

= Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull =

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull is a 2008 American science fiction adventure film . It is the fourth installment in the Indiana Jones series created by George Lucas and directed by Steven Spielberg . Released nineteen years after the previous film , the film acknowledges the age of its star Harrison Ford by being set in 1957 . It pays tribute to the science fiction B @-@ movies of the era , pitting Indiana Jones against Soviet agents ? led by Irina Spalko (Cate Blanchett) ? searching for a telepathic crystal skull . Indiana is aided by his former lover Marion Ravenwood (Karen Allen) and their son Mutt Williams (Shia LaBeouf) . Ray Winstone , John Hurt and Jim Broadbent are also part of the supporting cast .

Screenwriters Jeb Stuart , Jeffrey Boam , Frank Darabont , and Jeff Nathanson wrote drafts before David Koepp 's script satisfied the producers . Shooting began on June 18 , 2007 , and took place in various locations including New Mexico ; New Haven , Connecticut ; Hawaii ; and Fresno , California , as well as on sound stages in Los Angeles . To keep aesthetic continuity with the previous films , the crew relied on traditional stunt work instead of computer @-@ generated stunt doubles , and cinematographer Janusz Kami?ski studied Douglas Slocombe 's style from the previous films .

The film premiered at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival on May 18 , 2008 , and was released worldwide on May 22 , 2008 to generally positive reviews from critics , although audience reception was more mixed . Significant praise was geared towards the performances , action scenes , John Williams ' musical score , and costume design . However , the main points of criticism were towards the dialogue , storyline , pacing , and overuse of CGI . It was also a financial success , grossing over \$ 786 million worldwide , becoming the franchise 's highest @-@ grossing film when not adjusted for inflation , and the second highest @-@ grossing film of 2008 . Marketing relied heavily on the public 's nostalgia for the series , with products taking inspiration from all four films . Kingdom of the Crystal Skull is also the last film in the series to be distributed by Paramount Pictures , as Walt Disney Studios has become the distributor of its future films , since its parent company 's acquisition of Lucasfilm in 2012 .

= = Plot = =

In 1957 , nineteen years after The Last Crusade , Indiana Jones and his partner George " Mac " McHale are kidnapped in Nevada by Soviet agents under Colonel Dr. Irina Spalko . The Soviets infiltrate warehouse labeled " Warehouse 51 " and force Jones to locate an alien corpse with a crystal skull , recovered ten years earlier . Upon its discovery , Mac reveals he is a double agent working for the Soviets . Jones escapes , unsuccessfully attempts to retrieve the skull , and in a fight with Spalko 's sadistic henchman , Colonel Antonin Dovchenko , they both fall onto a rocket sled , which ignites and speeds them away . Jones staggers away and , still pursued , arrives in a model town at the Nevada Test Site , minutes before an atomic bomb test , and takes shelter in a lead @-@ lined refrigerator . Jones is rescued , decontaminated , and apprehended by FBI agents , who suspect him of working for the Soviets ; and though freed on the recommendation of General Ross , who vouches for him , he is put on indefinite leave of absence from Marshall College , also at the cost of the dean having to resign to keep Indiana 's job at the college .

Jones is approached by greaser Mutt Williams , who tells him that Harold Oxley had found a crystal skull in Peru , suffered a mental breakdown , and was later kidnapped . In return , Jones tells Mutt about the legend of crystal skulls found in Akator . Mutt gives Jones a letter from his mother , who is also held captive , containing a riddle written by Oxley in an ancient Native American language . KGB agents try to take the letter , but Jones and Mutt evade them and reach Peru . At the local psychiatric hospital , Oxley 's scribbles on the walls and floor of his cell lead them to the grave of Francisco de Orellana , a Conquistador searching for Akator . They discover the skull at the grave , with Jones reasoning that Oxley had returned it there .

On leaving the grave site , Jones and Mutt are captured by Mac and the Soviets and taken to their camp in the Amazon jungle , where they find Oxley and Mutt 's mother , Marion Ravenwood , who later reveals that Mutt is Jones ' son , Henry Jones III . Jones berates her for not convincing him to

finish school . Mac tells Jones he is really a CIA double @-@ agent to regain Jones ' trust . Spalko believes that the crystal skull belongs to an alien life form and holds great psychic power , and that finding more skulls in Akator will grant the Soviets the advantage of psychic warfare . Spalko uses the skull on Jones to enable him to understand Oxley and identify a route to Akator . Jones and his four allies escape with the skull into the Amazon . They elude giant ants , and after Dovchenko loses a fight with Jones , he is devoured by the ants . Jones and his allies survive three waterfalls in a GAZ 46 amphibious vehicle (which gets destroyed after the third drop) , as many of the Soviets fall from a cliff while trying to pursue them . Jones and Oxley then identify a rock formation that leads them to Akator , unaware that Mac is still loyal to Spalko and has been dropping transceivers to allow the surviving Soviets to track them .

