

---

# SECRETS OF STAR WARS

---

Podcast Notes and Analysis

By Annie Powell

BASED ON THE SECRETS OF STAR WARS PODCAST BY FATHER RODERICK AND DOM BETTINELLI

# Notes:

*In this document, the notes from the podcast are typed in black. Follow-up notes and analysis by Annie Powell are typed in blue. These follow-up notes were added after the movie release. The original notes were kept in the order presented in the podcast shows, but were sorted by the topics of:*

---

*CAST*

*PROPS/LOCATIONS/SETS*

*COSTUMES/CHARACTERS*

*PLOT*

---

*The Secrets of Star Wars podcast aired from May 25, 2013- April 21, 2015, and was a presentation by Father Roderick and Dom Bettinelli.*

Credits: Some follow-up information was obtained from the book *Star Wars: The Force Awakens: The Visual Dictionary* by Pablo Hidalgo.

# Cast

Carrie Fisher was the first actor to announce her return.

## CASTING CALL

Late teen female, fit with a good sense of humor, independent. [Daisy Ridley](#); [Rey](#).

Young twenty-something male, witty and smart, fit, but not traditionally good looking. [John Boyega](#); [Finn/FN-2187](#)

Late twenty-something male, handsome, fit and confident. [Oscar Isaac](#); [Poe Dameron](#).

70 something male with strong opinions and tough demeanor. Doesn't need to be particularly fit. [Probably Max von Sydow/Lor San Tekka](#), but really only the general age is right.

Late teen female, tough, smart and fit. [Gwendoline Christie/Captain Phasma](#), even though the age isn't quite right.

40 something male, fit, military-type. [Domhnall Gleeson/General Hux](#).

30 something male, intellectual. [Adam Driver/Kylo Ren](#).

Casting call 1: Daisy Ridley, 2: Domhnall Gleeson, 3: Oscar Isaac, 4: Max von Sydow, 5: not cast yet, 6:?, 7: could be Domhnall Gleeson but maybe other minor character. [2 is probably John Boyega](#), [5 is probably Gwendoline Christie](#), [6 is probably Domhnall Gleeson](#), and [7 is probably Adam Driver](#).1,3 and4 are probably correct. *(This came later in the podcast)*

---

This list may not have all the characters if they have actors in mind already. [For example, you don't see a description for Han, Luke or Leia](#).

Harrison Ford said he'd only be in Episode VII if they would make an Indiana Jones 5. [Whether this was the deal or not, he was in VII, and they are making a 5<sup>th</sup> Indy movie](#).

Open casting sessions all over the U.S. and the U.K.

You can apply digitally for your audition.

The big blockbusters should have unknowns. [The cast was largely made up of unknowns, which helps a new generation of actors gain notoriety and help the Star Wars saga continue well into the future](#).

"Seeking young woman to play 17-18-year-old. Must be beautiful, smart and athletic. Open to all ethnicities including bi- and multi-racial. Must be over 16." -Rachel [This is probably Rey](#).

“Seeking a young man to play 19-23-year-old. Must be handsome, smart and athletic. Must be over 18.”  
-Thomas [This is probably Finn.](#)

“I’m so loyal to George and I owe him so much, he at one time said ‘would you consider playing an Obi-wan type handing Excalibur down to the next generation?’ I said ‘when would that be?’ and at the time he said ‘oh, about 2011.’ I thought ‘gee, as much as I’d like to have a job lined up at the turn of the century’, I was figuring out how old I’d be at that point and I thought ‘well, I don’t know...’” -Mark Hamill, 1983 [He hasn’t quite fulfilled the Obi-wan Kenobi character requirements \(Although his Padawan has turned to the Dark Side, causing him to go into hiding.\)](#)

Casting 7 to 7.2 foot tall male; Wookiee? Gungan? [Probably Joonas Suotamo, Chewbacca’s double.](#)

Ewan McGregor wants to come back, but hasn’t yet been approached. [There is really no reason for him to come back, although he is listed in the cast on IMDb as “uncredited”.](#)

JJ is keen on casting British actors. [Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Gwendoline Christie are all British.](#)

It wouldn’t be Star Wars without Brits. [The Prequel has a bunch of actors pretending to be Brits, but not really any Brits. But British actors make it seem a lot more like Star Wars.](#)

Samuel L. Jackson said that he, Mark Hamill and Ewan McGregor should just go stand around the set and see if they need some old Jedi. [Mark Hamill didn’t need to do that, and it seems really unlikely that they would need any old Jedi. But it is a funny story.](#)

Will we see JJ Abrams’s kids in the movie? [They’re not listed even as uncredited on IMDb, so they’re probably not in it.](#)

Matt Smith (Dr. Who) Auditioned for Star Wars. [He may have auditioned, but he didn’t get a role.](#)

Benedict Cumberbatch is rumored to have a minor role in 7 and the main villain role in 8 and 9. [He’s not cast, though.](#)

R2-D2 is confirmed to be back in VII. [It was good to see him again, even though he wasn’t in it for very long.](#)

When JJ was asked if C-3PO was returning as well, he said: “Well, they have different agents.” [Different agents or not, 3PO was back. Being a droid, he was exactly the way he’s been for the last 70-80 years. :\)](#)

Jesse Plemons has been talking to JJ Abrams about a possible role in VII. [He did not get a part.](#)

Almost every actor is rumored to have a part in Star Wars VII. [Definitely not all of them got a part.](#)

Benedict Cumberbatch, Hugo Weaving, Judi Dench, Michael Fassbender and Michael B. Jordan all rumored to have roles. [None of them did.](#)

Cumberbatch is not likely since he's been in almost every big movie. [Wasn't likely, and didn't happen.](#)

Casting mixed race or black 20-year-old female. [Maisie Richardson Sellers? Lupita Nyong'o?](#)

Female lead already cast. [Daisy Ridley!](#)

Alex Pettyfer was avoiding the question of "Are you in Star Wars?". He confirmed he's been considered for the leading role. [If he was considered, he wasn't cast, even for a minor role.](#)

Gary Oldman has been called for Star Wars. [But isn't in it.](#)

Zac Efron is very embarrassed with Star Wars 7 questions. [I'm not sure why, as he wasn't cast.](#)

Very negative comment on Efron, makes you think he got the part he wanted. [But he didn't.](#)

Ksenia Solo rumored; her character was killed unexpectedly on her other project, makes sense if she had to work on Star Wars. [She wasn't cast either.](#)

Sigourney Weaver? Lily Collins? [Nope.](#)

Adam Driver: American born 1983 strong rumors. [Finally, yes! He plays Kylo Ren.](#)

Adam Driver virtually unknown; mostly known for Lincoln.

David Prowse: 41, Ian McDiarmid: 39; age of villains at first appearance. [Is Kylo Ren the youngest red-lightsaber wielder?](#)

You don't cast Harrison Ford for a tiny role. [He did play a major role alongside Daisy Ridley and John Boyega.](#)

Rumors of Adam Driver playing Jacin Solo. [I completely brushed this idea aside when I first heard it, it was so bizarre, but it turned out to be true!](#)

Lupita Nyong'o (who was in 12 Years a Slave) has met with JJ and is rumored to have the female lead role. [Not the lead, but definitely an important role as Maz Kanata.](#)

The guy who voiced Darth Maul in the Clone Wars didn't show up for his audition because Michael Arndt's script was changed so much. [He must not have wanted to be in Star Wars that much.](#)

They probably won't have the actors in the droids. [Not R2-D2, but C-3PO, yes!](#)

Peter Mayhew is back as Chewbacca.

Adam Driver plays undisclosed villain. [As we now know, he plays Kylo Ren.](#)

Benedict Cumberbatch is not cast.

Maisie Richardson Sellers- descendant of Kenobi? [Probably not. She plays Korr Sella, Leia's ambassador to the Galactic Senate.](#)

R2-D2, JJ Abrams, Harrison Ford, Daisy Ridley, Carrie Fisher, Peter Mayhew, Bryan Burk, Kathleen Kennedy, Domhnall Gleeson, Anthony Daniels, Mark Hamill, Andy Serkis, Oscar Isaac, John Boyega, Adam Driver and Lawrence Kasdan. [R2, JJ, Han, Rey, Leia, Chewie, producers 1+2, General Hux, 3PO, Luke, Snoke, Poe, Finn, Kylo Ren, Larry.](#)

Domhnall Gleeson is Irish, (and the son of Mad-Eye Moody).

