

WIKIPEDIA

Godzilla (franchise)

The ***Godzilla*** (Japanese: ゴジラ, Hepburn: ***Gojira***) franchise is a Japanese media franchise created and owned by Toho Co., Ltd., centered on the fictional *kaiju* character Godzilla. It is the longest-running film franchise, having been in ongoing production from 1954, with several hiatuses of varying lengths.^[6] The film franchise consists of 37 films; 32 produced by Toho, one produced by TriStar Pictures, and four produced by Legendary Pictures.

The first film, *Godzilla*, was directed by Ishirō Honda and released by Toho in 1954. It became an influential classic of the genre. It featured political and social undertones relevant to Japan at the time. The original introduced an acclaimed music score by Akira Ifukube, reused in many later films. The 1954 film and its special effects director Eiji Tsuburaya are largely credited for establishing the template for *tokusatsu*, a technique of practical special effects filmmaking that would become essential in Japan's film industry since the release of *Godzilla* (1954).^[7] For its North American release, the film was localized in 1956 as *Godzilla, King of the Monsters!*. It featured new footage with Raymond Burr edited together with the original Japanese footage.

The popularity of the films has led to the franchise expanding to other media, such as television, music, literature and video games. Godzilla has become one of the most recognizable symbols in Japanese pop culture worldwide and remains a well-known facet of Japanese films and was one of the first examples of the popular *kaiju* and *tokusatsu* subgenres in Japanese entertainment.

The tone and themes vary per film. Several of the films have political themes, others have dark tones, complex internal mythology, or are simple action movies featuring aliens or other monsters, while others have simpler themes accessible to children.^[8] Godzilla's role varies from purely a destructive force to an ally of humans, or a protector of Japanese values, or a hero to children. The name **Godzilla** is a romanization of the original Japanese name **Gojira** (ゴジラ)—which is a combination of two Japanese words: *gorira* (ゴリラ), "gorilla", and *kujira* (クジラ), "whale". The word alludes to the size, power and aquatic origin of Godzilla. As developed by Toho, the monster is an offshoot of the combination of radioactivity and ancient dinosaur-like creatures, indestructible and possessing special powers (see *Godzilla characteristics*).

		Godzilla
		 <div>GODZILLA</div>
		Official English logo
Created by		Tomoyuki Tanaka ^[1] <div></div> Ishirō Honda ^[2] <div></div> Eiji Tsuburaya ^[3] <div></div>
Original work		<i>Godzilla</i> (1954) ^[4]
Owner		Toho Co., Ltd. ^[5]
Years		1954–present
		Print publications
Book(s)		Cerasini novels <div></div> Ciencin novels <div></div> MonsterVerse books <div></div>
Comics		Full list
		Films and television
Film(s)		Toho <div></div> (32 films; 1954–current) <div></div> TriStar Pictures <div></div> (1 film; 1998) <div></div> Legendary Pictures <div></div> (4 films; 2014–current)
Television series		Full list
		Games
Video game(s)		Full list
		Audio
Soundtrack(s)		<i>Godzilla: Final Wars</i> <div></div> (2004) <div></div> <i>Godzilla</i> <div></div> (2014) <div></div> <i>Godzilla: King of the Monsters</i> <div></div> (2019) <div></div> <i>Godzilla vs. Kong</i> <div></div> (2021)
		Miscellaneous
Cross-over series		MonsterVerse

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History

The *Godzilla* film series is broken into several (different) eras reflecting a characteristic style and corresponding to the same eras used to classify all kaiju eiga (monster movies) in Japan. The first, second, and fourth eras refer to the Japanese emperor during production: the Shōwa era, the Heisei era, and the Reiwa era. The third is called the Millennium era, as the emperor (Heisei) is the same, but these films are considered to have a different style and storyline than the Heisei era.

Over the series' history, the films have reflected the social and political climate in Japan.^[9] In the original film, Godzilla was an allegory for the effects of the hydrogen bomb, and the consequences that such weapons might have on Earth.^{[10][11][12][13]} The radioactive contamination of the Japanese fishing boat *Lucky Dragon No. 5* through the United States' Castle Bravo thermonuclear device test on Bikini Atoll on March 1, 1954, led to much press coverage in Japan preceding the release of the first movie in 1954.^[14] The Heisei and Millennium series have largely continued this concept. Toho was inspired to make the original *Godzilla* film after the commercial success of the 1952 re-release of *King Kong* and the success of *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (1953), the first live-action film to feature a giant monster awakened following an atomic bomb detonation.^[15] The success of the *Godzilla* franchise itself would go on to inspire other giant monster films worldwide.



Every film incarnation of Godzilla between 1954 and 2017

Shōwa era (1954–1975)

The initial series of films are named after the Shōwa period in Japan (as all of these films were produced before the "Shōwa Emperor" Hirohito's death in 1989).^{[16][17]} This Shōwa timeline spanned from 1954, with *Godzilla*, to 1975, with *Terror of Mechagodzilla*. Starting with *Ghidorah, the Three-Headed Monster*, Godzilla began evolving into a friendlier, more playful antihero (this transition was complete by *Son of Godzilla*, where Godzilla is depicted as a more virtuous character) and, as years went by, it evolved into an anthropomorphic superhero. *Ghidorah the Three-Headed Monster* was also significant for introducing Godzilla's archenemy and the main antagonist of the film series, King Ghidorah.

Son of Godzilla and *All Monsters Attack* were aimed at youthful audiences, featuring the appearance of Godzilla's son, Minilla. *Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla* was notable for introducing Godzilla's robot duplicate and the secondary antagonist of the film series, Mechagodzilla. The Shōwa period loosely tied in to a number of Toho-produced films in which Godzilla himself did not appear and consequently saw the addition of many monsters into the *Godzilla* continuity, three of which (Rodan, Varan, and Mothra) originated in their own solo movies and another five (Anguirus, Manda, Baragon, Gorosaurus and Kumonga) appeared in their first films as either secondary antagonists or secondary kaiju.

Haruo Nakajima mainly portrayed Godzilla since 1954 until his retirement in 1972. However, other stunt actors have portrayed the character in his absence, such as Katsumi Tezuka, Yū Sekida, Ryosaku Takasugi, Seiji Onaka, Shinji Takagi, Isao Zushi, and Toru Kawai.^{[18][19]} Eiji Tsuburaya directed the special effects for the first six films of the series. His protege Sadamasa Arikawa took over the effects work for the next three films (with Tsuburaya supervising), while Teruyoshi Nakano directed the special effects for the last six films of the series. The Criterion Collection released the Shōwa era films as part of a Blu-ray box set in the United States and Canada on October 29, 2019.^[20]

Heisei era (1984–1995)

Toho rebooted the series in 1984 with *The Return of Godzilla*, starting the second era of *Godzilla* films, known as the *Heisei* series.^[21] *The Return of Godzilla* serves as a direct sequel to the original 1954 film and ignores the subsequent events of the Showa era. *The Return of Godzilla* was released in 1984, five years before the new Emperor, but is considered part of this era, as it is a direct predecessor to *Godzilla vs. Biollante* (1989), which came out in the first year of the new Emperor's reign.^[22]

The Heisei films are set in a single timeline, with each film providing continuity to the other films, and brings Godzilla back as a destructive force of nature that is feared by humans.^[21] The biological nature and science behind Godzilla became a much more discussed issue in the films, showing the increased focus on the moral aspects of genetics. *Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah* gave Godzilla's first concrete birth story, featuring a dinosaur named *Godzillasaurus* that was mutated by nuclear radiation into Godzilla. Godzilla was portrayed by Kenpachiro Satsuma for the Heisei films while the special effects were directed by Koichi Kawakita, with the exception of *The Return of Godzilla*, for which the effects were directed by Teruyoshi Nakano.

Millennium era (1999–2004)

Toho rebooted the franchise for a second time with the 1999 film *Godzilla 2000: Millennium* starting the third era of *Godzilla* films, known as the Millennium series.^{[23][24]} The Millennium series is treated similarly to an anthology series where each film is a standalone story, with the 1954 film serving as the only previous point of reference. *Godzilla Against Mechagodzilla* and *Godzilla: Tokyo S.O.S.* are the only films in the series to share continuity with each other.