They escape the city 's guardians , gain access to the temple , and find it filled with artifacts from many ancient civilizations . Indy believes the aliens - in fact , inter @-@ dimensional beings - were " archaeologists " studying the different cultures of Earth , and Mac remarks that there 's not a museum in the world that wouldn 't sell its soul for the collection inside the temple . The five enter a chamber containing the crystal skeletons of thirteen enthroned skeletal crystal beings , one missing its skull . Spalko arrives and presents the skull to this skeleton . It suddenly flies from her hands to the skeleton and rejoins , whereupon the aliens reanimate and telepathically offer a reward in ancient Mayan through Oxley . A portal to their dimension becomes activated , and Spalko demands knowledge equal to the aliens ' . The thirteen beings fuse into one , and in the process of receiving the overwhelming knowledge , Spalko is disintegrated and sucked into the portal . Indy , Marion , Mutt , and Oxley - now released from the skull - escape , while the Soviets are also drawn into the portal . Mac is caught in the pull while trying to scrounge some of the treasure , and even though Indy offers him the whip to pull him to safety , he replies wink of his eye , " Jonesy , I 'm gonna be all right , " lets go and is pulled in . The survivors watch as the temple walls crumble , revealing a flying saucer rising from the debris , which vanishes into the " space between spaces " while the hollow in the valley floor left by its departure is flooded by the waters of the Amazon .

The following year , Indy is reinstated at Marshall College and made an associate dean . He and Marion are then married in a church . As the wedding party leaves the chapel , a gust of wind blows Indy 's brown fedora off the coat rack and deposits it at Mutt 's feet . Mutt picks it up and is about to don it before Indy takes it from him and puts it on with a grin .

= = Cast = =

Harrison Ford reprises the role of Dr. Henry " Indiana " Jones , Jr . To prepare for the role , the 64 @-@ year @-@ old Ford spent three hours a day at a gym , practiced with the bullwhip for two weeks , and relied on a high @-@ protein diet of fish and vegetables . Ford had kept fit during the series ' hiatus anyway , as he hoped for another film . He performed many of his own stunts because stunt technology had become safer since 1989 , and he also felt it improved his performance . It is also said that he still fit into his pants from Raiders of the Lost Ark . He argued , " The appeal of Indiana Jones isn 't his youth but his imagination , his resourcefulness . His physicality is a big part of it , especially the way he gets out of tight situations . But it 's not all hitting people and falling from high places . My ambition in action is to have the audience look straight in the face of character and not at the back of a capable stuntman 's head . I hope to continue that no matter how old I get . " Ford felt his return would reduce American ageism (he refused to dye his hair for the role) , because of the film 's family appeal : " This is a movie which is geared not to [the young] segment of the demographic , an age @-@ defined segment ... We 've got a great shot at breaking the movie demographic constraints . " He told Koepp to add more references to his age in the script . Spielberg said Ford was not too old to play Indiana : " When a guy gets to be that age and he still packs the same punch , and he still runs just as fast and climbs just as high , he 's gonna be breathing a little heavier at the end of the set piece . And I felt , ' Let 's have some fun with that . Let 's not hide that . ' " Spielberg recalled the line in Raiders that said , " It 's not the years , it 's the mileage , " and felt he could not tell the difference between Ford during the shoots for Last Crusade and Kingdom of the Crystal Skull .

Cate Blanchett plays Soviet agent Irina Spalko . Screenwriter David Koepp created the character . Frank Marshall said Spalko continued the tradition of Indiana having a love @-@ hate relationship " with every woman he ever comes in contact with . " Blanchett had wanted to play a villain for a " couple of years " , and enjoyed being part of the Indiana Jones legacy . Spielberg praised Blanchett as a " master of disguise " , and considers her his favorite Indiana Jones villain for inventing much of Spalko 's character . Spalko 's bob cut was her idea , with the character 's stern looks and behaviour recalling Rosa Klebb in *From Russia with Love* . Blanchett learned to fence for the character ; but during filming , Spielberg decided to give Spalko " karate chop " skills . LaBeouf recalled Blanchett was elusive on set , and Ford was surprised when he met her on set out of costume . He noted , " There 's no aspect of her behavior that was not consistent with this bizarre person she 's playing . "

Karen Allen reprises the role of Marion Ravenwood (under the married name of Marion Williams) , who previously appeared in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* . Frank Darabont 's script introduced the idea of Marion returning as Indiana 's love interest . Allen was not aware her character was in the script until Spielberg called her in January 2007 , saying , " It 's been announced ! We 're gonna make Indiana Jones 4 ! And guess what ? You 're in it ! " Ford found Allen " one of the easiest people to work with [he 's] ever known . She 's a completely self @-@ sufficient woman , and that 's part of the character she plays . A lot of her charm and the charm of the character is there . And again , it 's not an age @-@ dependent thing . It has to do with her spirit and her nature . " Allen found Ford easier to work with on this film , than in *Raiders* .