Anthony Daniels has embraced Star Wars as the thing he does in life. [He even played C-3PO in The Lego Movie.](#)

John Boyega has a convincing American accent. [It's convincing all right. I wouldn't have thought he was British had I not heard beforehand.](#)

Oscar Isaac is the guitarist in the band the Blinking Underdogs.

Max von Sydow played Emperor Ming in Flash Gordon. [It's cool, since George Lucas loved Flash Gordon.](#)

Witty and smart but not traditionally good looking sounds like a Weasley; Domhnall Gleeson? [I think it's Finn.](#)

Harrison Ford doesn't like Han Solo. [He does a good job playing him, though.](#)

They asked Denis Lawson to come back, but he declined.

Kenny Baker has health problems and David Prowse said he doubts he will be back. [He is listed on IMDb as "R2-D2 Advisor", but was not actually in the droid.](#)

They're only casting Max von Sydow for one movie at a time since he's 85. [And not to mention, his character, Lor San Tekka was killed by Kylo Ren.](#)

Domhnall Gleeson is 31.

Two more female roles have been cast. [Probably Lupita Nyong'o and Gwendoline Christie.](#)

You can sort of tell who's cast by who's hanging around Pinewood, and Katie Jarvis and Maisie Richardson Sellers have been around the studio. [Katie Jarvis was not in The Force Awakens, but Maisie Richardson Sellers plays Korr Sella.](#)

Daisy Ridley is very polite.

Carrie Fisher thinks people should be required to reprise their role in a movie 30 years later.

She said the read-through was surreal. [It seems like it would be, but I can't know, since I wasn't cast.](#)

She said she only plays herself.

There is a band of twins that was filming in Abu Dhabi for Star Wars. The Cantina has a new band! [The only band in the movie, was at Maz Kanata's Castle, but that wasn't filmed in Abu Dhabi. I don't know what their story is.](#)

Carrie Fisher's favorite scene to be in was killing Jabba the Hutt. [I suppose anyone would be glad to have Jabba the Hutt dead, but I'm not sure why anyone would want to kill him. He's so gross!](#)

Lupita Nyong'o and Gwendoline Christie are cast. [They play Maz Kanata and Captain Phasma.](#)

Lupita Nyong'o is an academy award winner.

Mark Hamill does not usually do Star Wars Weekends.

Harrison Ford broke his ankle on the set of the *Millennium Falcon*. He was injured by the door. [I find this quite funny, but I'm not sure why.](#)

Mark Hamill is in much better shape now than two years ago.

Harrison Ford is really in shape.

He's wearing the same kind of glasses as JJ in the picture of them and Oscar Isaac walking through London.

Follow JBoyega and Ridley\_Daisy on Twitter, they're posting up a storm.

Daisy Ridley and John Boyega are working together a lot. [Rey and Finn are in a whole lot of scenes together, so that makes sense.](#)

John Boyega in makeup chair wearing a Captain America shirt. He will not be an alien because there are no alien facial pieces. [He is quite human.](#)

Daisy Ridley tweets John Boyega back a lot.

Gwendoline Christie is in part 2 of *Mockingjay* as Commander Lime.

She's British and will play a Sith or military type, like a bad Mon Mothma, probably. [Captain Phasma is a military type bad guy.](#)

Mark Hamill did a conversation between Luke and the Joker at Star Wars Weekends.

He does not think that VII will live up to the fans expectations. [I know it lived up to my expectations, though I'm not sure about the other fans.](#)

He has not seen the movies since they were in the theaters, he understands the fandom but is not a part of it. [I completely understand. Watching yourself act is so weird!](#)

Carrie Fisher has probably seen the movies more than Mark Hamill or Harrison Ford. [Probably.](#)

Harrison Ford actually broke his leg and had to have an operation (which went well) and he is supposed to be in rehab for 6 months. [Looks like Chewie's going to have to fix that door that broke off!](#)

This reminds us that the characters are older now. [Well, anyone can break their leg.](#)

Harrison Ford is recovering in the U.S.

Gwendoline Christie could definitely play a new Vader. [She played more of an Admiral Motti type, I think. General Hux was the Grand Moff Tarkin, Kylo Ren was the new Darth Vader, and Supreme Leader Snoke was like Emperor Palpatine.](#)

She is really tall and can really act. [Really tall, yes, but I thought she seemed pretty robotic.](#)

Andy Serkis is confirmed to be a mo-cap character. [I'm glad he doesn't really look like Snoke.](#)

Domhnall Gleeson is nervous about being in Star Wars. [He sure didn't show it in the movie. And besides, he's been in Harry Potter! That's almost as big as Star Wars!](#)

Tom Cruise will not be appearing in Star Wars VII. [There's really no reason for him to.](#)

Daisy Ridley and Andy Serkis are excited about being in Star Wars. [Who wouldn't be?](#)

"Look John, we're in LEGO now!" -Daisy Ridley' Twitter post. [That would be SO WEIRD to be a minifigure!](#)

Mark Hamill is at Skellig Michael with his wife and daughter. [He didn't have to bring his whole family for just that one tiny scene, although, who doesn't want to go there? It's beautiful!](#)

Pip Andersen lives by Puzzlewood. [He played the Lead Stormtrooper, who I think is the one who calls Finn a "traitor" at the Battle of Takodana.](#)

Lots of tweets from Daisy Ridley and John Boyega. They're inseparable. "They go through the arc of the movie together" [What's going to happen to them in the next movie? If Rey is on Anch-To with Luke, where's Finn going to be? Probably not with her.](#)

Daisy Ridley Tweets "I saw Yoda!" with a picture of a Yoda puppet and a street performer. The puppet is on stilts. [It would be cool to have Yoda, but I'm okay that he wasn't in it.](#)

Mark Hamill still thinks being in Star Wars is unbelievable. He was not on set during Harrison Ford's accident but Harrison Ford is doing much better. Even if they made a new trilogy Mark Hamill thought they would be ignored and just grow beards. New actors are so talented. Mark Hamill is thinking of asking the "kids" for advice and not give any himself. New characters will be relatable.

Andy Serkis is a moving costume.

He probably has lines; he was paying attention to the read-through. [Supreme Leader Snoke did have lines, though not many.](#)



Christina Chong—cast late in the game—minor role—no character yet. [She is not listed on IMDb for the cast of The Force Awakens. I think this was a false rumor.](#)

Picture of Harrison Ford with a slight beard; he could have just been lazy. [Han actually did have a slight beard in the movie.](#)

Kira stunt double trailer at Greenham Common. [I don't think Rey really had any stunts there, so I'm not sure what the trailer was for.](#)

No delay and Harrison Ford is fine and back.

Anthony Daniels turned down the offer to [just] do the voice for C-3PO; he insisted on wearing the suit. [That was great; he looked so real!](#)

JJ cameo likely but cameos will be masked. [If he did have a cameo, it's not listed on IMDb.](#)

Greg Grunberg will have a cameo; he's a childhood friend of JJ's. [He played Snap Wexley, a Resistance X-Wing pilot.](#)

John Boyega posted a picture of Pinewood with the caption "New week, new planet". [There were many planets in this movie.](#)

Liam Neeson will not appear in episode 7. [It would have been a bit odd if he did, he hasn't aged nearly enough. If Qui-Gon Jinn was still living he'd probably be about 100 years old.](#)

Daisy Ridley and John Boyega have deleted their Twitter accounts. [I would have too. There is so much riding on their not telling anyone anything, if they let anything slip it would end in total chaos.](#)

Carrie Fisher has warned Daisy Ridley and John Boyega that they will be Star Wars for 40 years. [And yet they took the part.](#)

Might the concept art of the creature with an armadillo snout and a towel on its head be played by Andy Serkis? [I believe that that character morphed into Maz Kanata; so in that case, no, it wasn't played by Andy Serkis.](#)

Max von Sydow old man drunk in bar probably lived through the Clone Wars. More machine than man, might tell about the lightsaber. [The only thing true here is that he probably lived through the Clone Wars.](#)

Gwendoline Christie probably plays the lead Chrometrooper. [As Captain Phasma, yes.](#)

Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Adam Driver there (I don't know where, I think Greenham Common) with stunt doubles.