After the release of 2004's *Godzilla: Final Wars*, marking the 50th anniversary of the *Godzilla* film franchise, Toho decided to put the series on hiatus for another 10 years. Toho also demolished the water stage on its lot used in numerous *Godzilla*, kaiju and tokusatsu films.^[25] Yoshimitsu Banno, who had directed 1971's *Godzilla vs. Hedorah*, secured the rights from Toho to make an IMAX 3D short film production, based on a story similar to his *Hedorah* film. This project eventually led to the development of Legendary's *Godzilla*. Tsutomu Kitagawa portrayed Godzilla for the majority of the Millennium films, with the exception of *Godzilla, Mothra and King Ghidorah: Giant Monsters All-Out Attack*, in which Godzilla was portrayed by Mizuho Yoshida. Unlike the Showa and later Heisei films, the special effects for the Millennium films were directed by multiple effects directors such as Kenji Suzuki (*Godzilla 2000*, *Godzilla vs. Megaguirus*), Makoto Kamiya (*Godzilla, Mothra and King Ghidorah: Giant Monsters All-Out Attack*), Yuichi Kikuchi (*Godzilla Against Mechagodzilla*), and Eiichi Asada (*Godzilla: Tokyo S.O.S.*, *Godzilla: Final Wars*).

Reiwa era (2016–present)

In December 2014, Toho announced plans for a new *Godzilla* film of their own for a 2016 release.^[26] The film is intended to be Toho's own reboot of the *Godzilla* franchise and is co-directed by Hideaki Anno and Shinji Higuchi (both of whom collaborated on the anime *Neon Genesis Evangelion*), with the screenplay written by Anno and the special effects directed by Higuchi.^{[27][28][29]} Principal photography began on September and ended in October with the special effects work following in November that year.^{[30][31]} *Shin Godzilla* was released in Japan on July 29, 2016, in IMAX, 4DX, and MX4D to positive reviews and was a box office success.^[32]



The Reiwa iterations of Godzilla

In August 2016, Toho announced plans for a trilogy of anime *Godzilla* films with Polygon Pictures animating the films and Netflix distributing the trilogy worldwide, except in Japan where each film will be given a theatrical release by Toho.^{[33][34]} The first film, titled *Godzilla: Planet of the Monsters*, was released on November 17, 2017.^[35] The second film, titled *Godzilla: City on the Edge of Battle*, was released on May 18, 2018.^[36] The third and final film in the trilogy, titled *Godzilla: The Planet Eater*, was released on November 9, 2018.^[37]

In January 2018, Toho announced its plans to invest ¥15 billion (US\$135 million) for the next three years beginning in 2019 to co-produce content with Hollywood and Chinese studios who have licensed Toho's properties, such as *Godzilla*, *Your Name* and *Pokémon*. Toho will invest 25% in production costs and will earn a higher share in revenue and manage creators rights, so their creative input will be shown in each work.^[38] In May 2018, Toho's Chief Godzilla Officer Keiji Ota revealed

that a sequel to *Shin Godzilla* will not happen, but revealed plans for a "World of Godzilla", a shared cinematic universe between Godzilla and other Toho monsters after 2021. Ota cited the Marvel Cinematic Universe as an influence, with plans to release a new film every one to two years.^[39] Ota stated:

"After 2021, we're thinking of a potential strategy that [releases] Godzilla movies uninterrupted at a rate of every two years, although there is a preference for a yearly pace as well. The future of the series and its forwarding developments are very conscious of the method of "shared universe". Godzilla, Mothra, King Ghidorah, etc. could all share a single world view much like a Marvel movie where Iron Man and the Hulk can crossover with each other. It is said that each movie can be a possible film production where any one of them could lead a film of their own as the titular character." – Keiji Ota, translated from Nikkei style.^{[39][40]}

In 2019, Toho invested ¥15.4 billion (US\$140 million) into their Los Angeles-based subsidiary Toho International Inc. as part of their "Toho Vision 2021 Medium-term Management Strategy", a strategy to increase content, platform, real-estate, surpass ¥50 billion in profits, and increase character businesses on Toho intellectual properties such as *Godzilla*. Hiroyasu Matsuoka was named the representative director of the project.^[41] In 2019, Toho launched the first official English website and the first official English Twitter and Instagram for the franchise.^{[42][43]}

In June 2019, Toho revealed plans to present the Toho Godzilla at the San Diego Comic-Con for the first time to commemorate the franchise's 65th anniversary, as well as being part of their plan to expand the franchise in the United States.^[44] At the San Diego Comic-Con, Akito Takahashi, the project manager of Toho's Godzilla Strategic Conference, revealed Toho's intentions to have the Toho and Legendary Godzilla films expand together. He also revealed that the option to reintroduce political themes and old or new monsters would be available to filmmakers, should they choose to pursue it. Akito also expressed interest in re-introducing Mechagodzilla and Jet Jaguar in the future.^{[45][46]}

In October 2020, Toho announced plans for an anime series titled *Godzilla Singular Point* released on Netflix in 2021, revealing artwork for Godzilla and its principal characters. The project was directed by Atsushi Takahashi, with music by Kan Sawada, writing by Toh Enjoe, character designs by Kazue Kato, and animations by Eiji Yamamori. The series was produced by Bones Inc. in partnership with Orange Co., Ltd., featured hand-drawn and CG animation, and had no relation to Polygon's anime film trilogy.^[47]

On November 3, 2022, during the franchise's 68th anniversary known as "Godzilla Day", Toho announced plans to release a new live-action *Godzilla* film on November 3, 2023 to commemorate the franchise's 69th anniversary. Toho also announced Takashi Yamazaki as the director, writer, and visual effects supervisor and that the film had entered post-production after recently completed filming.^[48]

American films

In the 1980s, filmmaker Steve Miner pitched his idea for an American 3D production of *Godzilla* to Toho, with storyboards by William Stout and a script written by Fred Dekker, titled *Godzilla: King of the Monsters in 3D*, which featured Godzilla destroying San Francisco in an attempt to find its only offspring.^[49]

Various studios and producers showed interest in the project, but passed it over due to high budget concerns.^[50] The film would have featured a full scale animatronic Godzilla head built by Rick Baker, stop motion animation executed by David W. Allen, an articulated stop motion Godzilla figure created by Stephen Czerkas, and additional storyboards by Doug Wildey. The production design would have been overseen by William Stout.^{[51][52]}



Storyboard by William Stout for Steve Miner's unproduced 3D *Godzilla* film

TriStar Pictures (1998–2000)

In October 1992, TriStar Pictures acquired the rights from Toho with plans to produce a trilogy.^[53] Director Jan de Bont and writers Terry Rossio and Ted Elliott developed a script that had Godzilla battling a shape-shifting alien called "the Gryphon". De Bont later left the project after budget disagreements with the studio.^[54] Roland Emmerich was hired to direct and co-write a new script with producer Dean Devlin.

Godzilla was theatrically released on May 20, 1998, to negative reviews^{[55][56]} and grossed \$379 million worldwide against a production budget between \$130–150 million.^[57] While the film turned a profit, it was considered a box office disappointment.^{[58][59]} Two planned sequels were cancelled and an animated TV series was produced instead.^[60] TriStar let

the license expire in 2003. In 2004, Toho began trademarking new iterations of TriStar's Godzilla as "Zilla", with only the incarnations from the 1998 film and animated TV series retaining the Godzilla copyright/trademark.^{[56][61]}

Legendary Pictures (2014–present)

In 2004, director Yoshimitsu Banno acquired permission from Toho to produce a short IMAX *Godzilla* film. In 2009, the project was turned over to Legendary Pictures to be redeveloped as a feature film.^[62] Announced in March 2010, the film was co-produced with Warner Bros. Pictures and was directed by Gareth Edwards.^{[63][64]}

Godzilla was theatrically released on May 16, 2014, to positive reviews^{[65][66]} and was a box office success, grossing \$529 million worldwide against a production budget of \$160 million.^[67] The film's success prompted Toho to produce a reboot of their own and Legendary to proceed with sequels and a shared cinematic franchise dubbed the MonsterVerse,^[68] with *Godzilla: King of the Monsters* released on May 31, 2019,^[69] and *Godzilla vs. Kong* released on March 24, 2021.^{[70][71]} Legendary's license to Godzilla expired in 2020.^[72] However, in January 2022, Legendary announced that Apple TV+ had ordered a live-action MonsterVerse series featuring Godzilla and other Titans.^[73] A fifth MonsterVerse film is scheduled to be released on March 15, 2024.^[74]

Filmography

Toho films



TriStar's Godzilla in *Godzilla* (1998)



Legendary's Godzilla in *Godzilla* (2014)

