

ET

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Main Facts

Year Made: 1982

Production Company: [Universal Pictures](#), [Amblin Entertainment](#)

Directed by: [Steven Spielberg](#)

Written by: [Melissa Mathison](#)

Genre: [Family](#) | [Sci-Fi](#)

Main Actors

1. Dee Wallace
2. Henry Thomas
3. Peter Coyote

Major Plot Summary

After a gentle alien becomes stranded on Earth, the being is discovered and befriended by a young boy named Elliott. Bringing the extraterrestrial into his suburban California house, Elliott introduces E.T., as the alien is dubbed, to his brother and his little sister, Gertie, and the children decide to keep its existence a secret. Soon, however, E.T. falls ill, resulting in government intervention and a dire situation for both Elliott and the alien.

Financial Information

Budget: \$10,500,000 (estimated)

Money Made:**Opening Weekend USA:**

\$11,835,389, 13 June 1982, Wide Release

Gross USA:

\$435,110,554

Cumulative Worldwide Gross:

\$792,910,554, 31 December 2002

Special Costs: Special effects in the puppetry

Major Quotes

E.T.: E.T. phone home.

Elliott: You could be happy here, I could take care of you. I wouldn't let anybody hurt you. We could grow up together, E.T.

Elliott: [tearfully, while looking down at E.T.'s plastic-covered corpse] I'll believe in you all my life, everyday. E.T... I love you.

Michael: [imitating Elliot] I found him, he belongs to me!

Elliott: E.T. phone home.

Michael: [astonished] My God, he's talking now.

Elliott: Home.

Elliot: E.T. phone home?

Elliott: [points to window] E.T. phone home.

Elliot: [whispers] And they'll come?

Elliott: Come? Home.

[pulls off wig and hat from his head]

Elliott: Home.

Historical Significance

Based on an imaginary friend created by Spielberg when his parents got divorced.
Sparked a major trend in youth centered movies in the 1980s.

Took over the top spot for highest grossing film from Star Wars A New Hope, a spot it held until 1993 when Jurassic Park took over the top spot.

Major turn in movie advertising. Mars company did not want M and M's associated with the movie and ET, so they used Reeses Pieces instead, estimated to lead to a 300% increase in sales.

Filming Information

Filming Location: Capistrano Lane & Vista Grand Way, Porter Ranch, California, USA, 7121 Lonzo Street, Tujunga, Los Angeles, California, USA

Special advance made in film: N/A

Source Material: Childhood imaginary friend of Spielbergs.

Composition/Music

Most compositions made by John Williams

Accidents Will Happen

Composed by Elvis Costello

Sung A Cappella by Robert MacNaughton (uncredited)

Courtesy of Plangent Visions Music Inc., © 1978

Inane Trivia

[Steven Spielberg](#) shot most of the film from the eye-level of a child to further connect with Elliott and E.T.

Most of the full-body puppetry was performed by a 2' 10 tall stuntman, but the scenes in the kitchen were done using a 12-year old boy who was born without legs but was an expert on walking on his hands.

At one point during filming, [Drew Barrymore](#) was consistently forgetting her lines, annoying [Steven Spielberg](#) to the point where he actually yelled at her. He later found out that she had reported to work with a very high fever. Feeling guilty, he hugged her and apologized repeatedly as she cried and cried. He then sent her home - with a note from her director.

ET's face was modeled after poet [Carl Sandburg](#), [Albert Einstein](#) and a pug dog.

At the auditions, [Henry Thomas](#) thought about the day his dog died to express sadness. Director [Steven Spielberg](#) cried, and offered him the role of Elliott on the spot.

When it was test-screened at the Cannes Film Festival as an unofficial entry, it brought the house down, receiving a standing ovation that had eluded most of the official entries.

Accolades/Recognition

It won four Academy Awards: Best Original Score,

Best Sound (Robert Knudson, Robert Glass, Don Digirolamo and Gene Cantamessa),

Best Sound Effects Editing (Charles L. Campbell and Ben Burtt), and

Best Visual Effects (Carlo Rambaldi, Dennis Muren and Kenneth F. Smith)

Nominated for Nine awards total.