Shia LaBeouf plays Mutt Williams / Henry Jones III , Indiana 's sidekick and son . The concept of Indiana Jones having offspring was introduced in *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* ; in the episode " Princeton , February 1916 " , Indy and his high school sweetheart discuss having a child and naming him " Henry Jones III . " (This scene was deleted from the VHS and DVD releases .) ; additionally , in several episodes , an elderly Indy is shown to have a daughter . During the film 's development , the latter was incorporated into Frank Darabont 's script , with Indiana and Marion having a 13 @-@ year @-@ old daughter . Spielberg found this too similar to *The Lost World : Jurassic Park* , so a son was created instead . Koepp credited the character 's creation to Jeff Nathanson and Lucas . Koepp wanted to make Mutt more academic , but Lucas likened Mutt to Marlon Brando 's character in *The Wild One* : " he needs to be what Indiana Jones ' father thought of [him] ? the curse returns in the form of his own son ? he 's everything a father can 't stand . " LaBeouf was Spielberg 's first choice for the role , having been impressed by his performance in *Holes* . Excited at the prospect of being in an Indiana Jones film , LaBeouf agreed without reading the script and did not know what character he would play . He later gained fifteen pounds of muscle for the role , and also repeatedly watched the other films to acquire character . LaBeouf also watched *Blackboard Jungle* , *Rebel Without a Cause* , and *The Wild One* to develop his character 's personality , copying mannerisms and words including the use of a switchblade as a weapon . Lucas also consulted on the greaser look , joking that LaBeouf was " sent to the American Graffiti school of greaserland . " LaBeouf pulled his rotator cuff when filming Mutt 's duel with Spalko ; an injury that worsened throughout filming . He later pulled his groin .

Ray Winstone plays George " Mac " McHale , a British agent whom Jones worked alongside in World War II , but has now allied with the Russians to resolve financial problems . The character acts as a spin on Sallah and René Belloq ? Jones 's friend and nemesis , respectively , in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* . Spielberg cast Winstone as he found him " one of the most brilliant actors around " , having seen *Sexy Beast* . Winstone tore his hamstring during filming . " I keep getting these action parts as I ? m getting older " , he remarked . Like John Hurt , Winstone wished to see the script prior to committing to the film . In interviews on British TV Winstone explained that he was only able to read the script if it was delivered by courier , who waited while he read the script , and returned to the U.S. with the script once Winstone had read it . His reasoning for wanting to read the script was , " If I 'm gonna be in it , I want to be in it . " He gave suggestions to Spielberg , including the idea of Mac pretending to be a double agent . He also stated that once filming was completed he had to return the script , such was the secrecy about the film . He was later presented with a copy of the script to keep .

John Hurt plays Harold " Ox " Oxley , Mutt 's surrogate father and Indiana 's old friend . Frank

Darabont had suggested Hurt while writing the screenplay . The character is inspired by Ben Gunn of Treasure Island . Hurt read the script before agreeing to his role , unlike other cast members who came on " because Steven ? you know , ' God ' ? was doing it . And I said , ' Well , I need to have a little bit of previous knowledge even if God is doing it . ' So they sent a courier over with the script from Los Angeles , gave it to me at three o 'clock in the afternoon in London , collected it again at eight o 'clock in the evening , and he returned the next day to Los Angeles . "

Jim Broadbent plays Charles Stanforth , the dean of Marshall College and friend of Jones . Broadbent 's character stands in for Marcus Brody , whose actor , Denholm Elliott , died in 1992 . As a tribute to Elliott , the filmmakers put a portrait and a statue on the Marshall College location , and a picture on Jones ' desk , saying he died shortly after Indiana 's father .

Igor Jijikine plays Russian Colonel Antonin Dovchenko , Spalko 's second @-@ in @-@ command . His character stands in for the heavily built henchmen that Pat Roach played in the three previous films , as Roach died in 2004 from throat cancer .

Joel Stoffer and Neil Flynn have minor roles as FBI agents interrogating Indiana in a scene following the opening sequence . Alan Dale plays General Ross , who protests his innocence . Andrew Divoff and Pasha D. Lychnikoff play Russian soldiers . Spielberg cast Russian @-@ speaking actors as Russian soldiers so their accents would be authentic . Dimitri Diatchenko plays Spalko 's right @-@ hand man who battles Indiana at Marshall College . Diatchenko bulked up to 250 pounds to look menacing , and his role was originally minor with ten days of filming . When shooting the fight , Ford accidentally hit his chin , and Spielberg liked Diatchenko 's humorous looking reaction , so he expanded his role to three months of filming . Ernie Reyes , Jr. plays a cemetery guard .

