

Interstellar: A Spectacular Space Epic

By Adam Robb



Have you ever looked up into the night sky engulfed by the beauty of the blackened void? Have you ever wondered what lays beyond our solar system? These questions were all taken into account for the making of the 2014 space odyssey film, *Interstellar*. Directed by Christopher Nolan, this 169 minute, (approximately 2.82 hours), behemoth epic tells the story of how far humanity is willing to go to save ourselves. Half beautiful, half heartbreaking, the film blends many different genres resulting in a roller coaster ride of emotions for the viewers.

Directed by Christopher Nolan, mostly known for his groundbreaking concept films such as *Inception*, and was written by Nolan's brother, Jonathan Nolan. Far from an independent fan, the film's budget consisted of \$165,000,000, gaining \$188,020,017 in the US box office. The overseas sales also allowed for the movie's success to flourish gaining \$701,723,680. The success of the movie also allowed it to launch an award season campaign, which raked in 148 nominations and 43 wins.

Matthew McConaughey stars as Cooper, a retired engineer, and pilot, now resides in an American Midwest farm with his daughter Murphy (Mackenzie Foy) and son Tom (Timothée Chalamet). They find themselves engulfed in the Second Dust Bowl making crops almost impossible to grow. Soon NASA enlists a group of scientists and engineers to voyage on the *Endurance* to complete a mission to find suitable for human life. The *Endurance* crew look for a new home as the years pass back on earth.

Interstellar is one of the most mind-melting movies with enthralling visuals of space and gut-punching emotional scenes that show the hopelessness of humans in the ever-growing universe. I believe that the main reason the entire movie works is the astonishing visual effects by Kip Thorne, who worked with Nolan closely as he enjoys using practical effects over visual ones, and the fantastic score done by the incredible Hans Zimmer.

The music can make or break a film as it builds the emotion of the scene, that's why horror movies are effective in building atmosphere or why action movies get your heart racing. Hans Zimmer, the famous film composer, flexes his musical genius as he weaves loud, heart-racing scores with tranquil ones that blend quietly in the background. A particularly excellent example of Zimmer's score shines in the scene where the crew of the *Endurance* finds themselves on a water-covered planet in the far reaches of the galaxy. Before the crew explores they reveal that an hour on the planet is seven years back on earth. Hans Zimmer takes this idea to the next level in his song "Mountains". In the background of the song, Zimmer uses small clicking noises that sound every 1.25 seconds. Even though this sounds like a very small detail, in actuality Zimmer includes this as each ticking noise represents a day passing back on earth. This enhances the scene even more as the stakes rise. The people that they once loved have now moved on, getting older. The scene ends with an almost heartbreaking silence as the characters realize what has happened.

Speaking of the characters, almost every character is played beautifully. Matthew McConaughey brings a heartbreakingly realistic performance of a broken father trying to save

humanity. The most heart-wrenching scene comes after the “Mountains” scene in which the crew of the Endurance find out that ten years have passed on earth. McConaughey delivers a believable reaction of a person finding out that life has moved on. His character watches as his children send him video messages over the years giving one of the most believable performances in the last decade.

Other than the performances, Nolan creates a film that is delightful to watch. The visual effects are outstanding, which didn't go unnoticed. In 2015, the film won the best achievement in visual effect. The visual effects were revolutionary at the time as Nolan ran into a dilemma in how to create the black hole that is at the crux of the movie. Nolan is known for trying to make the effects in-camera, or not created by computer images. But with this movie, Nolan stepped out of his comfort zone to achieve these effects. Nolan's visual effects crew had created a completely new program to design most of the effects in the movie. This resulted in stunning scenes that feel almost too real.

Overall, if you are looking for a heartfelt, expanding space opera like the likes of Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, then this movie is for you. Filled with believable characters and trippy visuals, this movie is a journey to experience. I give this masterpiece a solid 9/10.