

Spaceballs

# Main Facts

Year Made: 1987

Production Company: [Brooksfilms](#), [Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer \(MGM\)](#)

Directed by: Mel Brooks

Written by: Mel Brooks, Thomas Meehan

Genre: Adventure, Comedy, Sci-fi

# Main Actors

1. Mel Brooks
2. John Candy
3. Rick Moranis
4. Bill Pullman

# Major Plot Summary

After squandering the fresh air in the distant planet Spaceball, the good-for-nothing President Skroob orders the arch-villain henchman, Dark Helmet, to abduct the adjacent planet Druidia's Princess Vespa to strong-arm her father, King Roland, to provide them with the code to the planet's atmosphere. Under those circumstances, the seasoned mercenary, Lone Starr, and his trusty half-human, half canine sidekick, Barf, will attempt to save the princess in distress, while at the same time, the ruthless loan shark, Pizza the Hut is after them. But in the end, only he who can harness the mystical and mighty force known only as "The Schwartz", will be able to save the day. *Written by [Nick Riganas](#)*

# Financial Information

Budget: \$22,700,00

Money Made: Gross USA 38,119,483

Special Costs/Limits: Most movies will make franchising deals. Spaceballs was not allowed to do any action figures for the movie.

# Major Quotes

**Dark Helmet**: Before you die there is something you should know about us, Lone Starr.

**Lone Starr**: What?

**Dark Helmet**: I am your father's brother's nephew's cousin's former roommate.

**Lone Starr**: What's that make us?

**Dark Helmet**: Absolutely nothing! Which is what you are about to become.

**Dark Helmet**: [*appearing in the room, lifting up his visor*] I can't breathe in this thing.

**Colonel Sandurz**: We're approaching Planet Druidia, sir.

**Dark Helmet**: Good. I'll call Spaceball City and notify President Skroob immediately.

**Radio Operator**: I already called him, sir. He knows everything.

**Dark Helmet**: What? You went over my helmet?

**Radio Operator**: Well not exactly over, sir... more to the side - I'll always call you first, it will never happen again, never, ever.

# Historical Significance

Parody of several movies, including

- [Alien](#) also known as Aliens part one (1970s) only at the very end of the movie
- [Star Wars](#) (1977) most of the movie is based on this movie
- Star Wars (1983) Yogurt/Yoda's character is based on this movie but the film itself does not due to not having the jungle training scene which later appears in Spaceballs the animated series.
- [Planet of the Apes](#) (1960s and 1970s) just a small scene near the end of the movie
- [Wizard of Oz](#) (1939) a small scene were the 4 heros go to meet yogurt/yoda which parody the wizard from the wizard of Oz.

# Filming Information

Filming Location: [Neuschwanstein Castle, Hohenschwangau, Schwangau, Bavaria, Germany](#)

[Stage 30, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios - 10202 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, California, USA](#)  
(the bridge of Dark Helmet's ship Spaceball One)

[Stage 27, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios - 10202 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, California, USA](#)  
(Yogurt's underground temple)

[Imperial County, California, USA](#)

Special advance made in film: N/A

Source Material: Parody of Star Wars

# Composition/Music

Raise Your Hands

Written by [Jon Bon Jovi](#) and [Richie Sambora](#)

Performed by [Bon Jovi](#)

Produced by [Bruce Fairbairn](#)

Courtesy of PolyGram Records

Heartstrings

Performed by [Berlin](#)

Produced by [Robert Ezrin](#) (as Bob Ezrin)

Courtesy of Geffen Records and PolyGram International Music BV

By Arrangement with Warner Special Products

Hot Together

Performed by [The Pointer Sisters](#)

Produced by [Richard Perry](#)

Courtesy of RCA Records

# Inane Trivia

The scene in which Dark Helmet is playing with his dolls was not in the script. Writer and Director [Mel Brooks](#) came up with the idea on the set one day, and told it to [Rick Moranis](#), who then improvised the entire scene, including the dialogue.

[John Candy](#) ad-libbed the line, "Oh, that's gonna leave a mark", after standing up without undoing his seat belt.

[Mel Brooks](#) came up with the idea for this film when he discovered he had yet to spoof space movies, since he already "destroyed" the western films with [Blazing Saddles](#) (1974), made fun of the horror genre with [Young Frankenstein](#) (1974), and gave silent movies the ax with [Silent Movie](#) (1976).

The Barf costume was operated by three people. [John Candy](#) operated Barf's tail using a hidden control in his paw, while two assistants each controlled an ear. Candy's costume was powered by a thirty-pound battery that he wore on his back.

According to [Mel Brooks](#), [George Lucas](#) loved the film so much, and wrote him a letter after its premiere, saying he thought he was going to bust something from laughing so hard. Lucas also told Brooks had he not chosen to parody Star Wars, Spaceballs would have succeeded as a great adventure film. Brooks said he was extremely flattered by Lucas' compliments and support.

# Accolades/Recognition

The Stinker Awards: Worst Movie

George Lucas was quoted as saying when Mel Brooks has made a parody of you, you've made it.