

Star Wars: Rogue One Review

The Star Wars saga continues!



by Blake Borgardt

Star Wars is arguably one of the largest movie franchises ever to touch the big screen. The series was originally created by George Lucas of Lucas Films. The movie, *Star Wars Ep. IV: A New Hope* was first released on May 25, 1977. The budget for the film was \$11,000,000 which was a hefty budget for a movie in the 70's. Now the Worldwide box office profit for the movie is nearly 800 million dollars.

Nearly forty years later, the *Star Wars* saga continues with its eighth movie, *Star Wars: Rogue One*. A lot has changed since making the first movie. In 2012 Disney bought the rights to the movie from Lucas Films for 4 billion dollars.

On December 18, 2015, Disney continued *Star Wars* with its own movie: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. The total box office profits for the movie ranged around 2 billion dollars. With that one movie, Disney made half its money back on the movie alone, that doesn't even include the merchandise that Disney sold. Disney made a wise investment in buying the franchise, as most likely they've already made their money back in two years. They'll make even more profit with the new movie.

Rogue One is a movie that is based off of a scene that takes place in the sixth *Star Wars* movie. In the sixth movie, the Rebels are planning to take down the Empire's new weapon the Death Star. The Rebel commander has the plans for the Death Star, and

The logo for Rogue One photo courtesy of Creative Commons

how they can defeat it. But before she shows the viewers the plans, she says that "many good Bothans have died for these plans." *Rogue One* dives into the story of the people who died to get the plans.

The plot of the new movie is that the Empire is building the Death Star once again, and a certain group of rebels have to try and infiltrate the Empire and steal the plans for the space station. The group consists of Jyn Erso, played by Felicity Jones, and Cassian Andor, played by Diego Luna.

The budget for the new movie comes to a grand total of about 200 million U.S. dollars. That is roughly 18 times the budget for the first *Star Wars* movie. A fun fact about the movie is that one of the shots for one of the Empire's bases, was shot in Canary Wharf tube station, a subway station.

One of our very own teachers at DHS has been a *huge* Star Wars fan since he was a child. Mr. Gonzales who's a freshman math teacher is an avid fan of Star Wars. "My first Star Wars movie was A New Hope, I watched it when I was five years old in 1990. My aunt had to show me it on a VHS! My favorite character from Star Wars is Boba Fett, he's always been my favorite character!" Mr. Gonzales also said that if they were to make another movie after *Rogue One* he'd like to see them make a movie based off of Obi Wan Kenobi on Tatooine

between the two trilogies. Both from protecting Luke from evils away from home, and learning secrets from an old Jedi's ghost.

Rogue One was an amazing movie. Gary Whitta (writer), and Gareth Edwards (director) did a great job of tying the film together with all of the other *Star Wars* movies. Whitta did a great job of making his characters lovable and relatable through comedy and tough challenges that they've all endured in their lives. The movie's special effects were phenomenal, and made the movie feel very realistic.

"I got to catch an IMAX 3D show on opening weekend and I loved it! I particularly enjoyed how well they connected the film to A New Hope in terms of story and aesthetics" said Mr. Gonzales. The only thing that I would recommend staying away from with this movie is the 3D. For paying around an extra \$5 to see the movie in 3D, you're seeing absolutely the same thing that you would be seeing in the regular movie.

I would give this movie a 4.5-5 stars.