#	Title	Year	Director(s)	Effects director	Monster co-star(s)	Current U.S. licenses
Shōwa era (1954–1975)						
1	<i><u>Godzilla</u></i>	<u>1954</u>	<u>Ishirō Honda</u>	<u>Eiji Tsuburaya</u>	None	<u>The Criterion Collection</u>
2	<i><u>Godzilla Raids Again</u></i>	<u>1955</u>	<u>Motoyoshi Oda</u>		<u>Anguirus</u>	
3	<i><u>King Kong vs. Godzilla</u></i>	<u>1962</u>	<u>Ishirō Honda</u>		<u>King Kong, the Oodako</u> ^[a]	<u>Universal Pictures Home Entertainment</u> <u>The Criterion Collection</u> ^[20]
4	<i><u>Mothra vs. Godzilla</u></i>	<u>1964</u>			<u>Mothra</u>	
5	<i><u>Ghidorah, the Three-Headed Monster</u></i>				<u>King Ghidorah, Rodan, Mothra</u>	
6	<i><u>Invasion of Astro-Monster</u></i>	<u>1965</u>			<u>King Ghidorah, Rodan</u>	
7	<i><u>Ebirah, Horror of the Deep</u></i>	<u>1966</u>	<u>Jun Fukuda</u>	<u>Ebirah, Mothra, the Ookondoru</u> ^[b]	<u>The Criterion Collection</u> ^[20]	
8	<i><u>Son of Godzilla</u></i>	<u>1967</u>		<u>Sadamasa Arikawa</u>		<u>Minilla, Kumonga, Kamacuras</u>
9	<i><u>Destroy All Monsters</u></i>	<u>1968</u>	<u>Ishirō Honda</u>	<u>King Ghidorah, Rodan, Mothra, Anguirus, Minilla, Kumonga, Manda, Gorosaurus, Baragon, Varan</u>		
10	<i><u>All Monsters Attack</u></i>	<u>1969</u>		<u>Ishirō Honda</u>		<u>Gabara, Minilla, Kamacuras, Ebirah, Kumonga, the Ookondoru, Maneater, Anguirus, Gorosaurus, Manda</u>
11	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Hedorah</u></i>	<u>1971</u>	<u>Yoshimitsu Banno</u>	<u>Hedorah</u>		
12	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Gigan</u></i>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Jun Fukuda</u>	<u>Gigan, King Ghidorah, Anguirus, Rodan, Mothra, Gorosaurus, Minilla, Kamacuras, Kumonga</u>		
13	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Megalon</u></i>	<u>1973</u>		<u>Teruyoshi Nakano</u>	<u>Megalon, Jet Jaguar, Gigan, Anguirus, Rodan</u>	
14	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla</u></i>	<u>1974</u>			<u>Mechagodzilla, King Caesar, Anguirus</u>	
15	<i><u>Terror of Mechagodzilla</u></i>	<u>1975</u>	<u>Ishirō Honda</u>	<u>Mechagodzilla 2, Titanosaurus</u>		
Heisei era (1984–1995)						
16	<i><u>The Return of Godzilla</u></i>	<u>1984</u>	<u>Koji Hashimoto</u>	<u>Teruyoshi Nakano</u>	<u>Shockirus</u> ^[c] (<u>Giant Sea Lice</u>) ^[79]	<u>Kraken Releasing</u>
17	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Biollante</u></i>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Kazuki Ōmori</u>	<u>Koichi Kawakita</u>	<u>Biollante</u>	<u>Miramax</u>
18	<i><u>Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah</u></i>	<u>1991</u>			<u>King Ghidorah, Mecha-King Ghidorah, the Dorats,</u>	<u>Sony Pictures Home Entertainment</u>

					Godzillasaurus		
19	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Mothra</u></i>	<u>1992</u>	Takao Okawara		Mothra, Battra		
20	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla II</u></i>	<u>1993</u>			Mechagodzilla, Super Mechagodzilla, Rodan, Fire Rodan, Baby Godzilla		
21	<i><u>Godzilla vs. SpaceGodzilla</u></i>	<u>1994</u>	Kensho Yamashita	SpaceGodzilla, Moguera, Fairy Mothra, Little Godzilla			
22	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Destoroyah</u></i>	<u>1995</u>	Takao Okawara	Destoroyah, <u>Godzilla Junior</u>			
Millennium era (1999–2004)							
23	<i><u>Godzilla 2000: Millennium</u></i>	<u>1999</u>	Takao Okawara	Kenji Suzuki	Orga, the Millennium	Sony Pictures Home Entertainment	
24	<i><u>Godzilla vs. Megaguirus</u></i>	<u>2000</u>	Masaaki Tezuka		Megaguirus, the Meganulons, the Meganulas		
25	<i><u>Godzilla, Mothra and King Ghidorah: Giant Monsters All-Out Attack</u></i>	<u>2001</u>	Shusuke Kaneko	Makoto Kamiya	King Ghidorah, Mothra, Baragon		
26	<i><u>Godzilla Against Mechagodzilla</u></i>	<u>2002</u>	Masaaki Tezuka	Yūichi Kikuchi	Mechagodzilla ^[d]		
27	<i><u>Godzilla: Tokyo S.O.S.</u></i>	<u>2003</u>			Mechagodzilla, ^[e] Mothra, Kamoebas		
28	<i><u>Godzilla: Final Wars</u></i>	<u>2004</u>	Ryuhei Kitamura	Eiichi Asada	Monster X, Keizer Ghidorah, Zilla, Rodan, Mothra, Gigan, King Caesar, Anguirus, Minilla, Kumonga, Kamacuras, Manda, Hedorah, Ebirah		
Reiwa era (2016–present)^[f]							
29	<i><u>Shin Godzilla</u></i>	<u>2016</u>	Hideaki Anno Shinji Higuchi	Shinji Higuchi	None		<u>Funimation</u> ^[g]
30	<i><u>Godzilla: Planet of the Monsters</u></i>	<u>2017</u>	Kōbun Shizuno Hiroyuki Seshita	N/A	Servum, Dogora, Dagahra, Orga, Kamacuras, Anguirus, Rodan, Mechagodzilla	Netflix	
31	<i><u>Godzilla: City on the Edge of Battle</u></i>	<u>2018</u>			Mechagodzilla City, Servum, Vulture		
32	<i><u>Godzilla: The Planet Eater</u></i>				King Ghidorah, Mothra, Servum		
33	<i><u>Untitled Toho Godzilla film</u></i>	<u>2023</u>	Takashi Yamazaki	TBA			

American films

#	Title	Year	Director(s)	Effects supervisor	Monster co-star(s)	Current U.S. licenses
TriStar Pictures (1998)						
1	<i>Godzilla</i>	1998	Roland Emmerich	Volker Engel	Baby Godzillas	Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
Legendary Pictures / <i>MonsterVerse</i> (2014–present)						
2	<i>Godzilla</i>	2014	Gareth Edwards	Jim Rygiel	MUTOs (male and female)	Warner Bros. Home Entertainment
3	<i>Godzilla: King of the Monsters</i>	2019	Michael Dougherty	Guillaume Rocheron	King Ghidorah, Mothra, Rodan, Kong (archival footage), Queen MUTO, Behemoth, Methuselah, Scylla ^[84]	
4	<i>Godzilla vs. Kong</i>	2021	Adam Wingard	John "DJ" DesJardin	Kong, Mechagodzilla, ^[85] Skullcrawler, Warbat, ^[86] Hell Hawk ^[87]	
5	Untitled <i>Godzilla vs. Kong</i> sequel	2024		Alessandro Ongaro ^[88]	Kong	

Guest appearances

In 2007, a CGI Godzilla appeared in the Toho slice of life film *Always: Sunset on Third Street 2*.^[89] In an imaginary sequence, Godzilla destroys part of 1959 Tokyo, with one of the main protagonists getting angry that Godzilla damaged his car showroom. The making of the sequence was kept a secret. Godzilla has been referenced in, and has briefly appeared in, several other films.^{[90][91]} Godzilla guest starred in the show *Crayon Shin-chan* as an antagonist.^[92] Godzilla also appears in cave paintings (alongside Rodan, Mothra and King Ghidorah) in a post-credits scene in *Kong: Skull Island*. In 2019, Godzilla made an appearance in the anime film *Shinkansen Henkei Robo Shinkalion the Movie: Mirai Kara Kita Shinsoku no ALFA-X*.^[93]

Localized releases

In 1956, Jewell Enterprises Inc., released a localized version of *Godzilla* (referred to as "Americanized")^[94] as *Godzilla, King of the Monsters!*. This version removed most of the political themes and social commentaries, resulting in 30 minutes of footage from the Japanese version replaced with new footage featuring Raymond Burr interacting with Japanese actors and look-alikes to make it seem like Burr was a part of the original Japanese production. In addition, the soundtrack and sound effects were slightly altered and some dialogue was dubbed into English.