Maybe Pip Andersen is mo-cap. [I don't think so, as he plays the "Lead Stormtrooper"](#)

Maybe Adam Driver is a pirate who has the black X-Wing. He's not a pirate, and he most definitely does not fly an X-Wing.

Warwick Davis is returning! He plays Wollivan, a guest at Maz Kanata's Castle.

He was Wald, Weasel, an extra with a giant on Mos Espa and even Yoda. He posted that to this day all of his Star Wars characters' names have started with a "W", so I don't think he played Yoda.

Oscar Isaac plays a good guy! Poe Dameron is a Resistance pilot.

The voiceover in the first trailer is Andy Serkis.

There are no original actors in the trailer. I think they wanted to make us wait a while.

Kylo Ren might be played by Gwendoline Christie. For some reason I find this enormously funny now. 😊

# Props/Locations/Sets

Tatooine makes Star Wars look like a western.

Tatooine has to be in Star Wars 7. *\*laughs uncontrollably\**

Iceland has a bizarre landscape.

Filming Tatooine [Jakku] in Abu Dhabi Desert.

They're filming in Abu Dhabi because Disney deemed Tunisia too dangerous and unstable. *Plus, if they filmed in Tunisia, it would definitely look way too much like Tatooine.*

Round AT-AT foot. Underside of foot shows. Definitely AT-AT foot. *This is part of Rey's house! It's from the part when she's eating and puts on the X-Wing helmet and hears BB-8.*

Hotel in Abu Dhabi booked.

You don't put an AT-AT in your set if you're trying to keep it secret. *Well, you do put an AT-AT in your set if you want it to look real. And I'll say it looked real.*

They're recreating a Mos something on Abu Dhabi. *Not a Mos something, just Niima Outpost.*

There could be props in the background of the read-through photo.

This could be an unfinished set. *It could be, but why would the read-through be on a set? They had to bring in all of those couches and chairs, it makes a lot more sense to have it in a lounge or something.*

Lots of Star Wars actors spotted around London. *It's bound to happen, since the majority of the cast is filming at Pinewood.*

They're filming in Abu Dhabi and Iceland. *Jakku and Starkiller Base.*

Helicopter crash in Iceland.

Tatooine [Jakku] might have a major role probably at the beginning. *Yes, and yes!*

Blast crater on Abu Dhabi. *There is a crater on the picture of the entire planet of Jakku.*

Attack or battle scene on that location. *There was an attack scene, but I don't know if it was on that location.*

Shuttle-like spacecraft, *quadjumper?* tower, *not sure.* centuries old market, *Probably Niima Outpost market.* alien house, *?* buggies powered by jet engines, *sounds like a podracer, but other than that, I'm not sure.* two trucks of explosives, *pyrotechnics for the attack.* scrap metal to be strewn around desert on Abu Dhabi.

Sites marked off by traffic cones. *Not a very effective way to keep spies out, is it?*

Rumored Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher on Abu Dhabi. *When I read this, I feel like someone was hired to tell the exact opposite of everything ☺.*

Market probably Mos Eisley. *It's the market at Niima Outpost.*

Jet engine thing could be a landspeeder. [Possibly.](#)

There will probably be a big scene there but not a battle. [I don't think it was a battle, just an attack, since no one really fought back.](#)

They might go to Korrvan. [They didn't.](#)

Market with two cooking spots [probably the cleaning station Unkar Plutt rents out](#), "full grown Jawa" [I'm not sure about that one](#), cars and extras. It's very hot. Bearded guy in a red costume [maybe Sarco Plank with his mask off?](#), female character [Rey?](#), spy from A New Hope type thing?, big engine [probably just a prop](#), alien camel thing carrying Tatooine chicken [This is Bobbajo and his cage of Snee and his pet wort.](#) (Is the guy's head in the "chicken cage"?) All stuff on Abu Dhabi set.

Tatooine chickens moving around.

John Boyega and Daisy Ridley are in Abu Dhabi.

Daisy Ridley posted a picture of her and John Boyega on camels.

John Boyega filmed a video: "Had to take a different form of transport to work today". He turns the camera around to show he's on a camel. Daisy Ridley is in the background.

Carrie Fisher is not on Abu Dhabi.

We will see lots of action on Tatooine [Jakku]. [Definitely.](#)

Huge creature covered with a blue tarp with a crane in the background. Crocodile/pig/elephant/rhino; Crocopig? Pigophant? You could fit a person in a leg. [This is the happabore, the creature whose water Finn drank.](#)

Bigger and less flexible than a Dewback.

Shield generator type thing; looks exactly like it. [It could have been a shield generator being transported by an Imperial or First Order ship that was shot down.](#)

Global warming on Hoth? 😊

Could this be the Tatooine Zoo? [Oh dear! I'm glad it wasn't!](#)

Circular marketplace reminiscent of Jabba's Sail Barge. [Is this Unkar Plutt's trading stall?](#)

Could be the "Alien House"

Escape pod thing crashed into sand? [Anything could be crashed in the sand on Jakku.](#)

Tech market with cages. [I think this is Unkar Plutt's trading stall as well.](#)

Big engines; bigger than Anakin's podracer engines.

Camouflage netting to cast shadows on the ground? [There were no shadows on Jakku.](#) 😊

Why are there stadium lights? [You'd think Abu Dhabi would be bright enough.](#) 😊

Smoky sky; probably remnants of pyrotechnics. [Yes.](#)

Jawa settlement? Maybe abandoned? [This was never a Jawa settlement](#) 😊.

Dude in a brown costume. [Probably Unkar's thug or Teedo](#).

Ship thing not scale model; landspeeder or Y-Wing? It might hover. [I'm not sure about this one](#).

Run-down fence with warning sign in Aurebesh.

Fence made of copper wires.

White jeeps on sides of the shield generator. [These were not in the movie](#) 😊, they're probably crew or prop transports.

Black smoke and brown tents; market stalls? [Niima Outpost Market](#).

Orange sheets behind extras. ?

Could they be burning garbage? Maybe something's been blown up; the Lars homestead looked like that. Corpses of Jawas? [Probably the attack on Jakku](#).

You don't want to make all that smoke for a background scene.

Escape pod from episode IV? [Definitely not the one from episode IV](#). 😊

This is probably a junkyard. [Or a junkfield](#).

Coruscant shuttle thing on poles attached to fence; gate? [Yes, a very fancy gate later knocked down by Rey in the Millennium Falcon](#).

Too fancy for a junkyard or market. [It is for the market, which possibly, long ago, was a lot fancier](#).

Exact same gate as Ralph McQuarrie's concept art of the Hutt palace.

Market set is huge; the Tatooine [Jakku] scenes will be important. [They were](#).

Moisture vaporator.

Two shield generators; maybe they haven't gotten a bad snowstorm yet? 😊

Boushh-type mask. [Probably belongs to Athgar Heece](#).

Shed.

They're now filming in London with Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford. [What were they using Mark Hamill for?](#) 😊

X-Wing fighter!

Front of the X-Wing too short.

Pigophant in Pinewood Studios hanging by chains.

Its head can be removed.

Neither Lupita Nyong'o or Gwendoline Christie was on Abu Dhabi.

John Boyega posted a Twitter photo of him and Daisy Ridley in London.

The set builders are looking into preserving the set pieces from Abu Dhabi.

Various locations in the new movie. Iceland, Abu Dhabi, Skellig Michael, etc. [Starkiller Base, Jakku, Anch-To](#)

Lots of equipment going to Puzzlewood (a.k.a. Forest of Dean) for Star Wars? Probably. Wooden swords; lightsabers? Jedi wigs? Is this Endor? River planet? Magical looking. [Takodana, where Rey and Kylo Ren first battle.](#)

Skellig Michael is a big mountain. Very rocky, no trees, covered in grass. Monastery and funky buildings that look like stone igloos. [The perfect hideout for a type of monk; Luke Skywalker.](#)

Newscast: "A two-mile exclusion zone has been declared around Skellig Michael off the Kerry coast during filming of a new Star Wars movie..."

Also: "Filming parts of the new Star Wars movie has been continuing for a second day on Skellig Michael off the Kerry coast. Cast and crewmembers were ferried by boat and helicopter throughout the day from the mainland 20 kilometers to the World Heritage Site."