Sean Connery turned down an offer to cameo as Henry Jones , Sr. , as he found retirement too enjoyable . Lucas stated that in hindsight it was good that Connery did not briefly appear , as it would disappoint the audience when his character would not join the film 's adventure . Ford joked , " I 'm old enough to play my own father in this one . " The film addresses Connery 's absence by Indiana implying that both Henry , Sr. and Marcus Brody died before the film 's events . Connery later stated that he liked the film , describing it as " rather good and rather long . " John Rhys @-@ Davies was asked to reprise his role as Sallah as a guest in the wedding scene . He turned it down as he felt his character deserved a more substantial role .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

During the late 1970s , George Lucas and Steven Spielberg made a deal with Paramount Pictures for five Indiana Jones films . Following the 1989 release of Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade , Lucas let the series end as he felt he could not think of a good plot device to drive the next installment , and chose instead to produce The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles for TV , which explored the character in his early years . Harrison Ford played Indiana in one episode , narrating his adventures in 1920 Chicago . When Lucas shot Ford 's role in December 1992 , he realized the scene opened up the possibility of a film with an older Indiana set in the 1950s . The film could reflect a science fiction 1950s B @-@ movie , with aliens as the plot device . Meanwhile , Spielberg believed he was going to " mature " as a filmmaker after making the trilogy , and felt he would just produce any future installments .

Ford disliked the new angle , telling Lucas , " No way am I being in a Steven Spielberg movie like that . " Spielberg himself , who depicted aliens in Close Encounters of the Third Kind and E.T. the Extra @-@ Terrestrial , resisted it . Lucas came up with a story , which Jeb Stuart turned into a script from October 1993 to May 1994 . (Stuart had previously written The Fugitive , which starred Ford .) Lucas wanted Indiana to get married , which would allow Henry Jones , Sr. to return , expressing concern over whether his son is happy with what he has accomplished . After he learned that Joseph Stalin was interested in psychic warfare , he decided to have Russians as the villains

and the aliens to have psychic powers . Following Stuart 's next draft , Lucas hired Last Crusade writer Jeffrey Boam to write the next three versions , the last of which was completed in March 1996 . Three months later , Independence Day was released , and Spielberg told Lucas he would not make another alien invasion film . Lucas decided to focus on the Star Wars prequels .

In 2000 , Spielberg 's son asked when the next Indiana Jones film would be released , which made him interested in reviving the project . The same year , Ford , Lucas , Spielberg , Frank Marshall and Kathleen Kennedy met during the American Film Institute 's tribute to Ford , and decided they wanted to enjoy the experience of making an Indiana Jones film again . Spielberg also found returning to the series a respite from his many dark films during this period , such as A.I. : Artificial Intelligence , Minority Report , and Munich . Lucas convinced Spielberg to use aliens in the plot by saying they were not " extraterrestrials " , but " interdimensional " , with this concept taking inspiration in the superstring theory . Spielberg and Lucas discussed the central idea of a B @-@ movie involving aliens , and Lucas suggested using the crystal skulls to ground the idea . Lucas found those artifacts as fascinating as the Ark of the Covenant , and had intended to feature them for a Young Indiana Jones episode before the show 's cancellation . M. Night Shyamalan was hired to write for an intended 2002 shoot , but he was overwhelmed writing a sequel to a film he loved like Raiders of the Lost Ark , and claimed it was difficult to get Ford , Spielberg and Lucas to focus . Stephen Gaghan and Tom Stoppard were also approached .

Frank Darabont , who wrote various Young Indiana Jones episodes , was hired to write in May 2002 . His script , entitled Indiana Jones and the City of Gods , was set in the 1950s , with ex @-@ Nazis pursuing Jones . Spielberg conceived the idea because of real life figures such as Juan Perón in Argentina , who protected Nazi war criminals . Darabont claimed Spielberg loved the script , but Lucas had issues with it , and decided to take over writing himself . Lucas and Spielberg acknowledged the 1950s setting could not ignore the Cold War , and the Russians were more plausible villains . Spielberg decided he could not satirize the Nazis after directing Schindler 's List , while Ford noted , " We plum [b] wore the Nazis out . "

Jeff Nathanson met with Spielberg and Lucas in August 2004 , and turned in the next drafts in October and November 2005 , titled The Atomic Ants . David Koepp continued on from there , giving his script the subtitle Destroyer of Worlds , based on the J. Robert Oppenheimer quote . It was changed to Kingdom of the Crystal Skull , as Spielberg found it more inviting a title and actually named the plot device of the crystal skulls . Lucas insisted on the Kingdom part . Koepp 's " bright [title] idea " was Indiana Jones and the Son of Indiana Jones , and Spielberg had also considered having the title name the aliens as The Mysterians , but dropped that when he remembered that was another film 's title . Koepp collaborated with Raiders of the Lost Ark screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan on the film 's " love dialogue . "

= = = Filming = = =

Unlike the previous Indiana Jones films , Spielberg shot the entire film in the United States , stating he did not want to be away from his family . Shooting began on June 18 , 2007 , in Deming , New Mexico . An extensive chase scene set at the fictional Marshall College was filmed between June 28 and July 7 at Yale University in New Haven , Connecticut (where Spielberg 's son Theo was studying) . To keep in line with the fact the story takes place in the 1950s , several facades were changed , although signs were put up in between shots to tell the public what the store or restaurant actually was .

