STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

J.J. ABRAMS (Director/Producer) is the founder and President of Bad Robot Productions, which he runs with his producing partner Bryan Burk. Formed in 2001, Bad Robot is partnered with Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros. Studios and has produced films and television series such as “Cloverfield,” “Star Trek,” “Morning Glory,” “Super 8,” “Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol,” ABC’s “Alias” and “Lost,” Fox’s “Fringe,” and CBS’s “Person of Interest.”

Born in New York and raised in Los Angeles, Abrams attended Sarah Lawrence College where he co-wrote a treatment that became the basis for Disney’s “Taking Care Of Business.” In years following, he wrote or co-wrote such films as “Regarding Henry,” “Forever Young,” “Armageddon,” and “Joy Ride.”

In 1998, Abrams co-created his first television series “Felicity” with collaborator and long-time friend Matt Reeves. Abrams served as Executive Producer for the series’ four-season run on The WB. Additionally, Abrams created and executive produced “Alias” for ABC, and co-created (with Damon Lindelof) and executive produced ABC’s “Lost.”

In 2006, Abrams directed his first feature film, “Mission: Impossible 3.” His second feature directorial effort “Star Trek” was released in May 2009. “Super 8,” written and directed by Abrams and produced by Abrams, Burk and Steven Spielberg, was released in June 2011. His most recent feature, the upcoming “Star Trek” sequel, will be released in 2013.

In 2005, Abrams received Emmy Awards for Outstanding Directing in a Drama Series for the “Lost” pilot as well as Outstanding Drama Series for “Lost.” He also received Emmy nominations for his “Alias” and “Lost” pilot scripts. In addition, Abrams composed the theme music for “Alias,” “Fringe,” “Lost,” “Person of Interest,” and “Revolution,” and he co-wrote the theme song for “Felicity.”

Abrams presently serves as Executive Producer of CBS’s “Person of Interest,” Fox’s “Fringe,” and NBC’s “Revolution.”

Abrams and his wife have three children.

Together for over eighteen years, creative collaborators ALEX KURTZMAN and ROBERTO ORCI (Writers/Producers) have established themselves as one of the leading writing/producing teams working in film and television.

The duo is currently in post production on “Ender’s Game” and “Now You See Me,” both of which will be released by Summit in 2013. In addition to producing and scripting “Star Trek Into Darkness” with Damon Lindelof, they are also scripting “All You Need is Kill,” starring Tom Cruise and
directed by Doug Liman. Erwin Stoff serves as producer of the film which is set up at Warner Bros. Additionally, they are in pre-production on “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” and are set to produce Universal’s “The Mummy” and “Van Helsing” reboots. In television, Kurtzman and Orci are working on a “Sleepy Hollow “adaptation for 20th Century Fox, with Len Wiseman on board to direct.

This past June, the duo released “People Like Us” for Disney, which marked the directorial debut of Alex Kurtzman. The film, starring Elizabeth Banks and Chris Pine, was written by Kurtzman & Orci and Jody Lambert. In 2011, Kurtzman & Orci released the comic book adaptation of “Cowboys & Aliens,” which they wrote with scribe Damon Lindelof as well as produced. The film is directed by Jon Favreau and stars Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford. That same year, they signed a three-year overall television deal with 20th Century Fox. This latest TV development season has been remarkably busy as the duo have set up pilots at the FOX, CBS, and ABC Networks, adding to their ever-growing television slate, a list that includes CBS’s “Hawaii Five-O,” Fox’s “Fringe,” and The Hub’s “Transformers: Prime,” an original computer-animated series that is currently the highest-rated show on the network.

Kurtzman and Orci are writers behind some of the decade’s biggest successes, including “Star Trek,” “Transformers,” “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,” “Eagle Eye” and “Mission: Impossible III.” They also executive-produced the romantic comedy hit, “The Proposal.” The duo’s writing credits have earned over $1.3 billion worldwide.

Kurtzman and Orci began their career writing for the popular television series “Hercules” and “Xena: Warrior Princess,” where they quickly became head writers at the age of 23. Next, they wrote for J.J. Abrams’ “Alias,” and eventually served as executive producers on the show.

Kurtzman and Orci both live with their families in Los Angeles.

Despite being advised that his brain would rot, DAMON LINDELOF (Writer, Producer) spent the majority of his childhood watching television. After a brief flirtation with movies by way of a film degree from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, Damon hopped in his car and traveled west and eventually took a job as a writer’s assistant on Kevin Williamson’s ABC Drama “Wasteland.” Shortly thereafter, and the show was cancelled. Damon went on to write for “Nash Bridges” and then moved on to NBC’s new drama “Crossing Jordan”. Then Damon got “Lost.” Within twelve weeks of complete insanity, he and co-creator J.J. Abrams managed to make a ridiculously untenable and vastly expensive pilot for ABC that centered on the survivors of a plane crash in the South Pacific. Despite this, “Lost” won a Golden Globe and Emmy Award in its freshman season. Damon concluded “Lost,” after six seasons and still doesn’t quite understand what it all meant.

