



ONLY THEY CAN SAVE EARTH NOW....

ISIS is running amok, Ebola is spreading and Kim Kardashian is rumored to be trying for a second child. It might be time to leave this rock, and in the sci-fi thriller "Interstellar," that's exactly what happens.

the movie — directed by Christopher Nolan — the
Story by: Reed Tucker

The man behind two great Batman movies and that third one — is set sometime in the near future, and the earth is dying. Crops, outside of corn, no longer grow, and America is suffocated by massive dust storms.

In an attempt to look for another habitable planet, a team of astronauts (Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Wes Bentley and David Gyasi) blasts off into the cold, unforgiving unknown.

The project was conceived by producer Lynda Obst and theoretical physicist, who also collaborated on 1997's "Contact." Like that film, "Interstellar" was intended to remain somewhat grounded in reality — or at least a possible reality.

"The story emerged from the fertile minds of the screenwriters, but always within the boundaries of established science or what we can reasonably extrapolate about concepts that are just beyond the frontiers of our knowledge," says Thorne.

Traveling to another world would be no easy task. Rocketing to the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, would take about 70,000 years with current propulsion technology. Imagine how full your DVR would get back home.

Nolan and his co-writer brother, Jonathan, tapped an easier way to zip around the universe: a wormhole. The rip in space-time acts like a bridge between two distant points in the universe. One has never been observed, but scientists theorize that it might be possible to travel great distances using one. Fly into one end, pop out the other end millions of light years away — or even in a strange parallel universe. (Say, one where McConaughey never made "Ghosts of Girlfriends Past.")

In "Interstellar," the wormhole is located near Saturn, and even getting to that distant planet — what amounts to next door in



Cooper (Matthew McConaughey, left) talks to Brand (Anne Hathaway, right) during a scene from "Interstellar".

the vast universe — would be incredibly challenging. Unmanned crafts have taken as long as six years to cover the distance.

In the film, the characters make the long trip in a spaceship with 12 segments — four containing engines, four to house the astronauts and four holding landing pods. The ship spins at five times a minute to create gravity, which is probably a necessary component for a long-term space trip. Weightlessness might look like fun, but, over long periods of time, it destroys the body, atrophying muscles and deteriorating the cardiovascular system. Cosmonauts returning from the space station after a year are barely able to walk. Even speaking is difficult.

"Right after I landed, I could feel the weight of my lips and tongue," astronaut Chris Hadfield said in 2013 after five months in space. "I hadn't realized that I learned to talk with a weightless tongue."

The living quarters on the "Interstellar" ship contained hibernation pods for the astronauts to take yearslong naps, as would

probably be necessary to keep the voyagers from having to pass the time by playing endless games of space Monopoly with one another.

Is cryosleep possible? Maybe one day. Scientists have already been able to place pigs, dogs and mice into suspended animation for a few hours. While awake, McConaughey and Hathaway's characters spend most of their time in spacesuits. The costumes were designed by Oscar-nominated Mary Zophres and were based on existing looks.

"We tried to keep it recognizable as belonging to an astronaut in the 20th century, because we wanted to tap into that history," Christopher Nolan says. "We wanted to always be seeing a classic astronaut figure, [imagining] what they might look like in some undetermined future."

It was a very human and a very simple question of a parent and a child, a father and a daughter - the most extreme circumstance of 'What would you do if?'

- Matthew McConaughey

One bonus: The suits came equipped with oxygen units so the actors would be able to breathe when their helmets were on.

The costume also came with a built-in cooling system of tubes circulating water, like the kind actual spacesuits have, and, in total, the gear weighed between 30 and 35 pounds (compared to about three times that for a NASA suit). That weight doesn't include the wet suits McConaughey and Hathaway had to don for one sequence in which they land on a watery planet.

"When we were shooting the water scenes, Matthew and I kept saying to each other, 'This may be tough, but we look cool,'" Hathaway says.

Maybe — but in space, no one can see you pose.



Going out into... SPACE

In his latest feature, “Interstellar”, an intrepid shuttle team slips the bonds of Earth to seek wormholes, black holes and other planets. At the same time, the film is closely concerned with an increasingly inhospitable Earth.