Afterwards , they filmed scenes set in the Peruvian jungles in Hilo , Hawaii until August . Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull was the biggest film shot in Hawaii since Waterworld , and was estimated to generate US \$ 22 million to \$ 45 million in the local economy . Because of an approaching hurricane , Spielberg was unable to shoot a fight at a waterfall , so he sent the second unit to film shots of Brazil 's and Argentina 's Iguazu Falls . These were digitally combined into the fight , which was shot at the Universal backlot .

Half the film was scheduled to shoot on five sound stages at Los Angeles : Downey , Sony , Warner Bros. , Paramount and Universal . Filming moved to Chandler Field in Fresno , California ,

substituting for Mexico City International Airport , on October 11 , 2007 . After shooting aerial shots of Chandler Airport and a DC @-@ 3 on the morning of October 12 , 2007 , filming wrapped . Although he originally found no need for re @-@ shoots after viewing his first cut of the film , Spielberg decided to add an establishing shot filmed on February 29 , 2008 , in Pasadena , California .

= = = Design = = =

Spielberg and Janusz Kamiński , who has shot all of the director 's films since 1993 's Schindler 's List , reviewed the previous films to study Douglas Slocombe 's style . " I didn 't want Janusz to modernize and bring us into the 21st century " , Spielberg explained . " I still wanted the film to have a lighting style not dissimilar to the work Doug Slocombe had achieved , which meant that both Janusz and I had to swallow our pride . Janusz had to approximate another cinematographer 's look , and I had to approximate this younger director 's look that I thought I had moved away from after almost two decades . " Spielberg also hired production designer Guy Hendrix Dyas after admiring his design work for Superman Returns . Spielberg did not want to fast cut action scenes , relying on his script instead for a fast pace , and had confirmed in 2002 that he would not shoot the film digitally , a format Lucas had adopted . Lucas felt " it looks like it was shot three years after Last Crusade . The people , the look of it , everything . You 'd never know there was 20 years between shooting . " Kamiński commented upon watching the three films back @-@ to @-@ back , he was amazed how each of them advanced technologically , but were all nevertheless consistent , neither too brightly or darkly lit .

While shooting War of the Worlds in late 2004 , Spielberg met with stunt coordinator Vic Armstrong , who doubled for Ford in the previous films , to discuss three action sequences he had envisioned . However , Armstrong was filming The Mummy : Tomb of the Dragon Emperor during shooting of Kingdom of the Crystal Skull , so Dan Bradley was hired instead . Bradley and Spielberg used previsualization for all the action scenes , except the motorcycle chase at Marshall College , because that idea was conceived after the animators had left . Bradley drew traditional storyboards instead , and was given free rein to create dramatic moments , just as Raiders of the Lost Ark second unit director Michael D. Moore did when filming the truck chase . Spielberg improvised on set , changing the location of Mutt and Spalko 's duel from the ground to on top of vehicles .

The Ark of the Covenant is seen in a broken crate during the Hangar 51 opening sequence . Lucasfilm used the same prop from Raiders of the Lost Ark . Guards were hired to protect the highly sought after piece of film memorabilia during the day of its use . A replica of the staff carried by Charlton Heston in The Ten Commandments was also used to populate the set to illustrate the Hangar 's history .

= = = Effects = = =

Producer Frank Marshall stated in 2003 that the film would use traditional stunt work so as to be consistent with the previous films . CGI was used to remove the visible safety wires on the actors when they did their stunts (such as when Indy swings on a lamp with his whip) . Timed explosives were used for a scene where Indiana drives a truck through crates . During the take , an explosive failed to detonate and landed in the seat beside Ford . It did not go off and he was not injured .

Spielberg stated before production began that very few CGI effects would be used to maintain consistency with the other films . During filming significantly more CGI work was done than initially anticipated as in many cases it proved to be more practical . There ended up being a total of about 450 CGI shots in the film , with an estimated 30 percent of the film 's shots containing CG matte paintings . Spielberg initially wanted brushstrokes to be visible on the paintings for added consistency with the previous films , but decided against it . The script also required a non @-@ deforested jungle for a chase scene , but this would have been unsafe and much CGI work was done to create the jungle action sequence . Visual effects supervisor Pablo Helman (who worked on Lucas ' Star Wars : Episode I ? The Phantom Menace and Star Wars : Episode II ? Attack of the

Clones as well as Spielberg 's War of the Worlds and Munich) traveled to Brazil and Argentina to photograph elements that were composited into the final images . Industrial Light and Magic then effectively created a virtual jungle with a geography like the real Amazon .

The appearance of a live alien and flying saucer was in flux . Spielberg wanted the alien to resemble a Grey alien , and also rejected early versions of the saucer that looked " too Close Encounters " . Art director Christian Alzmann said the aesthetic was " looking at a lot of older B @-@ movie designs ? but trying to make that look more real and gritty to fit in with the Indy universe . " Other reference for the visual effects work included government tapes of nuclear tests , and video reference of real prairie dogs shot in 1080p by Nathan Edward Denning .