It is not a coincidence that there is a monastery on Skellig Michael. [It wasn't in the movie, though. Will it be in episode VIII?](#)

Luke will not be found on Tatooine unless at Pinewood. Only John Boyega and Daisy Ridley were in Abu Dhabi. [Well, no one was found on Tatooine, but he wasn't on Jakku either.](#)

Blue X-Wing is Ralph McQuarrie's drawing.

Blue X-Wing is an homage to George Lucas and Ralph McQuarrie. [That's pretty cool.](#)

No R2 unit in the JJ video but there could still be an opening. [There's no opening for an R2 unit, but there is an opening for a BB unit...](#)

*Millennium Falcon* set at RAF base at Greenham Common with X-Wing fighters and props. You don't build half a *Millennium Falcon* for a small scene. [These scenes didn't seem big enough to build a \*Millennium Falcon\* set.](#)

Main cast and extras shooting there.

Underground bunkers (designed to survive nuclear attacks) with orange and black X-Wings.

Daisy Ridley and John Boyega filming there? [They did film there.](#)

Big scene, not 3-4 days. [I didn't think it was all that big, but it was definitely bigger than the scene at Skellig Michael 😊.](#)

TONS of extras. [As the Resistance base was filmed there, it makes sense for the majority of the Resistance to be there.](#)

Re-creation Massassi Temple. [There is no temple, however it is where they do the briefing and stuff same as the Massassi Temple in episode IV.](#)

Is this the big battle scene? This was more of a battle preparation, and then the after-battle reunion. There was no battle here.

Main character might fly the black X-Wing. The black and orange X-Wing belongs to Poe Dameron.

Different colored X-Wings for toys. It also makes it easier to recognize them in the movie. Of course it's for toys, you can hardly even see the colors in the movie.

We haven't seen any Imperial ships. Of course, as the Empire is dead. However, the First Order did inherit a lot of the Empire's designs. I believe, though, that they were all CGI.

Military vehicle yellow and gray very Star Wars; fuel cells and personnel?

We might see the home planet of the Sith—red, dusty rocks and lava. No, there weren't even any Sith. Kylo Ren is a Knight of Ren.

John Boyega and Daisy Ridley will be seen on Tatooine [Jakku]. Yes, Rey is from there and Finn met her there.

Rey lives in an AT-AT on its side on Tatooine [Jakku]. The most amazing house EVER! I am so going to live in one someday.

Crashed Star Destroyer, TIE fighters and AT-ST heads on Tatooine [Jakku]. I don't know about the AT-ST heads. But there was a Star Destroyer and TIE fighters.

Inside of AT-AT garage-type with a ship inside. There are no weapons on the ship. The part of Rey's house that we see is not really a garage, more of a raw interior of an Imperial walker. However, she has to park her speeder somewhere, right?

Crashed X-Wings could be recently crashed or old wreckage. They're all from the Battle of Jakku.

Nighttime scene concept art: new R2 units with red details and antennae. Small alien: tiny black eyes, armadillo snout, dark brown skin and towel on head. I think the small alien became Maz Kanata. (The thing that really triggered that thought was the "towel on head". Maz has a sort of beanie hat that reminds me a bit of a towel.)

Huge battle with tons of extras in the Forest of Dean. There was a sort of battle, and there were tons of extras playing guests of Maz's castle.

Recreated Yavin Temple at "Pirate's Cove". I think "Pirate's Cove" is Takodana, and the "Yavin Temple" is Maz's castle.

Greenham Common could be the same planet as Puzzlewood. Greenham Common is D'Qar, Puzzlewood is Takodana.

Cloaked figure holding warped Darth Vader helmet in left hand looking at it with remorse. It's a Star Destroyer in the background. The cloaked figure is Kylo Ren.

Same figure holding "Zorro Hat"; a flaked Vader helmet. He's looking at it with love. I think that this and the previous note's Vader helmets were both ideas for how his helmet would look now. I think they went with the first one.

Rey is on a mountainous snow planet holding a blue lightsaber. She's trying to run with a cyborg force pinching her with a sidekick. [I think this became the lightsaber battle on the Starkiller.](#)

Title of concept art of Rey's ship: Pod Falcon.

Mos Eisley concept art looks just like the set on Abu Dhabi.

The *Millennium Falcon* has scaffolding on it. [I think this is what their idea was for how it would look on Jakku.](#)

Crashed TIE on fire—Abu Dhabi had a smoky crash on set. Maybe the crash was an old TIE that they tried to fly—and failed. [This is the TIE fighter that FN-2187 \(Finn\) and Poe escaped in.](#)

Rey has the ship to salvage other ships. [Well, pieces of ships, anyway.](#)

"Pod Junker" might be another version of "Pod Falcon".

Blue alien in bar—might be new cantina scene. [Maz Kanata's castle had a very different feel to me than the Mos Eisley cantina. The blue alien, as I have said before, is probably Maz herself.](#)

Another or same alien in another concept art with a female and male characters and a droid with a lit lightsaber. [I think this is the scene after the flashback when Maz comes running \(very well, I might add, for someone over 1000 years old\) and tells Rey that the lightsaber is meant for her.](#)

Vader was burned on Endor, but where are his ashes? Yavin IV; where the Expanded Universe Jedi Temple is? Or Korrravan; the home planet of the Sith where he had a grave already? [Probably still on Endor, but I'm not sure.](#)

"Grave Robber" on a Star Destroyer; the Rebels didn't destroy all of the Imperial ships. [Of course, the First Order also built more.](#)

There will be scenes on Yavin IV, which is in disarray. There are X-Wings. This does not look like a government in power. [Not Yavin IV. I think this is D'Qar.](#)

Massassi Temple and Pirate's Cove are both names of concept art. [Probably both referring to Maz's castle.](#)

They are using concept art from IV, too.

Yavin IV Massassi Temple is a big set on Pinewood. There is a map room and a pier. [When I heard that Maz Kanata's castle was filmed in Pinewood, I said to myself, "No, didn't they film it there, at that place, what's it called, oh yeah, Takodana?" Then when I realized what I just thought I burst out laughing. They made it so convincing, I really thought the castle was on Takodana, and that Daisy Ridley and John Boyega and everyone really went there and met Maz Kanata!](#)

Yavin IV is a jungle.

The lightsaber might be Obi-wan's or Anakin's. [It's Anakin's, Luke's and now Rey's.](#)

Mark Hamill and Daisy Ridley were on Skellig Michael.



On Skellig Island there is a landing platform with the *Millennium Falcon* on it and smoke coming from a temple.

There is a throne room on Skellig Island with Grave Robber and Rey entering. They weren't there long enough for this to happen. I think that they planned to have this scene, but had to scrap it and instead had Rey meet Luke out in the open.

### TEASER TRAILER #1

Only one sun over desert. You can have two desert planets, but not two desert planets with two suns. It would be too confusing.

This might not be Tatooine, but that could be confusing. There are only so many different climates, and they've pretty much all been used already in Star Wars before, so they had to start repeating them. I don't think it's that confusing, as Tatooine almost looks messier. Jakku's sand looks neat and manicured, plus it's a little redder than Tatooine.

Lots of Hutttese architecture. Niima Outpost was founded by Niima the Hutt who began the trade of salvaging on Jakku.

In first shot of Rey there is a long-range rifle, but not in the second shot. That's no long-range rifle, that's her quarterstaff! She had probably never wielded a blaster in her life before Han gave her one. The first scene was probably just filmed for the trailer, since she always covers her face when she's riding her speeder. The second one was actually in the movie.

There is an engine behind BB-8 plus Rey's salvage ship and a fence. Rey's speeder is definitely not in the background. However, there is the quadjumper, the ship she and Finn were going to take off of Jakku before the First Order blew it up.

Red light on Stormtrooper blaster. It's probably just to look cool.

Does this planet [Takodana] have the Rebel Base? No, but it did have Maz Kanata's castle.

New X-Wing engine splits in the middle. Which wouldn't work. The engine has to spin, but it can't spin if it's cut in half.

This could be Skellig Michael that they're flying in front of. No, it's Puzzlewood.

Forest scene in Black Park. Very close to Pinewood. Used in Harry Potter.

Side blades not very effective. You could just cut off the emitter.

Lightsaber looks like something you would make from pieces from your local Star Wars Home Depot. 😊

What is he walking towards? Rey and Finn. Or at least, he's trying to find them.