In 1957, Harry Rybnick attempted to produce *The Volcano Monsters*, a film that would have localized *Godzilla Raids Again* by using its monster footage mixed with new footage featuring additional effects and American actors to create a new film; however, funding from AB-PT Pictures collapsed after the company closed down and *Godzilla Raids Again* was instead re-cut, dubbed in English, and released in 1959 by Warner Bros. as *Gigantis the Fire Monster*.^[95] Similar localizations (or "Americanizations") occurred for the North American releases of *King Kong vs. Godzilla* and *Godzilla 1985*, the latter which included Burr reprising his role from the localized *Godzilla, King of the Monsters!*.

In 1976, Italian director Luigi Cozzi intended to re-release *Godzilla* in Italy. Facing resistance from exhibitors to showing a black-and-white film, Cozzi instead licensed a negative of *Godzilla, King of the Monsters* from Toho and created a new movie in color, adding much stock footage of graphic death and destruction and short scenes from newsreel footage from World War II, which he released as *Godzilla* in 1977. The film was colorized using a process called Spectrorama 70, where color gels are put on the original black-and-white film, becoming one of the first black-and-white movies to be colorized. Dialogue was dubbed into Italian and new music was added. After the initial Italian run, the negative became Toho's property and prints have only been exhibited in Italy from that time onward. Italian firm Yamato Video at one time intended to release the colorized version on a two-disc DVD along with the original *Godzilla*.^{[96][97][98]}

#	Title	Year	Director(s)	Effects director	Monster co-star(s)	Current U.S. licenses
1	<i>Godzilla, King of the Monsters!</i>	1956	Ishirō Honda Terry O. Morse		None	The Criterion Collection
2	<i>King Kong vs. Godzilla</i>	1963	Ishirō Honda Thomas Montgomery	Eiji Tsuburaya	King Kong, the Oodako ^[h]	Universal Pictures Home Entertainment The Criterion Collection ^[20]
3	<i>Godzilla</i>	1976	Ishirō Honda Luigi Cozzi		None	N/A
4	<i>Godzilla 1985</i>	1985	Koji Hashimoto R.J. Kizer	Teruyoshi Nakano	Shockirus ^[i] (Giant Sea Lice) ^[79]	N/A ^[i]

Reception

Box office performance

Below is a chart listing the number of tickets sold for each *Godzilla* film in Japan including the imported American films, along with their gross revenue in Japan and outside of Japan. The films are listed from the most attended to the least attended. Almost all of the 1960s films were reissued, so the lifetime number of tickets sold is listed with the initial release ticket numbers mentioned in notes.

By 1974, the first 13 films had grossed \$130 million in overseas box office revenue outside of Japan.^{[100][101][102]} In 1977, James Robert Parish and Michael R. Pitts reported that the first 13 films had grossed over \$130 million outside of Japan and estimated that they also grossed more than \$130 million within Japan.^[103] The *Godzilla* films in the 1970s each cost about \$1.2 million to produce and each grossed about \$20 million at the box office.^{[104][105]} Travis Bean estimated in 2016 that the first 13 films up until 1973 had grossed \$163 million in Japan and \$130.6 million overseas for a worldwide total of \$293.6 million.^[106] By 1986, the *Godzilla* films had grossed \$500 million worldwide,^[107] equivalent to between \$2 billion and \$5 billion adjusted for inflation.

The first fifteen *Godzilla* films sold about 65 million tickets in Japan up until 1984,^[108] and the first 21 *Godzilla* films sold 85 million tickets in Japan up until 1995.^[109] Toho's first 28 *Godzilla* films (excluding the American productions) up until *Final Wars* (2004) had sold over 99.29 million tickets in Japan.^{[110][111]} Adjusted for inflation, 99.29 million Japanese ticket sales are equivalent to a gross revenue of \$1.8 billion at an average 2014 Japanese ticket price.^[112] It was the highest-grossing film series in Japan, up until it was surpassed by the anime film series *Doraemon* when it exceeded 100 million ticket sales in 2013.^[113] With the release of *Shin Godzilla* (2016), Toho's *Godzilla* film series (excluding the American productions) had sold more than 100 million tickets at the Japanese box office.^{[110][111]}

Total box office (est.)

Japanese films	American films	Box office total
\$808,394,314+	\$1,762,907,162	\$2,571,301,476+

Toho productions

Film	Year	Ticket sales (Japan)	Box office gross revenue (est.)			
			Japan	Other territories	Worldwide	
<i>Godzilla</i>	1954	9,610,000 ^[114]	¥183,000,000 ^{R[115]}	\$132,638,492+ ^[1]	\$500,000,000 ^[107]	
<i>Godzilla, King of the Monsters!</i>	1956	?	?			
<i>Godzilla Raids Again</i>	1955	8,340,000 ^[114]	¥170,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>King Kong vs. Godzilla</i>	1962	12,550,000 ^[m]	¥430,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>Mothra vs. Godzilla</i>	1964	7,220,000 ^[n]	¥3,162,000,000 ^[o]			
<i>Ghidorah, the Three-Headed Monster</i>	1964	5,410,000 ^[p]	¥390,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>Invasion of Astro-Monster</i>	1965	5,130,000 ^[q]	¥410,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>Ebirah, Horror of the Deep</i>	1966	4,210,000 ^[r]	¥330,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>Son of Godzilla</i>	1967	3,090,000 ^[s]	¥260,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>Destroy All Monsters</i>	1968	2,580,000 ^[114]	¥230,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>All Monsters Attack</i>	1969	1,480,000 ^[114]	¥260,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>Godzilla vs. Hedorah</i>	1971	1,740,000 ^[114]	¥300,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>Godzilla vs. Gigan</i>	1972	1,800,000 ^[122]	¥495,110,000 ^{R[123]}			
<i>Godzilla vs. Megalon</i>	1973	980,000 ^[114]	¥220,000,000 ^{R[119]}			
<i>Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla</i>	1974	1,330,000 ^[114]	¥370,000,000 ^{R[119]}			\$17,100,000 ^[106]
<i>Terror of Mechagodzilla</i>	1975	970,000 ^[114]	¥330,000,000 ^{R[119]}			?
<i>The Return of Godzilla</i>	1984	3,200,000 ^[114]	¥1,700,000,000 ^{R[119]}			?
<i>Godzilla 1985</i>	1985	N/A	N/A	\$4,116,710 ^{U[124]}		
<i>Godzilla vs. Biollante</i>	1989	2,000,000 ^[114]	¥104,000,000 ^{R[119]}	?	\$7,000,000 ^{JR[125]}	
<i>Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah</i>	1991	2,700,000 ^[114]	¥1,450,000,000 ^{R[119]}	?	\$11,000,000 ^{JR[126]}	
<i>Godzilla vs. Mothra</i>	1992	4,200,000 ^[114]	¥2,220,000,000 ^{R[119]}	?	\$20,000,000 ^{JR[127]}	
<i>Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla II</i>	1993	3,800,000 ^[114]	¥1,870,000,000 ^{R[119]}	?	\$36,000,000 ^[128]	
<i>Godzilla vs. SpaceGodzilla</i>	1994	3,400,000 ^[114]	¥1,650,000,000 ^{R[119]}	?	\$20,000,000 ^{JR[129]}	
<i>Godzilla vs. Destoroyah</i>	1995	4,000,000 ^[114]	¥3,500,000,000 ^[130]	?	\$24,800,000 ^{J[130]}	
<i>Godzilla 2000: Millennium</i>	1999	2,000,000 ^[131]	¥1,650,000,000 ^[132]	\$12,924,063 ^[133]	\$27,924,063 ^[134]	
<i>Godzilla vs. Megaguirus</i>	2000	1,350,000 ^[131]	¥1,200,000,000 ^[135]	?	\$10,000,000 ^{J[136]}	
<i>Godzilla, Mothra and King Ghidorah: Giant Monsters All-Out Attack</i>	2001	2,400,000 ^[131]	¥2,710,000,000 ^[137]	?	\$20,000,000 ^{J[138]}	
<i>Godzilla Against Mechagodzilla</i>	2002	1,700,000 ^[131]	¥1,910,000,000 ^[139]	?	\$16,000,000 ^{J[140]}	
<i>Godzilla: Tokyo S.O.S.</i>	2003	1,100,000 ^[131]	¥1,300,000,000 ^[141]	?	\$22,724,345 ^[142]	
<i>Godzilla: Final Wars</i>	2004	1,500,000 ^[143]	¥1,260,000,000 ^[144]	\$33,462 ^[145]	\$9,167,302 ^[145]	
<i>Shin Godzilla</i>	2016	5,690,000 ^[146]	¥8,250,000,000 ^[147]	\$2,649,796 ^[148]	\$78,053,145 ^[148]	
<i>Godzilla: Planet of the Monsters</i>	2017	260,000 ^{[149][121]}	¥342,349,800 ^[149]	\$251,163 ^[150]	\$3,285,291 ^[151]	
<i>Godzilla: City on the Edge of Battle</i>	2018	73,000 ^[152]	¥150,000,000 ^[119]	?	\$911,000 ^J	
<i>Godzilla: The Planet Eater</i>	2018	130,000 ^{[153][121]}	¥171,859,045 ^[153]	?	\$1,523,168 ^{J[154]}	
Total		105,943,000+	¥38,978,318,845+	\$169,697,020+	\$808,394,314+	