= = = Music = = =

John Williams began composing the score in October 2007 ; ten days of recording sessions wrapped on March 6 , 2008 , at Sony Pictures Studios . Williams described composing for the Indiana Jones universe again as " like sitting down and finishing a letter that you started 25 years ago " . He reused Indiana 's theme (Raiders March) and also Marion 's from Raiders of the Lost Ark , and also composed five new motifs for Mutt , Spalko and the skull . Williams gave Mutt 's a swashbuckling feel , and homaged film noir and 1950s B @-@ movies for Spalko and the crystal skull respectively . As an in @-@ joke , Williams incorporated a measure and a half of Johannes Brahms ' " Academic Festival Overture " when Indiana and Mutt crash into the library . The soundtrack features a Continuum , an instrument often used for sound effects instead of music . The Concord Music Group released the soundtrack on May 20 , 2008 .

= = Release = =

The film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival on May 18 , 2008 , a couple of days ahead of its worldwide May 21 ? 23 release . It was the first Spielberg film since 1982 's E.T. the Extra @-@ Terrestrial to premiere at Cannes . The film was released in approximately 4 @,@ 000 theaters in the United States , and dubbed into 25 languages for its worldwide release . More than 12 @,@ 000 release prints were distributed , which is the largest in Paramount Pictures ' history . Although Spielberg insisted his films only be watched traditionally at theaters , Paramount chose to release the film in digital cinemas as part of a scheme to convert 10 @,@ 000 U.S. cinemas to the format .

= = = Secrecy = = =

Frank Marshall remarked , " In today 's information age , secrecy has been a real challenge People actually said , ' No , we 're going to respect Steven 's vision . ' " Prior to release , moviegoers on the Internet scrutinized numerous photos and the film 's promotional LEGO sets in hope of understanding plot details ; Spielberg biographer Ian Freer wrote , " What Indy IV is actually about has been the great cultural guessing game of 2007 / 08 . Yet , it has to be said , there is something refreshing about being ten weeks away from a giant blockbuster and knowing next to nothing about it . " To distract investigative fans from the film 's title during filming , five fake titles were registered with the Motion Picture Association of America ; The City of Gods , The Destroyer of Worlds , The Fourth Corner of the Earth , The Lost City of Gold and The Quest for the Covenant . Lucas and Spielberg had also wanted to keep Karen Allen 's return a secret until the film 's release , but decided to confirm it at the 2007 Comic @-@ Con.

An extra in the film , Tyler Nelson , violated his nondisclosure agreement in an interview with The Edmond Sun on September 17 , 2007 , which was then picked up by the mainstream media . It is unknown if he remained in the final cut . At Nelson 's request , The Edmond Sun subsequently pulled the story from its website . On October 2 , 2007 , a Superior Court order was filed finding that Nelson knowingly violated the agreement . The terms of the settlement were not disclosed . A number of production photos and sensitive documents pertaining to the film 's production budget were also stolen from Spielberg 's production office . The Los Angeles County Sheriff 's Department

set up a sting operation after being alerted by a webmaster that the thief might try to sell the photos . On October 4 , 2007 , the seller , 37 @-@ year @-@ old Roderick Eric Davis , was arrested . He pleaded guilty to two felony counts and was sentenced to two years and four months in prison .

= = = Marketing = = =

Howard Roffman , President of Lucas Licensing , attributed the film 's large marketing campaign to it having been " nineteen years since the last film , and we are sensing a huge pent @-@ up demand for everything Indy " . Paramount spent at least \$ 150 million to promote the film , whereas most film promotions range from \$ 70 to 100 million . As well as fans , the film also needed to appeal to younger viewers . Licensing deals include Expedia , Dr Pepper , Burger King , M & M 's and Lunchables . Paramount sponsored an Indiana Jones open wheel car for Marco Andretti in the 2008 Indianapolis 500 , and his racing suit was designed to resemble Indiana Jones 's outfit . The distributor also paired with M & M 's to sponsor the # 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota , with NASCAR driver Kyle Busch behind the wheel , in the 2008 Dodge Challenger 500 at Darlington Raceway . Kyle Busch and the # 18 team won the race and visited victory lane with Indiana Jones on the car . With the film 's release , producer Frank Marshall and UNESCO worked together to promote conservation of World Heritage Sites around the world . Disneyland hosted " Indiana Jones Summer of Hidden Mysteries " to promote the film 's release .

The Boston @-@ based design studio Creative Pilot created the packaging style for the film 's merchandise , which merged Drew Struzan 's original illustrations " with a fresh new look , which showcases the whip , a map and exotic hieroglyphic patterns " . Hasbro , Lego , Sideshow Collectibles , Topps , Diamond Select , Hallmark Cards , and Cartamundi all sold products . A THQ mobile game based on the film was released , as was a Lego video game based on the past films . Lego also released a series of computer @-@ animated spoofs , Lego Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Brick , directed by Peder Pedersen . Stern Pinball released a new Indiana Jones pinball machine , designed by John Borg , based on all four films . From October 2007 to April 2008 , the reedited episodes of The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles were released in three DVD box sets .