The movie, reportedly made for \$160 million, will open on Tuesday at the Gateway Film Center and go into wider release afterward. It will also be shown in Imax.

The starry cast features Academy Award winner Matthew McConaughey (Dallas Buyers Club) as Cooper, a farmer and pilot tasked with ensuring the future of humanity; Oscar winner Anne Hathaway (Les Miserables) as Brand, a fellow explorer; and Jessica Chastain (Zero Dark Thirty) as Murph, Cooper’s daughter and an earthbound astrophysicist.

Chastain, Hathaway and McConaughey gathered recently to discuss Interstellar. Here are excerpts from the conversation.

Q: Did any of you grow up dreaming of someday becoming an astronaut?

McConaughey: I did not. I was very much “what’s happening on the ground” was going to be enough — until I made Contact (a 1997 movie about the search for extraterrestrial life). That made me actually

wonder: “OK, it’s not just what’s happening here, east, west, in front of us. You can look up. What’s the new frontier to the north?”

Chastain: I loved Princess Leia as a kid. But I have no interest in being one of those people on the spaceships they’re advertising that go to the moon. No, thank you. I’ll be one of those people who stay on Earth, eating corn.

Hathaway: When I was in fifth grade, my older brother asked me how I was doing in school, and I said I did just get a 52 on a math test. Later, I said I wanted to be an astronaut, and he said, “Well, you’re going to have to raise your math scores if you want to do that.” Later in life, I discovered I do love science and I do love physics. But I was really happy that in this film I could still be bad at math and be an astronaut.

Q: How were each of you approached by Christopher Nolan for the film?

Chastain: I was in Northern Ireland, shooting a Strindberg adaptation (Miss Julie). It was cold and rainy and miserable, and I got a call that Chris was interested in me. They flew someone from L.A. to Dublin who then drove to Enniskillen and handed me a script — bright-red headache-inducing pages.



Director Christopher Nolan on the set of “Interstellar”

Hathaway: I went into the Nolans’ library and read it. Kind of knew what I had just read but wasn’t entirely sure. Chris had invited me over for a three-hour reading block, so I just went back to the beginning and read it again.

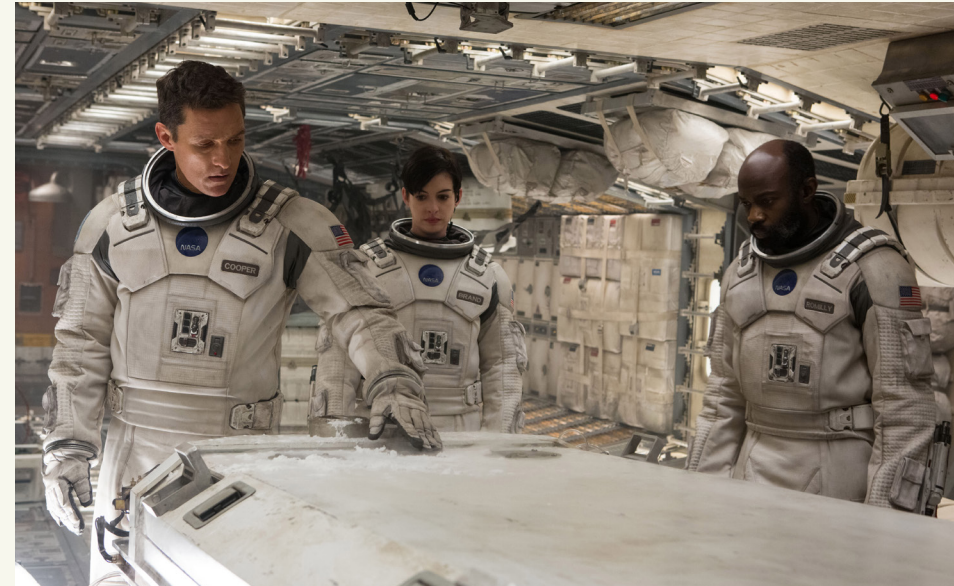
McConaughey: You read it twice in three hours? It took me 51/2 hours. I was in New Orleans working on True Detective, and my agent said, “Christopher Nolan’s got a new project coming out, and he’s thinking of you — and some other people.”