^R Distributor rental earnings only, not total box office gross receipts

^J Japan gross only

^{JR} Japan distributor rental earnings only, not total box office gross receipts

^U U.S. gross only

American productions

Film	Year	Box office gross revenue				Box office ticket sales (est.)			Budget
		United States and Canada	Other territories	Worldwide	Ref.	United States and Canada	Other territories	Worldwide	
<i>Godzilla</i>	1998	\$136,314,861	\$242,700,000	\$379,014,861	[155]	29,762,000 ^[156]	23,110,156 ^[1]	57,199,826	\$130–150 million ^{[155][164]}
<i>Godzilla</i>	2014	\$200,676,069	\$328,400,000	\$529,076,069	[165]	24,560,000 ^[166]	29,031,198 ^[u]	53,591,198	\$160 million ^[173]
<i>Godzilla: King of the Monsters</i>	2019	\$110,500,138	\$276,100,000	\$386,600,138	[174]	12,264,200 ^[175]	36,956,764 ^[v]	49,220,964	\$170–200 million ^[w]
<i>Godzilla vs. Kong</i>	2021	\$100,916,094	\$369,150,920	\$470,067,014	[188]	10,732,000 ^[189]	47,462,541 ^[x]	58,194,541	\$155–200 million ^[y]
Total		\$548,407,162	\$1,216,350,920	\$1,764,758,082		77,318,200	136,560,659	218,206,529	\$520–710 million

- TBA, To be ascertained.

Critical and public response

Film	Rotten Tomatoes	Metacritic
<i>Godzilla</i> (1954)	93% (74 reviews) ^[202]	78% (20 reviews) ^[203]
<i>Godzilla, King of the Monsters!</i> (1956)	83% (24 reviews) ^[204]	60% (7 reviews) ^[205]
<i>Godzilla Raids Again</i>	60% (9 reviews) ^[206]	
<i>King Kong vs. Godzilla</i>	50% (15 reviews) ^[207]	
<i>Mothra vs. Godzilla</i>	92% (10 reviews) ^[208]	
<i>Ghidorah, the Three-Headed Monster</i>	75% (12 reviews) ^[209]	
<i>Invasion of Astro-Monster</i>	57% (7 reviews) ^[210]	
<i>Ebirah, Horror of the Deep</i>	57% (7 reviews) ^[211]	
<i>Son of Godzilla</i>	60% (8 reviews) ^[212]	
<i>Destroy All Monsters</i>	75% (7 reviews) ^[213]	
<i>All Monsters Attack</i>	25% (8 reviews) ^[214]	
<i>Godzilla vs. Hedorah</i>	58% (11 reviews) ^[215]	
<i>Godzilla vs. Gigan</i>	67% (6 reviews) ^[216]	
<i>Godzilla vs. Megalon</i>	38% (7 reviews) ^[217]	
<i>Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla</i>	71% (6 reviews) ^[218]	
<i>Terror of Mechagodzilla</i>	43% (7 reviews) ^[219]	
<i>The Return of Godzilla</i> (a.k.a. <i>Godzilla 1985</i>)	20% (8 reviews) ^[220]	
<i>Godzilla vs. Biollante</i>	71% (7 reviews) ^[221]	
<i>Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah</i>	56% (9 reviews) ^[222]	
<i>Godzilla vs. Mothra</i>	75% (6 reviews) ^[223]	
<i>Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla II</i>	83% (6 reviews) ^[224]	
<i>Godzilla vs. SpaceGodzilla</i>	57% (7 reviews) ^[225]	
<i>Godzilla vs. Destoroyah</i>	100% (6 reviews) ^[226]	
<i>Godzilla</i> (1998)	16% (76 reviews) ^[227]	32 (23 reviews) ^[228]
<i>Godzilla 2000: Millennium</i>	57% (69 reviews) ^[229]	41 (23 reviews) ^[230]
<i>Godzilla vs. Megaguirus</i>	60% (5 reviews) ^[231]	
<i>Godzilla, Mothra and King Ghidorah: Giant Monsters All-Out Attack</i>	63% (14 reviews) ^[232]	
<i>Godzilla Against Mechagodzilla</i>	N/A ^[233]	
<i>Godzilla: Tokyo S.O.S.</i>	80% (5 reviews) ^[234]	
<i>Godzilla: Final Wars</i>	50% (12 reviews) ^[235]	
<i>Godzilla</i> (2014)	76% (327 reviews) ^[236]	62 (48 reviews) ^[237]
<i>Shin Godzilla</i>	86% (73 reviews) ^[238]	68 (14 reviews) ^[239]
<i>Godzilla: Planet of the Monsters</i>	71% (7 reviews) ^[240]	
<i>Godzilla: City on the Edge of Battle</i>	60% (5 reviews) ^[241]	
<i>Godzilla: The Planet Eater</i>	60% (5 reviews) ^[242]	
<i>Godzilla: King of the Monsters</i> (2019)	42% (347 reviews) ^[243]	48 (46 reviews) ^[244]
<i>Godzilla vs. Kong</i>	75% (311 reviews)	59 (57 reviews)

Other media

Television

In Japan, Godzilla appeared in five out of the 26 episodes of Toho's live-action television program *Zone Fighter* in 1973. Also in Japan, Godzilla (along with a plethora of other kaiju) appeared in an animated toy show called *Godzilla Island* that ran from 1997 to 1998.

In 1992, Toho produced a children's^[245] educational television series titled *Adventure! Godzilland* (冒険！ゴジランド, *Bōken! Gojirando*), which featured both live-action and animated segments. The animated segments featured various characters from the *Godzilla* franchise in a chibi style,^[246] including Godzilla, Anguirus, Rodan, Baragon, King Ghidorah, and Mothra, along with a pink female Godzilla known as Gojirin. The series aired on TV Tokyo and was followed by a second series, *Adventure! Godzilland 2* (冒険！ゴジランド2, *Bōken! Gojirando Tsū*), in 1993. In 1994 and 1996, a series of four OVAs titled *Get Going! Godzilland* (すすめ！ゴジランド, *Susume! Gojirando*) were released on VHS by Gakken Video, and focused on teaching children how to read the hiragana alphabet and how to perform mathematics.

The success of the *Godzilla* franchise spawned two American Saturday morning cartoon TV series and an Anime series. The first one is the collaboration series produced by Hanna-Barbera Productions and co-produced by Toho, *Godzilla*.^[247] The second one is the series produced by Sony Pictures Television, *Godzilla: The Series*, which is a cartoon sequel to the 1998 film.^[248] Both series feature a scientific investigative team who call upon Godzilla as an ally, as well as making several homages to the Shōwa films. Several antagonist monsters in both series have been inspired by extant Toho creations. The third series co-produced by *Bones* and *Orange* and licensed by Netflix is *Godzilla Singular Point*, aired in Japan in April 2021.

In 1991, two *Godzilla* films, *Godzilla vs. Megalon* and *Godzilla versus the Sea Monster*, were shown on the movie-mocking TV show *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

A parody creature resembling Godzilla, alongside another parody character resembling what appears to be a hybrid between Ultraman and Kamen Rider, appears in the television special *Olive, the Other Reindeer* during the song "Merry Christmas After All", during part of which Olive, Santa and the other reindeer are shown passing through Tokyo delivering gifts. The two characters are shown to be friendly and taking part in the song and dance routine shown to include numerous figures, both real and fictional, in the show in various locations visited by the team as they make Santa's annual trip around the world.

