The Mandalorian is an American <u>space Western</u> television series created by <u>Jon Favreau</u> for the streaming service <u>Disney+</u>. It is the first <u>live-action</u> series in the <u>Star Wars</u> franchise, beginning five years after the events of <u>Return of the Jedi</u> (1983), and stars <u>Pedro Pascal</u> as the <u>title character</u>, a lone bounty hunter who goes on the run to protect the Force-sensitive child <u>Grogu</u>. Starting in the third season, <u>Katee Sackhoff</u> also stars as <u>Mandalorian</u> <u>Bo-Katan Kryze</u>, following her appearance in the second season.

Star Wars creator George Lucas had begun developing a live-action Star Wars television series by 2009, but this project was deemed too expensive to produce. He sold Lucasfilm to Disney in October 2012. Subsequently, work on a new Star Wars series began for Disney+. Favreau signed on in March 2018, serving as writer and showrunner. He executive produces alongside Dave Filoni, Kathleen Kennedy, and Colin Wilson. The series' title was announced in October 2018, with filming starting at Manhattan Beach Studios in California. Visual effects company Industrial Light & Magic developed the StageCraft technology for the series, using virtual sets and a 360-degree video wall to create the series' environments. This has since been adopted by other film and television productions.

The <u>first season</u> of *The Mandalorian* premiered with the launch of Disney+ on November 12, 2019. A <u>second season</u> premiered on October 30, 2020, and a <u>third season</u> premiered on March 1, 2023. A fourth season is in development. Interconnected spin-off series <u>The Book of Boba Fett</u>, <u>Ahsoka</u>, and <u>Skeleton Crew</u> expand on <u>The Mandalorian</u>'s timeframe, with an untitled feature film directed by Filoni set to serve as a conclusion to the interconnected stories.

The series has received largely positive reviews from critics, with strong praise to the performances (particularly Pascal's), visual effects, cinematography, direction, action sequences, emotional weight, musical score, and the chemistry of the two leads. The first season was nominated for <u>Outstanding Drama Series</u> at the <u>72nd Primetime Emmy Awards</u>, and won seven <u>Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards</u>.