sold enough copies to be included on the New York Times Best Seller list . MacGregor went on to write the first six Indiana Jones prequel novels during the 1990s . Following the film 's release , Ford donated Indiana 's fedora and jacket to the Smithsonian Institution 's National Museum of American History .

No toys were made to promote the film ; Indiana Jones " never happened on the toy level " , said Larry Carlat , senior editor of the journal Children 's Business . Rather , Lucasfilm promoted Indiana as a lifestyle symbol , selling tie @-@ in fedoras , shirts , jackets and watches . Two video games based on the film were released by LucasArts in 1989 : Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade : The Graphic Adventure and Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade : The Action Game . A third game was produced by Taito and released in 1991 for the Nintendo Entertainment System . Ryder Windham wrote another novelization , released in April 2008 by Scholastic , to coincide with the release of Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull . Hasbro released toys based on The Last Crusade in July 2008 .

= = = Box office = = =

The film was released in North America on May 24 , 1989 , in 2 @, @ 327 theaters , earning \$ 29 @, @ 355 @, @ 021 in its opening weekend . This was the third @-@ highest opening weekend of 1989 , behind Ghostbusters II and Batman . Its opening day gross of \$ 11 @, @ 181 @, @ 429 was the first time a film had made over \$ 10 million on its first day . It broke the record for the best six @-@ day performance , with almost \$ 47 million , added another record with \$ 77 million after twelve days , and \$ 100 million in nineteen days . It grossed \$ 195 @. @ 7 million by the end of the year and \$ 475 million worldwide by March 1990 . In France , the film broke a record by selling a million admissions within two and a half weeks .

The film eventually grossed \$ 197 @, @ 171 @, @ 806 in North America and \$ 277 million internationally , for a worldwide total of \$ 474 @, @ 171 @, @ 806 . At the time of its release , the film was the 11th highest @-@ grossing film of all time . Despite competition from Batman , The Last Crusade became the highest @-@ grossing film worldwide in 1989 . In North America , Batman took top position . Behind Kingdom of the Crystal Skull and Raiders , The Last Crusade is the third @-@ highest grossing Indiana Jones film in North America , though it is also behind Temple of Doom when adjusting for inflation . Box Office Mojo estimates that the film sold over 49 million

tickets in North America .

== = Reviews == =

The film opened to mostly positive reviews . It was panned by Andrew Sarris in The New York Observer , David Denby in New York magazine , Stanley Kauffmann in The New Republic and Georgia Brown in The Village Voice . Jonathan Rosenbaum of the Chicago Reader called the film " soulless " . The Washington Post reviewed the film twice ; Hal Hinson 's review on the day of the film 's release was negative , describing it as " nearly all chases and dull exposition " . Although he praised Ford and Connery , he felt the film 's exploration of Indiana 's character took away his mystery and that Spielberg should not have tried to mature his storytelling . Two days later , Desson Thomson published a positive review praising the film 's adventure and action , as well as the father ? son relationship 's thematic depth . Joseph McBride of Variety observed the " Cartoonlike Nazi villains of Raiders have been replaced by more genuinely frightening Nazis led by Julian Glover and Michael Byrne , " and found the moment where Indiana meets Hitler " chilling " . In his biography of Spielberg , McBride added the film was less " racist " than its predecessors .

Peter Travers of Rolling Stone said the film was " the wildest and wittiest Indy of them all " . Richard Corliss of Time and David Ansen of Newsweek praised it , as did Vincent Canby of The New York Times . " Though it seems to have the manner of some magically reconstituted B @-@ movie of an earlier era , The Last Crusade is an endearing original , " Canby wrote , deeming the revelation Indiana had a father he was not proud of to be a " comic surprise " . Canby believed that while the film did not match the previous two in its pacing , it still had " hilariously off @-@ the @-@ wall sequences " such as the circus train chase . He also said that Spielberg was maturing by focusing on the father ? son relationship , a call echoed by McBride in Variety . Roger Ebert praised the scene depicting Indiana as a Boy Scout with the Cross of Coronado ; he compared it to the " style of illustration that appeared in the boys ' adventure magazines of the 1940s " , saying that Spielberg " must have been paging through his old issues of Boys ' Life magazine ... the feeling that you can stumble over astounding adventures just by going on a hike with your Scout troop . Spielberg lights the scene in the strong , basic colors of old pulp magazines . " The Hollywood Reporter felt Connery and Ford deserved Academy Award nominations .

The film was evaluated positively after its release . Internet reviewer James Berardinelli wrote that while the film did not reach the heights of Raiders of the Lost Ark , it " [avoided] the lows of The Temple of Doom . A fitting end to the original trilogy , Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade captures some of the sense of fun that infused the first movie while using the addition of Sean Connery to up the comedic ante and provide a father / son dynamic . " Neil Smith of the BBC praised the action , but said the drama and comedy between the Joneses was more memorable . He noted , " The emphasis on the Jones boys means Julian Glover 's venal villain and Alison Doody 's treacherous beauty are sidelined , while the climax [becomes] one booby @-@ trapped tomb too many . " Based on 55 reviews listed by Rotten Tomatoes , 88 % of critics praised the film , giving it an average score of 8 / 10 . Metacritic calculated an average rating of 65 / 100 , based on 14 reviews .

== = Impact == =

The film won the Academy Award for Best Sound Editing ; it also received nominations for Best Original Score and Best Sound (Ben Burtt , Gary Summers , Shawn Murphy and Tony Dawe) , but lost to The Little Mermaid and Glory respectively . Sean Connery received a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor . Connery and the visual and sound effects teams were also nominated at the 43rd British Academy Film Awards . The film won the 1990 Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation , and was nominated for Best Motion Picture Drama at the Young Artist Awards . John Williams ' score won a BMI Award , and was nominated for a Grammy Award .

The prologue depicting Indiana in his youth inspired Lucas to create The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles television series , which featured Sean Patrick Flanery as the young adult Indiana and Corey Carrier as the 8- to 10 @-@ year @-@ old Indiana . The 13 @-@ year @-@ old incarnation

played by Phoenix in the film was the focus of a Young Indiana Jones series of young adult novels that began in 1990 ; by the ninth novel , the series had become a tie @-@ in to the television show . German author Wolfgang Hohlbein revisited the 1912 prologue in one of his novels , in which Indiana encounters the lead grave robber ? whom Hohlbein christens Jake ? in 1943 . The film 's ending begins the 1995 comic series Indiana Jones and the Spear of Destiny , which moves forward to depict Indiana and his father searching for the Holy Lance in Ireland in 1945 . Spielberg intended to have Connery cameo as Henry in Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) , but Connery turned it down as he had retired .

Petra 's use for the movie 's climatic scenes greatly contributed to its popularity as an international tourist destination . Before the film 's release , only a few thousand visitors per year made the trip ; since then it has grown to almost a million annually . Shops and hotels near the site play up the connection , and it is mentioned prominently in itineraries of locations used in the film series . Jordan 's tourism board mentions the connection on its website . In 2012 the satirical news site The Pan @-@ Arabia Enquirer ran a mock story claiming that the board had officially renamed Petra " That Place from Indiana Jones " to reflect how the world more commonly refers to it .