A life long Trekker, Damon produced Abrams’ “Star Trek” reboot, released in May 2009, and is a writer and producer on “Star Trek Into Darkness.” He also wrote and produced the Sir Ridley Scott movie “Prometheus.” In his spare time, Damon also wrote this bio.
A graduate of USC’s School of Cinema-Television, **BRYAN BURK (Producer)** began his career working with producers Brad Weston at Columbia Pictures, Ned Tanen at Sony Pictures and John Davis at FOX. In 1995, he joined Gerber Pictures, where he developed TNT’s Emmy-nominated “James Dean,” and is currently attached to produce “NFL: A Love Story.”

He has collaborated with J. J. Abrams frequently and is the co-founder of his production company Bad Robot Production. TV series he’s worked with Abrams on include “Alias,” “Six Degrees,” “What About Brian,” “Lost,” “Fringe,” “Undercovers,” “Person of Interest” and “Alcatraz.” He has also served as a producer for Abrams’ feature films, “Cloverfield,” “Star Trek,” “Super 8” and “Star Trek Into Darkness.”

**JEFFREY CHERNOV (Executive Producer)** has enjoyed a distinguished film career, from his start as a production assistant on Dino De Laurentiis’ 1976 hit “King Kong,” through several arduous years as an assistant director on such classics as “Body Heat,” “Cutter’s Way,” “The Thing,” “Escape from New York” and “Starman,” among others. Working his way up the ladder, Chernov subsequently became a production manager, learning an entirely new set of skills on “Ruthless People,” “Halloween II” and “Halloween III.” Next up came “Clue,” “The Dead Zone” and “Richard Pryor: Live in Concert,” on which he earned the title of associate producer. From there, he acted as co-producer on “Eddie Murphy Raw” and executive producer of “10 Things I Hate About You,” “Sleeping with the Enemy” and “The Replacements.” He also produced “A Line in the Sand,” “Place of Darkness,” “Bad Company” and “Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey.”

Chernov spent two years as a senior vice president of production at Disney/Touchstone, overseeing such hit films as “Honey, I Shrank the Kids,” “Pretty Woman” and “Dead Poets Society,” to name a few. In 2001, he moved to Spyglass Entertainment, where he was intimately involved in the making of “Shanghai Knights,” “The Recruit,” “The Lookout,” “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy,” “The Pacifier,” and many other successful films.

He acted as executive producer on the Bad Robot reboot of “Star Trek” in 2009 and takes the same role on “Star Trek Into Darkness.”

**DAVID ELLISON (Executive Producer)** formed Skydance Productions to create and produce elevated event-level commercial entertainment. The company focuses on tent-pole action, adventure, science fiction and fantasy films along with modestly budgeted comedy and genre films. Skydance strives to be filmmaker friendly in a town where it is increasingly difficult to get films made. In 2010, Skydance entered into a four-year production, distribution and finance deal with Paramount Pictures. The first film to be released under the deal was “True Grit,” Joel and Ethan Coen’s take on the Charles Portis novel, produced by the Coens, Scott Rudin and Steven Spielberg, and starring Matt Damon, Josh Brolin and Jeff Bridges. The film was nominated for ten Academy Awards®, including Best Picture.

Ever the film enthusiast, Ellison grew up in Northern California and attended the University of Southern California’s prestigious School of Cinematic Arts. While in school, Ellison produced and starred in the World War I drama “Flyboys,” which combined his love of film and aviation. He is an accomplished pilot with over 2000 flying hours, a commercial multi-engine instrument rating and a helicopter rating. In 2003, at 20 years old, Ellison was the youngest airshow pilot performer at the Experimental Aircraft Association’s Airventure Show in Oshkosh, WI, where he was one of six pilots performing as the “Stars of Tomorrow.” Ellison is actively involved with Conservation International, where he is a member of the Board of Directors and sits on several committees.

**DANA GOLDBERG (Executive Producer)** Dana Goldberg joined Skydance Productions in 2010 as president of production. She was formerly president of production at Village Roadshow Pictures, where she was involved with the company’s entire slate of films including the “Ocean’s Eleven” franchise, the “Matrix” trilogy, “Training Day,” “Get Smart” and “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” She also served as executive producer on many of the company’s films, including “I Am Legend,” “The Brave One” and the Academy Award©-winning animated feature “Happy Feet.” Prior to joining Village Roadshow in 1998, Goldberg spent three years with Barry Levinson and Paula Weinstein at Baltimore/Spring Creek Pictures where she was vice president of production. She began her career in entertainment as an assistant at Hollywood Pictures. Goldberg has been a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences since 2007.