There is a maybe crashed ship in the background. I'm pretty sure there's nothing else in the background except trees.

The radar dish on the *Falcon* is rectangular instead of round. You may recall, at the end of *Return of the Jedi* the round radar dish was knocked off, so they got another one. I'll put it this way. If you accidentally drop your iPhone 3G in your backyard fire pit and it melts, and you've had it for years, you're not going to go out and buy another iPhone 3G, you're going to buy the newest, or at least second-newest model. So if you lose a radar dish in the *Death Star II* as it's blowing up, you're going to get the latest model, not another round one like you've had for years.

Vapor trails behind the *Falcon*.

The *Falcon* is not shooting at anyone or thing. The gun was stuck.

Luke's/Anakin's lightsaber sound at the end.

## TEASER TRAILER #2

Desert is Jakku, not Tatooine.

Crashed X-Wings and Star Destroyers are old wreckage. They're from the Battle of Jakku, which took place in 5 ABY. The *Force Awakens* takes place in 34 ABY.

The ship is an *Executor* class Star Destroyer.

Darth Vader helmet could be in an Imperial thing or in a museum. It is in a First Order ship; the *Finalizer*.

Having Vader's helmet says "This is Star Wars". I think it probably helped sell tickets. ☺

It's Anakin's lightsaber. And Luke's. And Rey's.

This lightsaber will be passed onto the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Skywalker! ? maybe. I think Rey is Luke's daughter, so maybe!

Kylo Ren is in the fire scene. That was the attack on Tuanul, the first village we saw on Jakku.

Some fans say the insignia is an abstract Sarlaac pit and Boba Fett is the Emperor. No, I think Boba Fett is gone for good.

Snow in the background.

White TIE fighters. I think it's been long enough for the TIEs to have an upgrade ☺.

Cannons in the background. Of course, it's a superweapon!

Platform looks concrete but also like a ship. I don't think it's a ship.

This was probably filmed in Iceland. Yes, it was.

What's Rey holding? Ice? I'm not sure, but it's maybe a piece of salvage?

The dice are probably gone in the cockpit of the *Millennium Falcon*. Actually, they're still there! Those are Han's "lucky dice" that he won the *Millennium Falcon* with in a game of sabaac with Lando Calrissian.

# Costumes/Characters

No kids. It would have been a disaster if Luke was 8. Of course! An 8-year-old all alone on such a dangerous planet...

---

## CASTING CALL

The first one sounds like a combo of Han and Leia. Their daughter? It could be a lead role. I think this is Rey. Is she Han and Leia's daughter? You'd think they would have mentioned a lost daughter and not just gone crazy about their lost son.

The second one sounds like Anakin without the whine, Luke, or young Obi-wan. This seems to be Finn.

Third could be skeptical like Han; third in trio. I think Poe followed a bit of a Han personality, though much more loyal.

Handsome = love story. Usually, but if "handsome" is supposed to be Poe, then not so far.

Fourth teacher? Mentor? Pilot? Obi-wan type but not Jedi? Relation to Han? Brother maybe? Chewie relation? Lor San Tekka, probably. Mentor and Obi-wan type but not Jedi are both good descriptions of him. He may have been a pilot as well.

Fifth not twin to first. Soldier? Star Wars is about wars. Captain Phasma? She's a bit of a soldier.

Sixth father to fifth? No. that's probably General Hux.

Seventh bookish Jedi? Geek? Nerd? There's never been intellectual in Star Wars. It sounds like a Marvel villain. Probably Kylo Ren. I don't get the impression of "geek" or "nerd" from him though.

Some may be aliens or droids even. Probably not, if my assumptions are correct.

No comic relief sidekick like Jar-Jar/Chewie. Well, they have Chewie himself, so I don't think it's necessary to have another one.

---

There might be a female Sith; "She-Sith". Captain Phasma is not a Sith, but she is a female villain.

"Rachel was quite young when she lost her parents. She was forced to make her way in a tough, dangerous town. Now 17, she has become street smart and strong. She is able to take care of herself using humor and guts (and brute force) to get by. Always a survivor, never a victim, she remains hopeful that she can move away from this harsh existence to a better life. She is always thinking of what she can do to move ahead." Definitely Rey. Only her parents might not be dead, she's 19, and she's not trying to move away, just find her family. This sounds also like Ezra Bridger from Star Wars Rebels.

Prime candidate for Jedi. She's going to be one! (I hope☺)

“Thomas has grown up without a father’s influence. Without the model of being a man, he doesn’t have the strongest sense of himself. Despite this, he is smart, capable and shows courage when it is needed. He can appreciate the absurdities in life and understands you can’t take life too seriously.” [Finn. Definitely.](#)

Thomas sounds more like a clown and Rachel sounds serious. [Rey wasn’t really funny, but Finn was.](#)

Thomas has no father, neither did Anakin or Luke.

There is potential for greatness or possibility of a fall. [I don’t think there’s “possibility of a fall” for Finn.](#)

The bad guy has to be British. [Has to be? Has to be? Come on, Vader wasn’t British, Palpatine wasn’t British...](#)

Hugo Weaving is a Grand Admiral Thrawn type; JJ Abrams talked to him about possibly playing an Imperial Officer.

Judi Dench speculated to be older Mon Mothma. [But isn’t Caroline Blackiston still acting? Why wouldn’t they just use her? Besides, Mon Mothma was not in the movie.](#)

Will we see Darth Vader? [Yes! Or his helmet, anyway.](#)

The female lead is going to be a big deal. [Definitely. Rey is AMAZING!](#)

What if she is the main character? [She definitely is.](#)

What if she’s masked and you think she’s a dude? [That’s what happened to Captain Phasma. It took me forever to figure out that she was played by Gwendoline Christie.](#)

Early rumors point Alex Pettyfer to Luke’s son. [Rumors, yes; facts, no. Well maybe early facts. But I don’t think he was ever cast.](#)

They can get away with changing the Original Trilogy characters’ ages. [Yes, but why? It’s pretty much been the same number of standard years as Earth years.](#)

You can’t bring back Han without Chewie. [But you have to be able to bring back Chewie without Han. They at least need to be able to give him a proper death scene. \(He’s only 234 years old, still not yet approaching middle age for a Wookiee, so he can’t just die of old age.\)](#)

Villains need to have a menacing voice. [Kylo Ren had a pretty menacing voice.](#)

An actress donated her red hair to Star Wars. [What happened to it?](#)

Daisy Ridley looks a bit like Han and more like Leia, probably their daughter. [Maybe...](#)

Leia and her daughter [Rey] are close but not Han and his son Thomas. [Um, I’m not sure about this.](#)

Domhnall Gleeson could be Luke's son. He's Bill Weasley, so does he have red hair? Luke marries a redhead in the Expanded Universe so he could be their son. *I'm pretty sure General Hux is not Luke's son, but he does have red hair.*

Max von Sydow could be the Sith Master and Adam Driver could be his apprentice. Max von Sydow can't be a Jedi because he's too old. *He may not be able to be a Jedi, but that doesn't mean he has to be evil! He belonged to the "Church of the Force" during Palpatine's rule. He's not Force-sensitive.*

Rumor that Han will have a main role next to the trio. *I actually think he had a main role in the trio. You have Rey and Finn, who else would make it a trio? Poe? No, I think it was Han.*

Rumor Kylo Ren is Han and Leia's son and they have to save him from the Dark Side. *Exactly! Only, Han failed to save him, so now Leia might try. Or Luke.*

Han is not a "let's go play ball" kind of dad. *Definitely not.*

Rey could be Kylo Ren's younger sister who has to turn him to the Light Side. *Possible, but not likely.*

We will see young pilots. *Rey and Poe, for starters.*

We might still see Wedge, but played by someone else. *That would be weird. Let's just call him retired and leave it at that.*

The Ancient Fear could be Max von Sydow. *There's nothing fearful about Lor San Tekka.*

The Sith need their body for power. *So no Force ghosts?*

Maybe all of the Sith are possessed by Sith spirit things? *That's actually a pretty cool idea.*

Lots of people want Lando back, so maybe his son will be? John Boyega could be his son. *Finn is definitely not Lando's son, and even if he was, we won't ever know about it.*

Leia is always the center of the love triangle, first Luke, then Han, then Lando, then Han again.