Godzilla made an appearance in a Nike commercial in which Godzilla (this version was created at ILM) went one-on-one in an oversized basketball game with a giant version of the NBA star Charles Barkley.^[249]

Godzilla has been referenced multiple times in the American animated TV sitcom *The Simpsons*. Godzilla first appeared in the episode "Lisa on Ice" when Lisa imagines herself on Monster Island and is chased by various kaiju, including Godzilla. It has also been referenced in "Treehouse of Horror VI", "Mayored to the Mob" (where Godzilla can be seen signing autographs at the Bi-Mon-Sci-Fi-Con), "Thirty Minutes over Tokyo" (in which the plane carrying the Simpson family is being attacked by Godzilla, Rodan, Mothra and Gamera), "Simpsons Tall Tales", "Treehouse of Horror XVI", "Homerazzi", "Wedding for Disaster", "The Real Housewives of Fat Tony", "Treehouse of Horror XXIV" and "Treehouse of Horror XXVI".

In January 2022, Legendary announced that Apple TV+ had ordered an untitled live-action series featuring Godzilla and other Titans, with Chris Black serving as showrunner. Black and Matt Fraction will serve as co-creators and executive producers. The series will focus on "one family's journey to uncover its buried secrets and a legacy linking them to the secret organization known as Monarch." Joby Harold, Tory Tunnell, Hiro Matsuoka and Takemasa Arita will serve as additional executive producers. Following the success of *Godzilla vs. Kong*, discussions commenced on ways that the MonsterVerse could be expanded beyond feature films. Legendary proposed a live-action series, and amongst the potential buyers, Apple TV+ expressed immediate interest and negotiated a deal to begin development. The project will be a joint-venture production between *Legendary Television*, *Safehouse Pictures*, *Toho Co. Ltd.*, and *Apple TV+ Original Series*.^[73]

Title	Year	Monster Co-star(s)	Licenses/Media
<i>Zone Fighter</i>	1973	Red Spark, Jikiro, Destro-King, Dorora, Wargilgar, Spylar, King Ghidorah, Dragon King, Gilmaras, Gelderah, Spideros, Garoga Gorilla, Shadorah, Shipdoror, Gigan, Barakidon, Garaborg, Detragon, Zandora, Mogranda, Balgaras, Gundarguirus, Goram, Jellar, Kastom Jellar, Super Jikiro, Bakugon, Needlar, Kabutogirah, Grotogauros	Toho Video - DVD
<i>Godzilla</i>	1978–1979	Godzooky, Fire Bird, Earth Eater, Stone Guardians of Ramal, Megavolt Monsters, Seaweed Monsters, Energy Beast, Colossus, Cyclops Creature, Chimera, Minotaur, Magnetic Monster, Breeder Beast, Great Watchuka, <i>Diplodocus</i> , Time Dragon a.k.a. <i>Allosaurus</i> , Giant Squid, Giant Fly, Axor, Power Dragon, Giant Octopus, Cyborg Whale, Giant Venus' Flytrap, Giant Bees, Giant Dragonfly, Giant Ants, Giant Beetle, Giant Black Widow Spider, Moon Monster, Giant Magma Lizards, Macro-Spider Crab, Macro-Sea Turtle, Macro-Jellyfish, Macro-Tropical Fish, Macro-Sharks, Macro-Squids, Macro-Sea Horses, Macro-Electric Eels, Flying Macro-Manta Ray, Golden Guardians of Kyat-nor	Classic Media - DVD (Season 1 (1978) available only under the title <i>Godzilla: The Original Animated Series</i> , with its 13 episodes on three volumes (episodes 1–4 on <i>Volume 1</i> , episodes 5–8 on <i>Volume 2</i> and episodes 9–13 on <i>Volume 3</i>); Season 2 (1979), with episodes 14–26, currently unavailable)
<i>Godzilla Island</i>	1997–1998	Godzilla Junior, Mothra, Battra, Rodan, King Ghidorah, Mecha-King Ghidorah, Mechagodzilla, Anguirus, Gigan, Hedorah, SpaceGodzilla, Destoroyah, Baragon, King Caesar, Moguera, Megalon, Gorosaurus, Kamacuras, Jet Jaguar, Dogora	Toho Video
<i>Godzilla: The Series</i>	1998–2000	Baby Godzilla, Crustaceous Rex, Giant Squids, Nanotech Creature, El Gusano Gigante, Cyber-Flies, Giant Rats, <i>Cryptoclidus</i> , Reptilians, Crackler, Queen Bee, Mutant Carnivorous Plants, Quetzalcoatl, Baby Quetzalcoatl, Ice Borers, Baby Ice Borers, Nessie a.k.a. the Loch Ness Monster, Baby Nessie, Giant Albino Yeti a.k.a. Robo-Yeti, King Cobra, Termite Queen, Giant Bat, Cyber-Godzilla, Chameleon, Bacillus, Giant Mutant Black Widow Spider, Techno-Sentient, Silver Hydra, D.N.A. Mimic, Lizard Slayers, Swamp Beast, Fire Monster, Norzzug the Iron Lion, Giant Mutant Hummingbirds, Medusa, Giant Gila Monster, Megapede a.k.a. Giant Cicada, Giant Centipede, Ts-eh-Go, <i>Armillaria</i> , Shrewster, Skeetera, D.R.A.G.M.A.s, Mutant Jellyfish, Komodithrax, Giant Turtle, Thorny Devil, Giant Armadillo, Desert Lizard, Desert Rat, Deep-Dweller, Rhinoceros, Giant Water Beetle	Mill Creek Entertainment – DVD (all 40 episodes, including two that never aired on TV during the original run, are available under the title <i>Godzilla: The Series - The Complete Animated Series</i> and in chronological order, in contrast to how the original broadcast order showed many episodes out of sequence)
<i>Godziban</i>	2019	Little Godzilla, Minilla, Mothra, Battra, Rodan, Anguirus, Gigan, Hedorah, Baragon, Jet Jaguar	
<i>Godzilla Singular Point</i>	2021	Rodan, Jet Jaguar, Anguirus, Manda, Salunga, Kumonga, Kamanga, Hanenga, Godzilla Aquatilis, Godzilla Amphibia, Godzilla Terrestriis, Mechagodzilla	

Video games

A game called *Gojira-kun* (which was originally going to be titled *Gojiraland*)^[250] was released for the MSX in 1985. In 1990, *Gojira-kun: Kaijū Daikōshin* was released for the Game Boy. In 1993, *Super Godzilla* was released for the SNES.^[251] In 2007, *Godzilla: Unleashed* was released for the Wii and DS. The 2014 video game *Godzilla* was released by Bandai Namco.^[252] In September 2021, Stern released *Godzilla*.^[253] In May 2022, *Call of Duty: Warzone* featured a cross-over event for *Godzilla vs. Kong*.^[254] Godzila would be confirmed to play in the Kaiju fighting game *GigaBash* as a guest character.^[255]

Literature

A *Godzilla* series of books was published by Random House during the late 1990s and the first half of 2000. The company created different series for different age groups, the Scott Ciencin series being aimed at preteens and the Marc Cerasini series being aimed at teens and young adults. Several manga have been derived from specific *Godzilla* films and both Marvel and Dark Horse have published *Godzilla* comic book series (1977–1979 and 1987–1999, respectively). In 2011, IDW Publishing started a new series, *Godzilla: Kingdom of Monsters* (published in book form under the same title), rebooting the *Godzilla* story. It was followed by two sequel series, *Godzilla* (published in book form as *Godzilla: History's Greatest Monster*) and *Godzilla: Rulers of Earth* (published in book form as *Godzilla: Complete Rulers of Earth Volume 1* and *Godzilla: Complete Rulers of Earth Volume 2*), as well as seven five-issue miniseries to date.

To tie-in with the 2014 film, three books were published. Titan Books published a novelization of the movie in May 2014, written by Greg Cox. The graphic novel *Godzilla: Awakening* by Max Borenstein, Greg Borenstein and Eric Battle served as a prequel, and *Godzilla: The Art of Destruction* by Mark Cotta told about the making of the movie. Godzilla has been referenced in *The Simpsons* comics on three separate occasions. The character is featured in *Bart Simpson's Guide to Life* where it and other kaiju characters such as Minilla and King Ghidorah can be seen; it is featured in the comic "An Anime Among Us!" and *K-Bart*. Godzilla is also featured in the comic *Bart Simpson's Treehouse of Horror 7* where it and other kaiju can be seen referenced on the front cover.