Goldberg produced through Skydance, the Christopher McQuarrie film “Jack Reacher,” with Tom Cruise, set for release on December 21, 2012, the comedy “The Guilt Trip,” starring Barbra Streisand and Seth Rogen, which is set for release on December 25, 2012, and “G.I. Joe 2: Retaliation,” starring Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum and Dwayne Johnson, set for release on March 29th, 2013.

Additional films Goldberg is set to executive produce through Skydance include the untitled Jack Ryan project, directed by Kenneth Branagh, starring Chris Pine and produced by Lorenzo Di Bonaventura and

PAUL SCHWAKE (Executive Producer) Paul is the Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer for Skydance. Paul joined the company in 2009 and was instrumental in securing the co---finance, co---production agreement with Paramount Pictures. Paul secured Skydance’s $200 million syndicated credit facility led by JP Morgan and six other banks.

Prior to joining Skydance, Paul partnered with producer Bill Todman, Jr. and real estate banking billionaire Edward Milstein and formed Level 1 Entertainment, where he served as COO. At Level 1, Paul produced the comedies Grandma’s Boy and Strange Wilderness with Adam Sandler. He also produced Rendition with Oscar winners Reese Witherspoon, Meryl Streep, and director Gavin Hood. Additionally, Paul led Level 1’s television production activities.

Prior to joining Level 1, Paul helped form Spyglass Entertainment Group with producers Gary Barber and Roger Birnbaum where he served as CFO for seven years. During his tenure, Spyglass released over 20 films including The Sixth Sense, Bruce Almighty and Seabiscuit.

Previously, Paul served as VP of Finance at Morgan Creek for seven years. During Paul’s tenure, Morgan Creek produced and released over 30 films including Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, Ace Ventura, Last of the Mohicans, True Romance.

Paul also served as an auditor at Price Waterhouse for five years auditing clients in the entertainment industry and worked at Walt Disney Studios in the accounting department for four years.

DAN MINDEL, ASC, BSC (Director of Photography) previously worked with J.J. Abrams as director of photography for “Star Trek” and “Mission: Impossible III.” He was born in South Africa and educated in Australia and Britain. He began his career as a cinematographer shooting commercials and working with successful directors, including Ridley Scott, Barry Kinsman, Hugh Johnson and Mike Seresin. His ads for Tony Scott include memorable commercials for such clients as Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Miller Coors and Marlboro.

Mindel served as director of photography on Tony Scott’s film “Domino,” Iain Softley’s “The Skeleton Key,” “Tooth Fairy,” “Stuck on You” and “Shanghai Noon,” among many others. He was
responsible for the photography on the West Coast unit of “G.I. Jane” and for the additional photography on “The Bourne Identity” and Tony Scott’s “The Fan.” “Enemy of the State” marked his debut as the sole director of photography on a major motion picture. Mindel also served as director of photography on Kate Hudson’s short film “Cutlass.” He most recently shot Oliver Stone’s “Savages” and Andrew Stanton’s “John Carter.”

MARYANN BRANDON, A.C.E. (Editor) first collaborated with director J.J. Abrams on “Alias,” for which she received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Single Camera Picture Editing for a Drama Series. Brandon then directed “Alias” for Abrams in seasons three and four, and produced the show in season four. She went on to work with him on “Star Trek,” “Mission Impossible: 3” and “Super 8.” Her other feature credits include “How to Train Your Dragon,” “Grumpier Old Men,” “The Jane Austin Book Club,” “Born to be Wild,” “Race for Glory” and “A Thousand Acres.” Most recently she consulted on “Kung Fu Panda 2.”

Her other television credits include “Child Star: The Shirley Temple Story,” “The Miracle Worker,” “Grapevine” and TNT’s “The Hunley.”

MARY JO MARKEY, A.C.E. (Editor) previously collaborated with director J.J. Abrams on “Felicity”; “Lost,” the pilot of which earned both her and Abrams Emmy Awards; “Alias,” for which she also received an Emmy nomination; the features “Star Trek,” “Mission: Impossible III” and “Super 8”; and the television drama “Anatomy of Hope.”

Her other feature credits include “Killers,” “Rhapsody in Bloom,” “Dawg” and “Medicine Man.” In 2007, Markey received her third Emmy nomination and an A.C.E. Eddie nomination for her work on the HBO movie “Life Support.”