I went to Chris’ house, sat down for about three hours, basically talked about being fathers, talked about our kids. We laughed a lot and said goodbye. I remember walking back to the car going: “I know what that was. But what was that?” It was not specific at all.

Q: What ultimately won you over?

McConaughey: It had the things that I had loved about Chris’ earlier films: that epic scope and size, which I think you get from him better than any director I know of. But, also, this one seemed more intimate. It was a very human and a very simple question of a parent and a child, a father and a daughter — the most extreme circumstance of “What would you do if?”

- Story By: Dave Itzkof



MAKING A CHILDHOOD DREAM COME TO LIFE

The unsung stars in Christopher Nolan’s Interstellar are the intricate spacecraft which take the film’s explorers — Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway and David Gyasi — to new galaxies.

The director says it was crucial to construct a space station, called The Endurance, which viewers could relate to from existing technology.

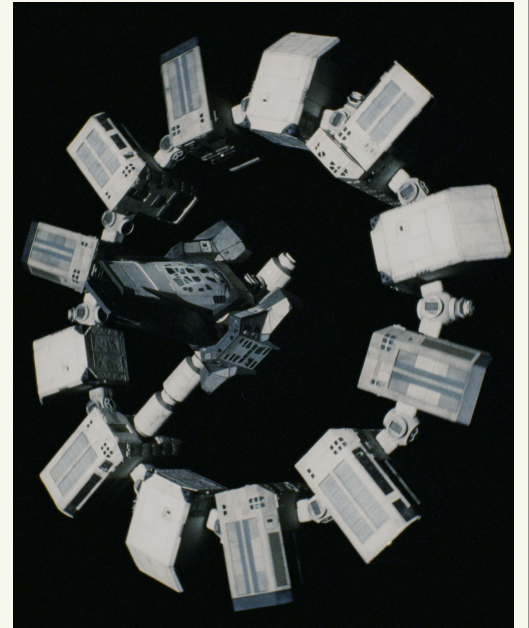
“For me, the starting point of the movie is a familiar Earth. We didn’t put a lot of futurism in the designs,” says Nolan, whose space spectacle opens Wednesday in select cities. “I wanted to carry that tone into the spacecraft, not jump too far in the future.”

Nolan and his production designer Nathan Crowley spent months coming up with the initial designs, based on existing spacecraft, before giving them over to the rest of the Interstellar team — including astronaut Marsha Ivins, who gave detailed input on

aspects such as the craft’s docking system. Nolan built out entire sections of the ring module interior, including the cockpit and the living quarters (the habitat module). Even the stunning images of celestial bodies seen onscreen existed on the set, as opposed to green-screen effects traditionally added later.

“So when you see us on a spaceship, (we) are on a spaceship,” says Hathaway. “And when you see us looking out the window at a celestial body, there is a celestial body projected onto a screen outside a practical window. I don’t know of any other filmmaker who can inspire people to do that.”

The Endurance features four different landing craft, which break away from the main ringed section. Nolan had two almost full-size models of the sleek crafts built and transported to snowy Iceland for key scenes of landing on an icy planet.



Above: “The Endurance”
Left: Cooper (Matthew McConaughey, left) talks to his team during a scene in “Interstellar”.

“It was a serious undertaking, filling the entire cargo hold of a 747 and finding a way to get one (ship) onto a glacier and in the middle of water in Iceland,” says Nolan. “It paid off with shots which would not have been achievable any other way.”

The ships returned to the Los Angeles set and were placed on gimbals with a mounted camera to create shots comparable to NASA footage.

Nolan believes the level of detail helped the actors and will help immerse the viewers. And it made coming to work each day interesting.

“It’s a childhood dream come true to be able to build ships like this and photograph them,” says Nolan. “It’s something I have waited my whole life to do.”

- Story By: Bryan Alexander

BLAST TO THE PAST

Space movies have made a comeback with recent films like “Gravity” and “Interstellar”. A look at some past memorable and successful space movies.



2001: A Space Odyssey

1968



Alien

1979



E.T.

1982



Apollo 13

1995



Contact

1997



Gravity

2013

