

how many jaws movies are there

How many Jaws movies are there? The Jaws franchise, known for its suspenseful storytelling and iconic shark, is a significant part of cinematic history. Since the release of the original film in 1975, it has spawned several sequels and a lasting cultural impact. In this article, we will explore the number of Jaws movies, their significance, and the legacy they left behind.

Overview of the Jaws Franchise

The Jaws franchise began with the groundbreaking film directed by Steven Spielberg. The original movie was based on Peter Benchley's novel of the same name and became a massive box office success. This film not only changed the way summer blockbusters were made but also established a template for horror and thriller genres.

The central theme of the Jaws movies revolves around the terror induced by a great white shark and the human struggle against nature. Over the years, the franchise has expanded but has also faced criticism for its sequels. Here's a detailed look at how many Jaws movies there are.

List of Jaws Movies

The Jaws franchise consists of four main films, including the original and three sequels. Here is a list of the movies along with their release years:

1. **Jaws** (1975)
2. **Jaws 2** (1978)

3. Jaws 3-D (1983)

4. Jaws: The Revenge (1987)

1. Jaws (1975)

The original Jaws film was released on June 20, 1975, and directed by Steven Spielberg. The story follows Chief Brody, a police chief in the fictional Amity Island, who discovers that a great white shark is terrorizing the waters. The film stars Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw, and Richard Dreyfuss, and it became an instant classic.

- Impact: It was the first film ever to gross over \$100 million at the box office.
- Awards: The movie won three Academy Awards and is often cited as one of the greatest films ever made.
- Cultural Significance: The film's release established the summer blockbuster and changed how movies were marketed and released.

2. Jaws 2 (1978)

Following the success of the first film, Jaws 2 was released on June 16, 1978. Directed by Jeannot Szwarc, this sequel once again features Roy Scheider as Chief Brody.

- Plot: In this installment, Brody faces another great white shark that threatens Amity Island, as teenagers are attacked while sailing.
- Reception: Although it did not reach the same heights as its predecessor, Jaws 2 performed well at the box office, grossing over \$80 million.
- Critique: Critics noted that while it had thrilling moments, it lacked the originality and suspense of the

first film.

3. Jaws 3-D (1983)

Jaws 3-D was released on July 22, 1983, and was directed by Joe Alves. This film marked a significant shift in the franchise as it was the first to be presented in 3D.

- Setting: The film takes place at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida, where a young shark is captured and later becomes a threat after its mother arrives.
- Box Office Performance: Jaws 3-D grossed approximately \$45 million, making it the lowest-grossing film in the franchise.
- Criticism: Many fans and critics panned the film for its cheesy special effects and lackluster plot.

4. Jaws: The Revenge (1987)

The final installment in the original series, Jaws: The Revenge, was released on July 17, 1987. Directed by Joseph Sargent, this film took a more supernatural angle.

- Plot: The story follows Ellen Brody, portrayed by Lorraine Gary, as she believes that a great white shark is seeking revenge on her family after the events of the previous films.
- Box Office and Reception: Despite grossing over \$20 million, it is widely considered one of the worst sequels in film history.
- Legacy: The film's reputation suffered due to its unrealistic plot and poor special effects, further tarnishing the franchise's legacy.

Additional Jaws Media

While the main franchise consists of these four films, the Jaws series has also inspired various forms of media, including:

- **Novelizations:** Each film had accompanying novelizations that often expanded on the storylines.
- **Video Games:** Several video games were released based on the Jaws franchise, allowing players to confront the shark in different scenarios.
- **Theme Park Attractions:** Universal Studios has featured Jaws-themed rides and attractions, celebrating the film's legacy.

The Legacy of Jaws

The Jaws franchise has left an indelible mark on popular culture and the film industry. Here are some aspects of its legacy:

Influence on Filmmaking

Jaws is often credited with creating the summer blockbuster phenomenon, leading to a shift in how studios market and release films. Its success paved the way for other high-budget films, particularly in the horror and thriller genres.

Cultural Impact

The film has entered the lexicon of popular culture, with iconic quotes like "You're gonna need a bigger

boat" becoming widely recognized. The character of the great white shark has become synonymous with fear and danger in the ocean.

Environmental Awareness

While Jaws is primarily a thriller, it has also sparked discussions about the treatment of sharks and marine life. The portrayal of sharks as menacing creatures led to increased hunting and a negative perception of these animals, prompting calls for better conservation efforts.

Conclusion

In summary, the Jaws franchise consists of four films: Jaws (1975), Jaws 2 (1978), Jaws 3-D (1983), and Jaws: The Revenge (1987). While the original film is widely regarded as a masterpiece, the sequels have garnered mixed to negative reviews. Despite this, the franchise's influence on cinema and popular culture cannot be overstated. As one of the first summer blockbusters, it set the stage for future films and continues to be a touchstone in discussions about horror and thrillers. While we may not see a new Jaws film anytime soon, the impact of the original and its sequels remains ever-present in the world of cinema.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many Jaws movies were released in theaters?

There are four Jaws movies that were released in theaters: Jaws (1975), Jaws 2 (1978), Jaws 3-D (1983), and Jaws: The Revenge (1987).

Is there a Jaws movie that is considered a direct sequel?

Yes, Jaws 2 is a direct sequel to the original Jaws film, continuing the story of the shark attacks in Amity Island.

Are there any Jaws movies that were made for television?

Yes, there were two made-for-television movies: Jaws: The Revenge (although it had a theatrical release) and Jaws: The Revenge, which is often considered as a continuation of the original series.

What is the order of the Jaws movies?

The order of the Jaws movies is: Jaws (1975), Jaws 2 (1978), Jaws 3-D (1983), and Jaws: The Revenge (1987).

Are there any spin-offs or reboots related to Jaws?

As of now, there are no official spin-offs or reboots directly related to the Jaws franchise, although its influence can be seen in many shark-themed films.

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