Domhnall Gleeson says he plays an Aladdin-type character. *Then again, it turns out that that article was fake. He definitely was not an Aladdin character.*

Could Rachel's role have morphed into a male role? *No. Rey is definitely a girl.*

Rey is extremely gymnastic, so the stunt people are training her and being her stunt double.

Both Daisy Ridley and John Boyega are main leads. *Yes.*

John Boyega could be Calrissian Jr. *No.*

The droids should be with Luke. *They should be, but then again, Han should also have been with Leia after Ben turned to the Dark Side.*

Carrie Fisher wants to get Leia right, less British. *She was definitely not very British, but she was a little bit wooden and stiff, but that was just how her lines were. Most people don't tell their life story to someone who already knows it.*

Daisy Ridley's character has to be a pilot. *She was, but this point was made when we were absolutely positive that she was Han and Leia's daughter, and we thought she had to be like Han.*

The *Falcon* is a character. *Kind of like Rocket in the "Little Einsteins" TV show.*

The "new" *Falcon* is cleaner, there's been a dark plate added to the cockpit module.

Will we see parts of the *Falcon* we haven't seen before? *Yes, I think so.*

Gwendoline Christie is tall and she plays a soldier in Game of Thrones. Could she play an Asajj Ventress type? *Yes, while Phasma was not a Force user, she did strike me as a bit of a Ventress type.*

Darth Plagueis is canon but his story isn't.

Mark Hamill has a beard. *And wild hair!*

He looks like Obi-wan. *Not with the hair. He looks more like a crazed maniac than Obi-wan Kenobi.*

It would be weird to have a beard on Han. *He actually has a hint of a beard; but yeah, a full on beard would look funny.*

"Will Princess Leia be blonde?" -a Twitter post of Carrie Fisher with blonde hair. *No, General Organa did not have blonde hair.*

John Boyega is rumored to be the new Luke Skywalker character. *If by "Luke Skywalker character" you mean a whiny Jedi, then no.*

Andy Serkis could play Yoda's son? Weird. *Definitely no. That's creepy. Yoda never had a son.*

Is a female villain kind of old hat because of the Clone Wars? *I don't think that it's old hat.*

Oscar Isaac's role is changed now that Harrison Ford is injured. *Changed to be smaller, maybe? His role was TINY!*

What makes Luke interesting is the people around him, but he himself is boring.

To find Luke, the first place you would look is Tatooine. *Although he couldn't stand it there...*

No reports of Andy Serkis being anywhere, he's probably mo-cap. *Yes.*

Ewoks! They have a shortage of little people. *No Ewoks.*

Gwendoline Christie plays Imperial Officer hunting down a deserter Stormtrooper. *Yeah.*

John Boyega leading movie as defected Stormtrooper. *Yep.*

Gwendoline Christie training with lightsaber. No. I mean, maybe she did, but Pasma did not use one.

John Boyega had to pick out a lightsaber hilt. Why? The lightsaber that he used was old.

At the RAF base there are extras in drab brown uniforms and Rebel pilots—Adam Driver? It looks like him in a pilot suit. Gwendoline Christie is in uniform. Is this really the RAF base? Or maybe those were other actors? Because Kylo Ren and Captain Pasma did not go to D'Qar.

Chrome and black Stormtroopers? Might fly the black X-wing. No. TIE fighter pilots don't fly X-Wings.

Woman Chrome Command Stormtrooper. Captain Pasma.

New Stormtrooper helmet—white with black trim, different shape than before.

Chrome Stormtroopers could be guards to villain. Kylo Ren doesn't have any guards.

Naboo guard-like helmet; mashup between trilogies. I don't remember any Naboo guard helmets from VII.

Villains part of aristocratic family.

One of the new characters might be lured to the Dark Side but Luke can't. I actually think Luke could, but not Rey.

Black trousers, white shirt—John Boyega on set. What's with the white shirt? He never wears white; he wears a black shirt with Poe's jacket throughout the whole movie.

Could Finn fly the black X-Wing? He can't fly!

Is he a good guy? Yeah.

We'll never see the Yoda puppet again ☹ always CGI. But maybe not?

Han Solo pre-production art: dark blue winter coat and snow boots with blaster. Other black trousers, dark grey boots, beige jumper, brown coat (from Firefly) with a slit on the back, possibly to ride a speeder bike? The first one is definitely from the Starkiller expedition. The second one...maybe his flying outfit that he wears for most of the movie?

It would be cheesy if Han still wore his classic outfit. He almost does actually, but with a new jacket☺.

Anthony Daniels will be in the suit. Yippee!

Daisy Ridley's costume has tons of gadgets, kind of like Boba Fett. Grey pants, bone colored padding on her arms with brown ties and a visor. Soldier type with a lightsaber. Color scheme: browns and blues. Not a Jedi yet. Definitely Rey.

John Boyega and Daisy Ridley have the main roles in VII; major leads. Yeah, but why isn't Han on the list?

Rey is a trader and a salvager. [Not really a trader, but a salvager, yes.](#)

She tows X-wings with pig-rhino alien and her ship. [She has no affiliation with the happabore, and she doesn't tow entire ships, just valuable pieces.](#)

Finn is a pilot who joins Rey. [Finn is NOT a pilot!](#)

Maybe Rey and Finn are competitors in salvage. [No.](#)

Creature with blue crystal hovering over a fire. [What's this?](#)

Is Adam Driver Han Solo's son? [Um, yeah.](#)

Chrome Stormtrooper's leader carries a lightsaber. [Kylo Ren? Yeah.](#)

Concept art of Chewie with a mechanical arm. [Instead, I think, he's just bandaged. Much less violent.](#)

Is the cloaked figure in the concept art just a clone of Luke? [I think it's either Snoke, Kylo Ren, or possibly Luke.](#)

On Puzzelewood there are small aliens; Warwick Davis will probably be one of these. [Yes, actually, he was on Takodana as Wollivan.](#)

Rey concept art: Daisy Ridley Smuggler Gear. [She's not exactly a smuggler.](#)

Rey might be like Merida; she doesn't want to be a princess like her mom. [That is, IF her mom is a princess.](#)

Finn turns from bad to good and eventually pairs up with Rey. [Not so much eventually...but yeah, he does.](#)

Finn might be a TIE fighter pilot and Rey might save him so he turns good. [Finn can't fly. And Rey doesn't exactly save him, she attacks him.](#)

Max von Sydow plays old guy confused but when they ignite the lightsaber he starts to name-drop some guys from the Clone Wars. He might be Rex or Cody. Might be new Obi-wan type. [He's not really confused. He doesn't see the lightsaber, and he's not Rex or Cody.](#)

Grave Robber: Jedi cloak, metal mask, artificial hand holding burned Vader helmet. Luke Skywalker? [It actually sounds more like Kylo Ren.](#)

He might idolize Darth Vader. As the movies progress he might slowly turn into a Vader-like character. [I think he's already pretty Vader-y.](#)

Luke will or will appear to have turned to the Dark Side where he will train a new generation of Sith, not Jedi. [I don't think anyone can tell if he's turned to the Dark Side.](#)



Rey wielding blue lightsaber with her left hand and evil guy carrying a red lightsaber with his left hand and another guy crouched behind evil guy. "Another guy" is Finn.

John Boyega popping up in the trailer was very Lost.

He looks lost, kind of scared and confused. He should be.

New Stormtrooper armor looks more realistic. Yeah, they look much less like low-budget craft projects. Now that's not to insult the Imperial Stormtroopers, but the new ones are definitely more realistic.

Rey wears glasses made from Stormtrooper goggles. Not glasses exactly, but goggles. Made from goggles.

BB-8 is Rey's droid. Not really, she didn't want him at all.

Some fans were like; "What? They decapitated R2-D2?" it's too cutesy and fans were upset. BB-8 is ORANGE! R2-D2 is BLUE! Their heads are a lot different too. Why couldn't astromech droids have progressed a little?

Ralph McQuarrie's first R2 concept art was this droid. This is a bit of a controversial subject; JJ Abrams also said he designed it. So who did?

The head is the droid, according to McQuarrie, and the ball is just sort of his vehicle.

Burnt orange matches Tatooine. Or Jakku.

The Stormtroopers almost look scarier. Yeah, the Imperial ones weren't very real looking. These are definitely real looking.