Music

Godzilla: The Album, the soundtrack album of *Godzilla* (1998), sold 2.5 million copies worldwide.^[256] The album's lead single, "Come with Me" by Puff Daddy featuring Jimmy Page, sold a certified 2.025 million copies worldwide.^[257] Its Japan-exclusive single, "Lose Control" by Japanese rock band L'Arc-en-Ciel, sold 938,401 copies in Japan. *Shin Godzilla Ongakushuu*, the soundtrack album of *Shin Godzilla* (2016), sold 43,951 copies in Japan. *Mars* (1991), an album by the Japanese rock duo B'z featuring a Godzilla-themed song, sold 1,730,500 copies in Japan.^[258]

Blue Öyster Cult released the song "Godzilla" in 1977. It was the first track, and the second of four singles, from their fifth studio album *Spectres* (also 1977). Artists such as Fu Manchu, Racer X and Double Experience have included cover versions of this song on their albums. American musician Michale Graves wrote a song titled "Godzilla" for his 2005 album *Punk Rock Is Dead*. The lyrics mention Godzilla and several on-screen adversaries such as Mothra, Hedorah, Destoroyah and Gigan.^[259] The Brazilian heavy metal band Sepultura has a song titled "Biotech is Godzilla" on its 1993 release *Chaos A.D.*^[260]

Composer Eric Whitacre wrote a piece for wind ensemble titled "Godzilla Eats Las Vegas!" The work was commissioned by Thomas Leslie of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and was premiered in 1996 by the university's wind band. Annotations on the score instruct performers to dress in costume and a "script" is provided for the audience. Since the piece's premiere, it has been performed by notable ensembles including the United States Marine Band and the Scottish National Wind Symphony.^[261]

The French death metal band Gojira named the band after Godzilla's name in Japanese.^[262] The song "Simon Says" by Pharoahe Monch is a hip-hop remix of the "Godzilla March" theme song. The instrumental version of this song was notably used in the 2000 film *Charlie's Angels*. The British band Lostprophets released a song called "We Are Godzilla, You Are Japan" on its second studio album *Start Something*. The American punk band Groovie Ghoulies released a song called "Hats off to You (Godzilla)" as a tribute to Godzilla. It is featured on the EP *Freaks on Parade* released in 2002.

The American artist Doctor Steel released a song called 'Atomic Superstar' about Godzilla on his album *People of Earth* in 2002. In 2003, the British singer Siouxsie Sioux released the album *Hái!* with her band The Creatures; the album had a Japanese theme with a song dedicated to the monster, simply titled "Godzilla!". The record label Shifty issued the compilation album *Destroysall* with 15 songs from 15 bands, ranging from hardcore punk to doom-laden death metal. Not all of the songs are dedicated to Godzilla, but all do appear connected to monsters from Toho Studios. Fittingly, the disc was released on August 1, 2003, the 35th anniversary of the Japanese release of *Destroy All Monsters*.

King Geedorah (a.k.a. MF DOOM) released *Take Me to Your Leader*, a hip-hop album featuring guests from the group Monsta Island Czars, another Godzilla-themed hip-hop group. These albums include multiple Godzilla samples throughout the series. Taiwanese American electronic musician Mochipet released the EP *Godzilla Rehab Center* on August 21, 2012, featuring songs named after monsters in the series including Gigan, King Ghidorah, Moguera and Hedorah.

In 2019, American rock band Think Sanity released their debut album featuring songs based on Godzilla, Mothra, and Hedorah. The songs are titled "Sad Kaiju", "Mothra", and "Sludge", respectively. The monsters are also mentioned by name on the track "News at Six" in which they are comically described by newscaster Chip Bentley as destroying a nearby town. The band has mentioned in interviews that they have also written songs based on Biollante, King Ghidorah, and Rodan as well.

Geographic features

The largest megamullion, located 600 kilometres to the south-east of Okinotorishima, the southernmost Japanese island, is named the Godzilla Megamullion. The Japan Coast Guard played a role in name, reaching an agreement with Toho who owns the rights to Godzilla. Toho's Chief Godzilla officer Keiji Ota stated that "I am truly honored that (the megamullion) bears Godzilla's name, the Earth's most powerful monster."^[263]

Cultural impact

Godzilla is one of the most recognizable symbols of Japanese popular culture worldwide and is an important facet of Japanese films, embodying the *kaiju* subset of the *tokusatsu* genre. It has been considered an allegory of nuclear weapons. The earlier *Godzilla* films, especially the original *Godzilla*, portrayed Godzilla as a frightening, nuclear monster. Godzilla represented the fears that many Japanese held about the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the possibility of recurrence.^[264]

As the series progressed, so did Godzilla, changing into a less destructive and more heroic character.^{[265][266]} *Ghidorah* (1964) was the turning point in Godzilla's transformation from villain to hero, by pitting him against a greater threat to humanity, King Ghidorah.^[267] Godzilla has since been viewed as an anti-hero.^[265] Roger Ebert cites Godzilla as a notable example of a villain-turned-hero, along with King Kong, the James Bond films' Jaws, the Terminator, and Rambo.^[268]

In the United States, *Godzilla* films from Toho had been airing on television every week since 1960 up until the 1990s.^[109]

Godzilla is considered "the original radioactive superhero" due to his accidental radioactive origin story predating Spider-Man (1962 debut),^[265] though Godzilla did not become a hero until *Ghidorah* in 1964.^[267] By the 1970s, Godzilla came to be viewed as a superhero, with the magazine *King of the Monsters* in 1977 describing Godzilla as "Superhero of the '70s."^[269] In 1973, Godzilla was voted the most popular movie monster in *The Monster Times* poll, beating Count Dracula, King Kong, Wolf Man, The Mummy, Creature From the Black Lagoon, and Frankenstein's monster.^[270] In 1977, a survey in Los Angeles found that 80% of boys aged between four and nine years old were Godzilla fans.^[105]

At least two prehistoric creatures from the fossil record have been named after Godzilla. *Gojirasaurus quayi* is a theropod dinosaur that lived in the Triassic Period; a partial skeleton was unearthed in Quay County, New Mexico.^[271] *Dakosaurus andiniensis*, a crocodile from the Jurassic Period, was nicknamed "Godzilla" before being scientifically classified.

In 2010, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society named their most recently acquired scout vessel MV *Gojira*. Toho, the people in charge of the *Godzilla* franchise, served them with a notice to remove the name and in response the boat's name was changed in May 2011 to MV Brigitte Bardot.^[272]

Steven Spielberg cited *Godzilla* as an inspiration for *Jurassic Park* (1993), specifically *Godzilla, King of the Monsters!* (1956), which he grew up watching.^[273] During its production, Spielberg described *Godzilla* as "the most masterful of all the dinosaur movies because it made you believe it was really happening."^[274] *Godzilla* also influenced the Spielberg film *Jaws* (1975).^{[275][276]} *Godzilla* has also been cited as an inspiration by actor Tim Allen and filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Tim Burton.^[277]

Merchandise

Godzilla toy sales in Japan earned Toho annual royalties of \$4.5 million during the late 1970s.^[278] Godzilla licensed merchandise generated \$33 million in annual sales during the late 1970s,^[279] adding up to approximately \$165,000,000 (equivalent to \$831,000,000 in 2021) merchandise sales between 1975 and 1979.

The Return of Godzilla generated Japanese merchandise sales of \$230,000,000 (equivalent to \$600,000,000 in 2021) in 1984,^[280] earning Toho more than \$30 million in rights and royalties.^[281] In 1985, *Godzilla* merchandise sold \$33,000,000 (equivalent to \$83,000,000 in 2021) in Japan, with Doug Mason of *Chicago Tribune* referring to Godzilla as "Japan's Mickey Mouse."^[282] *Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla II* generated \$158,000,000 (equivalent to \$296,000,000 in 2021) from sales of books and merchandise between 1993 and 1994.^[128]

American toy companies such as Mattel and Trendmasters were selling 3 million Godzilla toys annually in the United States during the mid-1990s,^[283] with Trendmasters alone selling more than 3 million Godzilla toys between 1994 and 1995.^[284] United Productions of America (UPA), the American distributor for Toho's *Godzilla* films in the 1990s, sold 3 million Godzilla toys within nine months between 1994 and 1995.^[109]

Godzilla (1998) generated more than \$400,000,000 (equivalent to \$670,000,000 in 2021) in North American merchandise sales.^[285] Godzilla licensed merchandise in Japan sold ¥1.93 billion (\$18 million) in 2005,^[286] ¥7 billion (\$64 million) in 2016,^[287] and ¥15 billion (\$134 million) in 2017.^[288] Combined, *Godzilla* generated at least more than \$1.202 billion in known merchandise sales revenue as of 2017 (equivalent to at least more than \$2.6 adjusted for inflation in 2021).

