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Dark of The Moon

On June 23, 2011, the last installment of the wildly popular movie franchise, Transformers, hit theaters. That day, Transformers 3: Dark of The moon hit a mark of \$42 million giving it the biggest opening day of 2011 according to cbsnews.com.

Director Michael Bay, who also directed the first two Transformer movies, is well known for his hard-core action scenes and large explosions and does not fail to live up to his reputation in this final chapter.

The Transformers were originally created as a child's toy which was then turned into an animated TV show. The original toys, made by Hasbro toy company, were small plastic robots that children could turn into trucks, cars, planes, etc. The Michael Bay movies were adapted from the cartoons. However, Bay changed several characteristics in the movies to enhance them.

For example, one of the main villains, Megatron, turned into a small pistol in the cartoon, but in the movie, Bay had him "transform" into a jet plane. To still pay tribute to

the original character though, he made Megatron able to make a large gun out of his hand in the movie.

The change that is setting Transformers 3 apart from other movies, including the previous two installments is that it is shot in 3-D. While most movies today are shot in 2-D and then converted into 3-D, Dark of the Moon is shot with a specific 3-D camera. This allows for better 3-D picture and quality. "I think that if you must have a movie in 3-D, it has to be shot in 3-D if it's an effects heavy movie like Transformers, Harry Potter, Avatar etc." says student Ryan Mckinney. "A movie that's converted to 3-D just adds another layer of a visual handicap so if a movie is not financed correctly for visual effects, then the movie is considered more unrealistic. Transformers was done really well because there were sequences caught that have never been attempted before on camera."

In an interview with USA Today found on his blog, Bay talks about how at first he was skeptical about shooting in 3-D, but then once he began, he decided that it was worth the extra work for what it produces. "It isn't cheap, but it shouldn't be," Bay says. "What I love is you really can create new worlds. But you have to commit to it. Fans are right to be more skeptical of it now."

There are movie goers who are skeptical of 3-D movies. Transformers 3 in 3-D did turn some viewers away because of the 3-D aspect. "3-D is not good enough to justify the extra ticket costs," says student Cody Hickman. "The IMAX in-your-face style 3-D is just too much. It just adds depth and that's it. However, if a movie has to be made in 3-D, I suppose Transformers would be a good candidate."

Transformers 3: Dark of The Moon is now in stores on Blu-ray and DVD. It is rated PG-13 for action violence, destruction, language, and sexual innuendo.

The film is filled with explosions, fight scenes, and special effects to delight the audience. Whether viewers are super fans or are just looking for some entertainment, Michael Bay has “transformed” the Transformers franchise by taking the settings and characters to a new level and by crossing the 3-D threshold setting the bar for films to come in the future. “The idea of transformers is indeed an adaptation but the take the director, Michael bay, applied to his 3 movies took on a whole new role of what central cg characters in an action movie could do, sound, and look like,” says Mckinney. “It took robot combat to a new level and it applied drama to the transformer characters and made you feel for them.

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