The trooper in the middle is "a little short for a Stormtrooper". They're probably not clones anymore. Hux confirms that.

No chin strap on the X-Wing helmet. I guess they didn't find it necessary.

Aurebesh upside down that says **ULLN ΔΔ 10E4KΔV** (Pull to inflate) on life jacket. I guess the Resistance does a lot more flying in atmospheres than the Rebel Alliance did.

Some people call Kylo Ren the "Sith Inquisitor". First of all, Kylo Ren is not a Sith. Plus, the Inquisitor is from Star Wars Rebels.

He's right handed.

He's lurching forward igniting his lightsaber with anger.

This is the Dark Side.

This could be the apprentice to "Grave Robber". I think he is the Grave Robber.

He's a crazed maniac hunting Rey and Finn down. I don't know if I completely agree with the crazed maniac thing, but yeah, the rest is true. (All of it 😊)

The voiceover is dark but wise; describing the situation of the universe—Yoda type. Probably not bad guy. No, Snoke is a bad guy.

He'll break the mold.

Are the original characters going to have a main role? Why were the original characters always referred to as a group? They haven't seen each other probably for 10 years.

Why is that guy hooded? Why is his vest thing white?

This is definitely Luke.

There is no "skin" on his mechanical hand. You eventually get to a point where you don't care how something works, you just want practicality. It keeps getting cut off, so he probably got tired of getting it fixed.

The black hood looks like what he wore to Jabba's.

Does the black and white mean he has both sides of the Force? Balance of the Force? Or that he's been "Ordained as a Priest" in that he's a full Jedi?

R2 must be at least 70 years old "Antique Droid". Actually, Artoo is older than that. He probably wasn't new in *The Phantom Menace*, which was approximately (I'm just guessing, based on character's ages) 70 years before *The Force Awakens*.

Small orange-ish hand (like Ahsoka Tano) handing lightsaber to young woman's hand. That orange-ish hand is Maz Kanata. The young woman is Rey. And this scene is actually not in the movie.

Poe might be the Han type "Look at me! I'm so great!" Yes, but he is also very loyal to the Resistance.

There will be many strong female characters throughout the trilogy. Well already we have Maz and Rey and Phasma. Except I didn't get the impression that Phasma was a strong character.

BB-8 was based on a toy ball. Yeah, Sphero.

Kylo Ren will be the new Darth Maul. I got the impression of Darth Vader, rather than Darth Maul.

Kylo Ren probably Sith or "Force-user". Yeah, "Force-user" sounds right. He's a Knight of Ren, an order led by Supreme Leader Snoke.

Who trained him? Luke Skywalker.

There's not a single speck of dirt on the Stormtroopers. Their armor is actually hard to keep clean, and all of the Stormtroopers have to clean their own (I think).

Black figures on the platform [at the Starkiller]. Yeah, General Hux and some others.

Is the main guy the new Emperor? No. He's Hux.

Blood on Finn's helmet. That's from his friend FN-2003.

Finn might be a former Stormtrooper. Yeah, he is.

The floor of the *Falcon* is probably sticky. I don't think there's anything on Jakku to make it sticky.

Han looks a little beat up. He's not a General. He's back to smuggling.

They haven't seen the *Falcon* in a long time. Yeah, Rey stole it from Unkar Plutt who stole it from the Irving Boys who stole it from Ducain who stole it from ME! I mean, Han Solo.

# Plot

Will have: opening crawl, John Williams, droids [R2-D2, C-3PO], lightsabers, space. [No matter how short their scenes were, all five of these appeared in the final film.](#)

Maybe after the opening crawl it will pan down to the *Falcon* being chased and Han and Leia's kids will be flying it. [Han and Leia's son, Ben, does not fly the \*Millennium Falcon\* at all in the movie.](#)

We will hear the Wilhelm scream, which is found in many movies. [Yes! "First Order Stormtrooper hit by an explosion aboard the Finalizer, as Finn and Poe Dameron attempt to escape in a TIE fighter." \(starwars.wikia.com\)](#)

Luke may or may not marry. [This is still not made very clear.](#)

Luke might own Tosche Station. [Pretty unlikely, as he hasn't been to Tatooine in years.](#)

Training Jedi might be too much for Luke so he goes into hiding and then he is summoned by someone. [Luke's Padawan, Ben Solo, turns to the Dark Side which Luke takes the blame for. He goes into hiding and is finally found by Rey.](#)

VII will be an origin story.

JJ might not want to have Han and Leia's kids. [He probably did, as their son had a major role in episode VII.](#)

Luke, Leia, and Han might be introduced later in the film. [Who, Han, Luke or Leia? Luke was introduced at the very end, Leia was introduced halfway through and Han was introduced toward the beginning.](#)

JJ isn't exactly crazy about Ewoks; there probably won't be any. [There were no Ewoks in the final film; they didn't even go to Endor!](#)

There will be a villain to kill in each movie. [No villains were harmed in the making of this film. Snoke, Kylo Ren, not even General Hux or Captain Phasma were killed. \(At least not explicitly\). This trilogy's villain death rate seems to be following that of the Original Trilogy.](#)

Will this be a family story? [The Force Awakens rode very much on Han Solo's family.](#)

Han and Leia should not be Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru. [While Han was killed, he had much more of an important death scene than Uncle Owen. His death will probably haunt Kylo Ren for years to come. Leia has not yet been killed.](#)

Maybe Han and Leia's kids might not want to be famous like their parents. [Famous in the Resistance? Um, no. Famous in the First Order? Definitely.](#)

Do we have to have Sith? No, actually. Kylo Ren is not a Sith.

Maybe one of Luke or Leia's kids will turn to the Dark Side. Leia's son turned to the Dark Side.

Maybe one of Luke's kids (or his apprentice) turns to the Dark Side so he goes into hiding. Luke's Padawan turns to the Dark Side which Luke takes the blame for so he goes into hiding

The original characters might not be main characters. Depends on which one. Luke and Leia were essential to the story, but don't appear for very long. Han was definitely a main character.

Han might come in halfway through to save the day. He didn't exactly come in to save the day, but wound up doing so anyway. He came in about one-third of the way into the movie.

You have to have a funny guy like Han to give you a break from all the seriousness. Finn and Poe fit the bill! They were almost more funny than Han.

They want to bring back the old humor, not slapstick. They brought back some of the old humor, but also added some more joke-y humor. (Think "So, who's going to talk first, you, me, it's kind of hard to tell with that mask you've got on.")

Rebellion has turned into army? It's not any more of an army than it used to be.

"Late teen female, tough, smart and fit" (5<sup>th</sup> from casting call) might die, but that might be too harsh. I don't know who this is. Maybe Captain Phasma? Whoever it is, nobody died but Han and Lor San Tekka. And maybe some First Order people like General Hux who were on the Starkiller when it melted.

Maybe Chewie died early and is now a rug in front of their fireplace. Leia might be seen rolling it away at the beginning of the movie "Let's get this out of the way". ☹ No, Chewie is alive and in perfect hibernation. Okay, maybe not. He's just waiting at the bottom of Anch-To

All JJ's projects have love stories; but not always romantic: family, etc. There were a lot of love stories going on at once. Rey and Finn, Leia to her son, Han and Leia, Han to his son, Poe and BB-8, Han and Chewie, Rey and Chewie, C-3PO and R2-D2 etc.

"Undoubtedly"-JJ, when asked if there will be a love story in Star Wars. He kept his word.

JJ wants to leave some mystery. I'll say he did! Where in the galaxy did Rey come from? (And she's NOT from classified. That's not a place.)

Pretend midi-chlorians never happened. Luke never heard of them, so who knows? They never mention midi-chlorians. "Strong with the Force" doesn't count, as they say that in the Original Trilogy.

JJ responded to the "Dear JJ Abrams" video; and agreed. It did take place outside, in the frontier. It did look old, it did have mystery and it was not child-proofed!

Even Luke might be messed up; not friendly grandpa-type. That's not clear at this point.

JJ's going to break stuff.