Random House , Dark Horse Comics , Diamond Comic Distributors , Scholastic and DK published books , including James Rollins ' novelization of Kingdom of the Crystal Skull , a two @-@ issue comic book adaptation written by John Jackson Miller and drawn by Luke Ross (Samurai : Heaven and Earth) , children 's novelizations of all four films , the Indiana Jones Adventures comic book series aimed at children , and the official Indiana Jones Magazine . Scholastic featured Indiana and Mutt on the covers of Scholastic News and Scholastic Maths , to the concern of parents , though Jack Silbert , editor of the latter , felt the film would interest children in archaeology .

= = = Home media = = =

The film was released on Blu @-@ ray Disc and DVD in North America on October 14 , 2008 and in the U.K. on November 10 . This release includes a two @-@ disc edition Blu @-@ ray , a two @-@ disc Special Edition DVD , and a one @-@ disc edition DVD . The film made its worldwide television premiere on USA on December 9 , 2010 . On September 18 , 2012 , it was re @-@ released on Blu @-@ ray as part of Indiana Jones : The Complete Adventures .

Several collectible editions have also been released . For example : Best Buy 's gift set includes a replica crystal skull from Sideshow Collectibles and a \$ 25 gift card to Sideshowcollectibles.com ; Kmart 's giveaway of four mini @-@ posters comprises LEGO replicas of the original Indiana Jones theatrical posters ; and Target Corporation 's DVD package includes an 80 @-@ page hardcover book of behind the scenes photographs .

As of October 16 , 2013 , the film has made \$ 117 @,@ 239 @,@ 631 in revenue .

= = = Lawsuit = = =

The director of the Institute of Archeology of Belize , Dr. Jaime Awe , sued Lucasfilm , Disney and Paramount Pictures on behalf of the country Belize for using the Mitchell @-@ Hedges skull 's " likeness " in the film .

= = Reception = =

= = = Box office = = =

Indiana Jones is distributed by one entity , Paramount , but owned by another , Lucasfilm . The pre @-@ production arrangement between the two organizations granted Paramount 12 @. @ 5 % of the film 's revenue . As the \$ 185 million budget was larger than the original \$ 125 million estimate , Lucas , Spielberg and Ford turned down large upfront salaries so Paramount could cover the film 's costs . In order for Paramount to see a profit beyond its distribution fee , the film had to make over \$ 400 million . At that point , Lucas , Spielberg , Ford and those with smaller profit @-@ sharing deals would also begin to collect their cut .

The film was released on Thursday , May 22 , 2008 in North America and grossed \$ 25 million its opening day . In its opening weekend , the film grossed an estimated \$ 101 million in 4 @, @ 260 theaters in the United States and Canada , ranking # 1 at the box office , and making it the third widest opening of all time . Within its first five days of release , it grossed \$ 311 million worldwide . The film 's total \$ 151 million gross in the U.S. ranked it as the second biggest Memorial Day weekend release , behind Pirates of the Caribbean : At World 's End . It was the third most successful film of 2008 domestically , behind The Dark Knight and Iron Man respectively , and the year 's second highest @-@ grossing film internationally , behind The Dark Knight . In February 2010 , it was the 25th highest @-@ grossing film of all time domestically , and 44th highest @-@ grossing worldwide , as well as the most financially successful Indiana Jones film when not adjusted for inflation of ticket prices .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull received strongly polarized reviews , yet mostly positive ; as a result , it has been nominated both for numerous " best of " and " worst of " awards . Review aggregate website Rotten Tomatoes gives the film a rating of 77 % based on 257 reviews , with an average rating of 6 @. @ 9 out 10 . The site 's critical consensus reads , " Though the plot elements are certainly familiar , Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull still delivers the thrills and Harrison Ford 's return in the title role is more than welcome . " Another aggregator , Metacritic , gives the film a weighted average rating of 65 out of 100 , based on 40 critics , indicating " generally favorable reviews " . Surveys conducted by CinemaScore indicated a general " B " rating from audiences , on an A + to F scale .

Roger Ebert gave the film 3 @. @ 5 stars out of 4 , the same rating he gave The Last Crusade , finding it " same old , same old " , but what " I want it to be . " Leonard Maltin also gave the film 3 1 / 2 stars out of 4 , more than he gave Temple of Doom and Last Crusade , and wrote that " Indy returns with the same brand of high adventure that marked the original Raiders of the Lost Ark . " Empire 's Damon Wise criticised the use of CG but praised Ford 's performance and wrote that " It won 't change your life but , if you 're in the right frame of mind , it will change your mood : you might wince , you might groan , you might beg to differ on the big , silly climax , but you 'll never stop smiling . "

