

'Indiana Jones 5' Sparks Debates About How the Hero's Story Should Have Ended



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Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (Indiana Jones 5) marks the end of a legacy that began nearly 39 years ago when [Harrison Ford](#), the lead actor in the franchise, was barely 40 years old. The first installment, *Indiana Jones*, was the most critically acclaimed film of the bunch, while *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (Indiana Jones 3) remains the highest-grossing movie from the epic series. In both cases, the whip-wielding protagonist was opposed by Nazis in his quest to procure ancient artifacts with incredible power. The original picture followed Indiana's pursuit of the "Ark of the Covenant," while in the third movie, he and his father (Henry Jones Jr.) searched for the "Holy Grail."



Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny was the final adventure in the life of America's favorite fictional archeologist. Co-written/directed by James Mangold, this film's premise was cleverly intertwined with the storyline(s) from *Indiana Jones 1* & *Indiana Jones 3*. Using a combination of AI and CGI, the filmmaker depicted a young Indiana Jones in Nazi Germany during World War II while searching for a relic created by an ancient engineer/inventor who died in 212 BC named Archimedes of Syracuse. After Indiana manages to pry half of the "Archimedes Dial" from the clutches of the main villain, a Nazi scientist named Jürgen Voller (portrayed by Mads Mikkelsen), his nemesis comes looking for it several decades later when they're both elderly men. This sparks a dangerous race between the two men to locate both halves of the "Archimedes Dial," several centuries after Archimedes of Syracuse purposefully split his invention in two so that the power of manipulating time would not fall into the wrong hands.

Thus far, *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* has been met with mixed reviews. Although the Walt Disney Studios film claimed the top spot at the box office this week, earning \$60 million domestically, the numbers are relatively low for a blockbuster film released during a 4th of July Weekend. The Harrison Ford-led movie also earned the franchise's lowest score on *Rotten Tomatoes* at 68%. Nevertheless, many from within the franchise's loyal fanbase thoroughly enjoyed their hero's last ride. What fans can't seem to agree on is how and when Indiana's 40-year story arc should have ended. Some believe that if the "Archidemes Dial" had only been used once to "time travel," it would have provided moviegoers with the perfect ending, while others were satisfied with the romantic conclusion instead. However, according to James Mangold, he nearly settled on an ending that could have left his viewers with somewhat less of a feel-good conclusion.

"I would never make this choice without ruminating over lots of choices," Mangold recalled. "The other interesting thing was that one of the things I thought about was even if we did travel in time, would Mads' theory be right, and they'd land in Nazi Germany? And the last act of the movie would be Indy trying to foil Mads' plan? But the more I sketched that out in my mind, the more that became kind of just a spy movie at the end. I couldn't find a way to emotional resonance."

The film's last two scenes were filled with nostalgia and "what ifs." While "Indiana Jones" fans can interpret the meaning however they like, Harrison Ford has stated that he would not return if Disney wanted to make a follow-up movie. In the meantime, rumors are already swirling about the potential of a spin-off series based on Indiana Jones' goddaughter, Helena Shaw.