Awards

- 1954 Japan Movie Association Awards – Special Effects (*Godzilla* (1954))^[289]
- 1965 Japan Academy Award – Best Score (*Mothra vs. Godzilla*)
- 1966 Japan Academy Award – Special Effects (*Invasion of Astro-Monster*)

- 1986 Japan Academy Award – Special Effects and Newcomer of the Year (*The Return of Godzilla*)
- 1986 Razzie Awards – Worst Supporting Actor and Worst New Star (*The Return of Godzilla*)
- 1992 Japan Academy Award – Special Effects (*Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah*)
- 1993 Tokyo Sports Movie Awards – Best Leading Actor (*Godzilla vs. Mothra*)
- 1993 Best Grossing Films Award – Golden Award and Money-Making Star Award (*Godzilla vs. Mothra*)
- 1993 Japan Academy Award – Best Score (*Godzilla vs. Mothra*)
- 1994 Japan Academy Award – Best Score (*Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla II*)
- 1995 Best Grossing Films Award – Silver Award (*Godzilla vs. SpaceGodzilla*)
- 1996 Best Grossing Films Award – Golden Award (*Godzilla vs. Destoroyah*)
- 1996 Japan Academy Award – Special Effects (*Godzilla vs. Destoroyah*)
- 1996 MTV Movie Awards – Lifetime Achievement*
- 1998 Golden Raspberry Awards – Worst Supporting Actress and Worst Remake or Sequel (*Godzilla* (1998))
- 1999 Saturn Awards – Best Special Effects (*Godzilla* (1998))
- 2001 Saturn Awards – Best Home Video Release (*Godzilla 2000*)
- 2002 Best Grossing Films Award – Silver Award (*Godzilla, Mothra and King Ghidorah: Giant Monsters All-Out Attack*)
- 2004 Hollywood Walk of Fame^[290] – (*Godzilla: Final Wars*)
- 2007 Saturn Awards – Best DVD Classic Film Release (*Godzilla* (1954))
- 2014 22nd Annual Japan Cool Content Contribution Award (*Godzilla* (2014))^[291]
- 2017 40th Japan Academy Prize – Best Picture, Best Director, Cinematography, Lighting Direction, Art Direction, Sound Recording, Film Editing (*Shin Godzilla*)^[292]

(*) In 1996 *Godzilla* received an award for Lifetime Achievement at the MTV Movie Awards. Creator and producer Shōgo Tomiyama accepted on his behalf via satellite and was joined by "Godzilla" himself.

Name usage

"-zilla" is a well-known slang suffix, used to imply some form of excess to a person, object or theme;^[293] some examples being the reality TV show *Bridezillas* and the Netscape-derived web browser *Mozilla Firefox*.

Notes

- a. "Oodako" literally means "giant octopus" in Japanese.^{[75][76]}
- b. "Ookondoru" literally means "giant condor" in Japanese.^{[75][77]}
- c. While unnamed in the film, the Giant Sea Lice are called ショッキラス ("Shokkirasu") in official Japanese sources, and "Shockirus" has become the accepted Romanization of that name.^[78]
- d. Referred to as **Kiryu**.^[80]
- e. Referred to as **Kiryu**.^[80]
- f. Japan's Reiwa era began on May 1, 2019;^[81] however, Toho considers *Shin Godzilla* and the anime trilogy as part of the Reiwa era.^[82]
- g. On July 31, 2017, **Sony Pictures Television** announced that it would buy a controlling 95% stake in Funimation for \$143,000,000, a deal that closed on October 27, 2017.^[83]
- h. "Oodako" literally means "giant octopus" in Japanese.^{[76][75]}
- i. While unnamed in the film, the Giant Sea Lice are called ショッキラス ("Shokkirasu") in official Japanese sources, and "Shockirus" has become the accepted Romanization of that name.^[78]
- j. Kraken co-founder/managing director Matt Greenfield elaborated on the film's legal issues, stating, "Between all the changes of ownership and title that have occurred after New World released their version, the fact that you're dealing with two entirely different production teams belonging to different sets of unions, and the fact that music from another film by a different composer was reused in NW's dub [*GODZILLA 1985* used music from Christopher Young's soundtrack for the New World Pictures movie *DEF-CON 4*]."^[99]
- k. See *King Kong vs. Godzilla § Box office*
 - l. By 1974, the first 13 films had grossed \$130 million in overseas box office revenue outside of Japan.^{[100][101][102]} *King Kong vs. Godzilla* (1962) grossed an estimated \$1,667,650 from its 1976 French release.^[k] *Godzilla* (1954) later earned \$562,711 from limited North American re-releases in 2004 and 2014.^[116] In the U.K., *Godzilla* (1954) sold 3,643 tickets from limited releases during 2005–2006 and 2016–2017,^[117] equivalent to an estimated gross revenue of approximately £19,022^[118] (\$24,481).

- m. For its original 1962 release, the film sold 11,200,000 million tickets. For its 1970 re-release, it sold 870,000 tickets. For its 1977 re-release, it sold 480,000 tickets.^[114]
- n. For its original 1964 release, the film sold 3,510,000 million tickets. For its 1970 re-release, it sold 730,000 tickets. For its 1980 re-release, it sold 2,980,000 million tickets.^[114]
- o. *Mothra vs. Godzilla* gross in Japan (est.)^{[120][121]}
- 1964 release – 3.51 million tickets – ¥625 million
 - 1970 release – 730,000 tickets – ¥237 million
 - 1980 release – ¥2.33 billion
- p. For its original 1964 release, the film sold 4,320,000 tickets. For its 1971 re-release, it sold 1,090,000 tickets.^[114]
- q. For its original 1965 release, the film sold 3,780,000 tickets. For its 1971 re-release, it sold 1,350,000 tickets.^[114]
- r. For its original 1966 release, the film sold 3,450,000 tickets. For its 1972 re-release, it sold 760,000 tickets.^[114]
- s. For its original 1967 release, the film sold 2,480,000 tickets. For its 1973 re-release, it sold 610,000 tickets.^[114]
- t. *Godzilla* (1998) admissions:
- Japan – 3.6 million^[157]
 - Europe – 17,675,620
 - France, Germany, Italy, Spain – 9,946,810^[158]
 - Other European countries – 7,728,810^[159]
 - Mexico – 4,327,670^[160]
 - Brazil – 1,004,820^[161]
 - Taiwan – 420,454^[162]
 - South Korea (**Seoul City**) – 409,262^[163]
- u. *Godzilla* (2014) admissions:
- Japan – 2.18 million^[157]
 - China – 12,669,000^[167]
 - Europe – 10,124,979
 - Spain and Italy – 1,235,029^[168]
 - Romania – 172,676^[169]
 - Other European countries – 8,717,274^[170]
 - Mexico – 2,032,854^[171]
 - Brazil – 1,314,631^[172]
 - South Korea – 709,734^[163]
- v. *Godzilla: King of the Monsters* (2019) admissions:
- Japan – 2.12 million^{[176][121]}
 - China – 25,457,730^[177]
 - Europe – 4,887,602
 - Russia – 1,112,404^[178]
 - France and Spain – 916,716^[179]
 - Other European countries – 2,858,482^[180]
 - Mexico – 3,600,000^[181]
 - Brazil – 532,988^[182]
 - South Korea – 359,041^[163]
- w. *Entertainment Weekly*, *Box Office Mojo*, and *Deadline Hollywood* reported that the film's production budget was \$170 million; however, *Deadline* also noted that other analysts marked the budget at \$185 million.^{[183][184][185]} In July 2018, the *Hindustan Times* reported the budget to be \$200 million.^[186] This figure was later confirmed in an analysis by *Variety* published in June 2019.^[187]

x. *Godzilla vs. Kong* (2021) admissions:

- China – 32,919,800^[190]
- Mexico – 6,300,000^[191]
- Russia – 3,187,085^[192]
- Europe (excluding Russia) – 2,330,527^[193]
- Japan – 1,270,000^[194]
- Brazil – 751,644^[195]
- South Korea – 703,485^[163]

y. *The Numbers* reported the production budget to be \$155 million.^[196] In December 2020, *Variety* reported the budget to be \$160 million,^[197] while *TheWrap* reported the budget to be \$165 million.^[198] In January 2021, both *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Deadline Hollywood* stated the budget to be \$200 million.^{[199][200]} In February 2021, *Comingsoon.net* also noted the film's budget to be \$200 million.^[201]

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- **Official *Godzilla* website** (<https://godzilla.com>) by Toho Co., Ltd.
- **Official website** (<http://www.toho.co.jp/>) of Toho Co., Ltd. (Japanese)

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