Award-winning production designer SCOTT CHAMBLISS (Production Designer) has designed for motion picture, television and theater productions in both New York and Los Angeles.

Chambliss collaborated with Alex Kurtzman, Roberto Orci and J.J. Abrams on “Star Trek” and returns for “Star Trek Into Darkness.” His work with Abrams spans two decades and includes “Mission: Impossible III,” as well as the hit television series “Alias” and “Felicity.” Most recently, Phillips designed “Cowboys and Aliens” and Phillip Noyce’s “Salt, starring Angelina Jolie.

For several consecutive years, Chambliss was nominated for both an Emmy Award for Outstanding Art Direction and the Award for Excellence in Production Design by the Art Directors Guild, for his work on Alias. In 2002, he won the Emmy and, in 2003, he won the Guild Award.

Chambliss began his career as an associate designer with Tony Walton on a number of Broadway productions including “Anything Goes,” “Macbeth” and “Grand Hotel.”

MICHAEL KAPLAN (Costume Designer) From the period costumes of the world of ‘Burlesque’ and ‘Winter’s Tale’ to the futuristic designs of ‘Blade Runner’ and ‘Star Trek’, Michael Kaplan’s authentic yet inspired vision flourishes in any era.

After winning a BAFTA Award for his work in Ridley Scott’s afore-mentioned groundbreaking sci-fi drama (‘Blade Runner’), he ignited a fashion trend for an entire generation with his costume designs in Adrian Lyne’s ‘Flashdance.’

In addition, his fluency with multiple genres made him the costume designer of choice for director David Fincher on the films ‘Fight Club,’ ‘Panic Room,’ ‘The Game’ and ‘Se7en’ as well as for Michael Bay on ‘Pearl Harbor’ and ‘Armageddon’. Michael reunited with director Ridley Scott to design the costumes for ‘Matchstick Men.’

His designs brought a daring tongue-in-cheek style to Doug Liman’s action-comedy hit ‘Mr. & Mrs. Smith,’ (starring Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie), sophistication and glamour to Michael Mann’s actioner ‘Miami Vice,’ (starring Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx), vibrant energy to Brad Bird’s international smash hit ‘Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol’ starring Tom Cruise. And just the right note of restraint to Francis Lawrence’s sci-fi thriller ‘I Am Legend,’ (starring Will Smith).

With J.J. Abrams’ blockbuster ‘Star Trek,’ Michael garnered the third of four Costume Designers Guild Award nominations.

Michael’s work will be seen next in ‘Winter’s Tale’ for Akiva Goldsman starring Russell Crowe and Colin Farrell as well as J.J. Abrams’ anticipated sequel, ‘Star Trek Into Darkness.’

MICHAEL GIACCHINO (Composer) At the age of 10, Michael Giacchino began his filmmaking career in his backyard in Edgewater Park, New Jersey, eventually going on to study filmmaking at the School of Visual Arts in NYC. After college, he landed a marketing job at Disney and began studies in music composition first at Juilliard, and then at UCLA. From marketing, he became a producer in the fledgling Disney Interactive Division where he was able to hire himself to write the music for their video games. When his work was brought to the attention of Steven Spielberg, he said, “I did what anybody in their right mind would do, I signed him up to score Medal of Honor.”
It was Michael’s work in video game orchestration that grabbed the attention of J.J. Abrams, who contacted him via email about the possibility of writing the score for *Alias*. They met, he got the job, and a relationship was born that would include the groundbreaking series *LOST*, for which Michael earned an Emmy.

Michael's feature film composing breakthrough was with *The Incredibles*. After that, he went on to score box office hits such as *The Family Stone*, *Mission: Impossible III*, *Ratatouille*, *Star Trek*, *Cars 2*, *Super 8* and *John Carter*. His 2009 score for the Pixar hit *Up* earned him an Oscar, a Golden Globe, the BAFTA, the Broadcast Film Critics' Choice Award and two Grammy Awards.

Michael’s upcoming films include J.J. Abrams’ *Star Trek Into Darkness* and Andy and Lana Wachowski’s *Jupiter Ascending*. Michael sits on the Advisory Board of Education Through Music Los Angeles.
After making a mere $84 million at the U.S. box office, Star Trek Into Darkness is considered by some to be a disappointment. Perhaps the problem is that it was a touch confusing. To help our readers better understand it, we've complied and answered these Frequently Asked Questions about the movie. Okay, that seems reasonable. Except that 1) when the volcano erupts, it's going to kill everybody on the planet, so it hardly matters where they are, and 2) Spock is getting dropped down into the volcano to set off a cold fusion bomb. Advertisement. Wait, what?