James Berardinelli gave the film 2 stars out of 4 , calling it " the most lifeless of the series " and " simply [not] a very good motion picture . " Margaret Pomeranz of At the Movies gave the film 2 1 / 2 stars out of 5 , saying that the filmmakers " had 19 years since the last Indiana Jones movie to come up with something truly exciting and fresh , but I feel there 's a certain laziness and cynicism in this latest adventure . " Associated Press reported that J. Sperling Reich , who writes for FilmStew.com , said : " It really looked like they were going through the motions . It really looked like

no one had their heart in it . " USA Today stated reviews were " mixed " and reviewers felt the " movie suffers from predictable plot points and cheesy special effects . "

The film was nominated for Best Action Movie at the 2009 Critics ' Choice Awards . The Visual Effects Society nominated it for Best Single Visual Effect of the Year (the valley destruction) , Best Outstanding Matte Paintings , Best Models and Miniatures , and Best Created Environment in a Feature Motion Picture (the inside of the temple) . The film ranks 453rd on Empire 's 2008 list of the 500 greatest movies of all time . It was nominated at the Saturn Awards for Best Science Fiction Film , Best Director , Best Actor , Best Supporting Actor , Best Costumes and Best Special Effects . It won Best Costumes . At the 51st Grammy Awards , John Williams won an award for the Mutt Williams theme .

In 2009 , the film won the Razzie Award for Worst Prequel , Remake , Rip @-@ off or Sequel . Comcast voted it the 11th worst film sequel of all time . Paste magazine ranked the movie 10th on its list " The 20 Worst Sequels to Good Movies " . Listverse.com ranked the film 8th on its list of the " Top 10 Worst Movie Sequels " .

= = = International reaction = = =

The Communist Party of the Russian Federation called for a ban on the film , accusing the production team of " demonizing " the Soviet Union . A party official said : " In 1957 the USSR was not sending terrorists to America but sending the Sputnik satellite into space ! " Spielberg responded : " When we decided the fourth installment would take place in 1957 , we had no choice but to make the Russians the enemies . World War II had just ended and the Cold War had begun . The U.S. didn 't have any other enemies at the time . " The film 's depiction of Peru also received criticism from the Peruvian and Spanish @-@ speaking public .

= = = Fan reception and legacy = = =

According to the Associated Press , Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull received a " respectful " but " far from glowing " reception from Indiana Jones fans , and that " some viewers at its first press screening loved it , some called it slick and enjoyable though formulaic , some said it was not worth the 19 @-@ year wait . " South Park parodied the film in the episode " The China Problem " , broadcast five months after the film 's release . The episode parodied the negative fan reaction , with the characters filing a police report against Lucas and Spielberg for " raping Indiana Jones " .

Some disappointed Indiana Jones fans used the term " nuking the fridge " , based on a scene where Jones survives a nuclear blast by hiding in a refrigerator , to denote the point when a franchise passes its peak and crossed into the absurd , similar to " jumping the shark " . This phrase has appeared across the internet , and was chosen as # 5 on Time magazine 's list of " top ten buzzwords " of 2008 . Asked about the scene and phrase , Spielberg said : " Blame me . Don 't blame George . That was my silly idea ... I 'm proud of that . I 'm glad I was able to bring that into popular culture . " Lucas denied this , saying Spielberg was " protecting him " . According to Lucas , he had assembled a dossier of research data to convince Spielberg ; Lucas stated that his research claimed the odds of surviving in the refrigerator are about " 50 @-@ 50 . "

The mixed fanbase reaction did not surprise Lucas , who was familiar with mixed response to the Star Wars prequels , and predicted that " we 're all going to get people throwing tomatoes at us . " David Koepp said : " I knew I was going to get hammered from a number of quarters [but] what I liked about the way the movie ended up playing was it was popular with families . I like that families really embraced it . " Although Spielberg said " I 'm very happy with the movie . I always have been " , he also said " I sympathise with people who didn 't like the MacGuffin [the interdimensional beings] because I never liked the MacGuffin . "

At the 2010 Cannes Film Festival , LaBeouf told the Los Angeles Times he had " dropped the ball on the legacy that people loved and cherished " and felt that " the movie could have been updated ... we just misinterpreted what we were trying to satiate . " In 2011 , in response to LaBeouf 's

comments , Harrison Ford said : " I think I told [LaBeouf] he was a fucking idiot ... As an actor , I think it 's my obligation to support the film without making a complete ass of myself . Shia is ambitious , attentive and talented ? and he 's learning how to deal with a situation which is very unique and difficult . " LaBeouf later regretted his comments and their effect on his relationship with Spielberg : " He told me there 's a time to be a human being and have an opinion , and there 's a time to sell cars . It brought me freedom , but it also killed my spirits because this was a dude I looked up to like a sensei . "

= = Sequel = =

On March 15 , 2016 , it was announced that Spielberg and Ford are both set to return for a fifth Indiana Jones film , scheduled for release on July 19 , 2019 . Lucas will return as executive producer , while Kennedy and Marshall will serve as producers and Koepp as screenwriter . Williams will also return to compose the score .