

BIG MOVIES ON A SMALL BUDGET

READ THE TEXT



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Do you need millions of dollars to make a movie? No. Do you need millions of dollars to make a successful movie? Most people would answer 'Yes' to that question. But would they be right?

We're used to hearing about really expensive Hollywood films. The 1997 Oscar-winner *Titanic* cost \$200 million to make, and more recently, *Spider Man 3*, one of the most successful films of 2007, had a budget of more than \$250 million.

To be successful, however, a film doesn't need to be as expensive as the big Hollywood blockbusters. An example of this is the 2010 movie *Monsters*, which cost less than half a million dollars to make. *Monsters* is set in Mexico and is the story of two people trying to escape from aliens and get back to the USA. The film won several awards and got very good reviews from many film critics – for example, the website *Moviefone* put *Monsters* at number 3 in its list of the best sci-fi films for 2010.

How did they make the film so cheaply? First of all, it only took three weeks to film, and the film crew was just seven people in a van. Secondly, the man who made the film, Gareth Edwards, decided to film it with digital video, which is cheaper than the usual 35mm film. (The film equipment cost only \$15,000 altogether.) There is also the fact that they used real locations, not a studio. And the cast of the film were Edwards himself and two friends of his – all the extras in the film were people who were just there, and they weren't paid.

Most importantly, Edwards did most of the production work himself. He spent eight months editing *Monsters* and then five months creating the special effects. And he did it all at home on his computer, using non-professional software. The amazing thing is that the final film looks nearly as professional as big, fancy Hollywood productions.

Not everybody liked *Monsters*, of course. One person said: 'That's 90 minutes of my life that I'll never get back.' But overall, it was very well received. And at least it wasn't expensive to make.



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TWO REASONS WHY IT IS POSSIBLE TO SAY THAT MONSTERS WAS
SUCCESSFUL

FOUR REASONS WHY MONSTERS WASN'T EXPENSIVE TO MAKE

THE AMOUNT OF TIME GARETH EDWARDS WORKED ON THE FILM AFTER
FILMING