One person who auditioned had to pull a lightsaber out of a bag and not know what it was. [Did Rey know what the lightsaber was before she reached out to touch it?](#)

Maybe everyone has forgotten about the Force. [Definitely not everyone.](#)

It would be cool if everyone has forgotten about the Force and halfway through they find a lightsaber and then it seems like Star Wars. [Halfway through they do find a lightsaber, but not everyone has forgotten about the Force.](#)

Disney does not want to Disney-fy Star Wars. [If the definition of "Disney-fy" is child-friendly, they did a good job.](#)

Is this [Rachel description] a story part, or just how they want the actress to perform? The description is very Star Wars. [See Costumes/Characters] [It sounds very much like Rey, so I believe it is a story part.](#)

Maybe Rachel will be the first female lead! [Rey is definitely the lead character.](#)

Could her street smarts lead her to the Dark Side? [So far, it looks like she's on the way to becoming a Jedi. She will not be turning to the Dark Side anytime soon, if ever.](#)

JJ Abrams's projects are all about the quest for a father. [Rey, as Kylo Ren says, thought of Han Solo as "The father she never had", though she isn't exactly looking for a new father as much as she is looking for her parents.](#)

Lawrence Kasdan said he would not use any previously written material but JJ said "No comment" [They did use some Expanded Universe material.](#)

Star Wars shows that evil is the result of bad choices.

Even though the Emperor is dead, the Dark Side is not over. [Far from it!](#)

It has been rumored that the Emperor could show up as a Force Ghost and train a new Sith. [He didn't need to. Sith essentially train themselves. The Dark Side comes easily once you've turned.](#)

What if Han, Luke and Leia come as a surprise like Yoda did in The Empire Strikes Back? [They were announced to be cast early on which became common knowledge. The question was, when would they appear?](#)

They should have a father/son story. [They did, though not quite as rewarding as Luke and Anakin in episode VI.](#)

There might be the "I am the bad guy" scene at the end with Luke Skywalker. [Maybe he is! Every time I watch that scene I expect him to whip out a red lightsaber and attack Rey. But he's probably not.](#)

They might kill Han, Luke and Leia at the beginning, but the fans would get mad. [They killed Han, though not at the beginning, and I don't think any of the fans got too mad.](#)

Would killing be beyond JJ? [Apparently not!](#)

A great movie needs a great villain.

Coruscant is destroyed by Darth Luke ☺ [Coruscant is not destroyed, and Luke probably hasn't turned to the Dark Side.](#)

Leia probably won't do politics anymore but will become a Jedi. [Wrong! "We went back to doing what we were best at." Leia probably has no aspirations to become a Jedi after what happened to her son.](#)

You need a quest-giver like Princess Leia in IV. [And Princess Leia in VII! She has continued to be the quest-giver even now.](#)

Obi-wan might have a kid or a grandchild in the movie. [Probably not. He most likely was never married and never had any kids.](#)

Obi-wan might have a relative but not a daughter. [Perhaps he has an un-named relative working for the First Order or the Resistance, but still, not likely.](#)

They should create mystery around the villain. [There is plenty of mystery around Supreme Leader Snoke if not Kylo Ren. For instance, how big is he anyway? Is he going to be a Wizard of Oz-type guy who's really tiny but portrays himself as being huge? What is he, anyway? Where did he come from?](#)

We will get action and no answers in VII. [Some answers \(Grandfather Vader\) but mostly action.](#)

What if someone takes Vader's armor? [Kylo Ren did, but not to wear. \(It wouldn't fit so good now after being burned.\)](#)

The only acceptable way to bring back Vader is if Luke turns to the Dark Side and puts on his armor. [And let's hope he doesn't! One Darth Vader is enough for anyone \(though I do miss him\) and his personality would change.](#)

It's unlikely Vader will return. [Well, he died...](#)

They could have a hologram of Vader. [Maybe, but where would it be? Buried somewhere? Or in the First Order Archives?](#)

What if there's a Dark Side Dagobah? [Maybe Korraavan, but it never shows up in the movie anyway.](#)

30 years later, new trio and very familiar faces. [It's more of a two-thirds new trio, as it is Rey, Finn and Han.](#)

They can leave the Expanded Universe intact and have the new movies between 34 and 40 ABY. [They could, but they didn't. At least not all of it. \(But then again, "It's true...all of it."\)](#)

They don't have to have Han and Leia's kids because they're out of the house already. He may be out of the house, but he's still instilling terror in the galaxy. Of course he had to be in it. Now that's not to say they don't have any other kids that we don't know about.

Legal problems with using the Expanded Universe, but Lucasfilm does own the characters. It doesn't really matter, as they didn't use them anyway.

If they use the kids the movie isn't actually that surprising. Even though Kylo Ren was remarkably like Jacin Solo, I'm sure everyone was taken by surprise.

What if another Hutt moved into Jabba's palace and had a walker sent to himself? I'm not a Hutt, and I don't really understand how they think, but I still can't figure out why any essentially immobile creature would want an AT-AT. Besides, it's Rey's house.

Just because the Empire's dead doesn't mean there's nothing left. Of course not! You've got the First Order, which is essentially a weakened version of the Galactic Empire.

Maybe Luke ordered the AT-AT. And, why? He couldn't, even if he wanted it, since he's on Anch-To.

They're not using any Extended Universe. Well, "not any" is a bit of a stretch—I'm no expert on the Expanded Universe, but Kylo Ren seems an *awful* lot like Jacin Solo.

What if Han stays Solo? What if? He hasn't really been solo since before he met Chewie, but at any rate, he's not a family man.

Han will have a large role in VII. He did! They probably had to get his time in before he was killed, so that the fans wouldn't feel shorted.

What if instead of Han being this boring dad he's the old Han and his son is "Thomas" and is no longer with Leia? He is the old Han, but if Thomas was the production name for Finn, he's definitely not Thomas's father. He appears to still be married to Leia, but they haven't seen each other in years.

What if they're going to honor Harrison Ford's wish that Han would die? Unfortunately, they did. However, I think Han had enough good quality time in this movie and his death was well placed.

Han could be a dad who's always gone and they're not a happy family. He is always gone, and they're not really a happy family.

They have the script open to the beginning at the read-through, and Carrie Fisher and Adam Driver are not holding the script. Fitting for Carrie Fisher, as Leia didn't appear at the beginning of the movie. However, Kylo Ren was in the first scene and he did have lines.

What if Han, Rey, Chewie and the droids fly the *Falcon* at the beginning? Rey flies the *Falcon* towards the beginning, but not with Han, Chewie or the droids (that is, if by "the droids" you mean R2 and 3PO).



Maybe Luke tells his son (Domhnall Gleeson) he's not cut out to be a Jedi and his son gets mad and says "What do you know about me? You're gone all the time!" because they live on Tatooine and Luke's always gone looking for new Jedi and his son has to stay there and his frustration turns him to the Dark Side so instead of the son turning the father good the father turns the son good and Luke realizes he has to be a better dad. [Luke did not have nearly a big enough role for any of this to happen.](#)

The Ancient Fear could be metaphorical like Anakin's fear. [Seeing as that didn't end up being the title, I don't really have any information to follow up with.](#)

There is too much good so there needs to be a bad guy. [I personally don't think there's enough good, but since it's \*Star Wars\*, there has to be a bad guy anyway.](#)

Might Lando's son marry Leia's daughter? [Finn is probably not Lando's son, \(and if he is, we won't ever know about it\) and Rey might not be Leia's daughter, and even if they were they might not ever get married, so this probably isn't possible.](#)

Something might draw Kylo Ren to Korravan. [He doesn't go to Korravan.](#)

What if Lando's son (played by John Boyega) and his CGI co-pilot (played by Andy Serkis) are flying the *Falcon*? [Finn is most likely not Lando's son and he can't fly. Neither can Snoke.](#)

We will probably lose a main character. [Unfortunately, yes. We lost our good friend Han Solo. May he rest in peace.](#)

We won't see a Force Ghost of Han ☺ [Um, yeah, doesn't he have a midi-chlorian count of like, 300? Oh wait, I probably shouldn't have brought that up...](#)

We will see a lot of action at the beginning and end. [What, the very end? Or the second to the very end? The lightsaber duel counted as a lot of action, as well as the battle on Jakku at the beginning.](#)

Maybe the band from Abu Dhabi plays at the new crime lord's house. [Maz Kanata is older than Yoda, and is not considered a crime lord. \(That is assuming that the band at her castle is the same band\)](#)

Maybe Rey is on Tatooine [Jakku] because Luke is training her. [Luke has not yet begun to train Rey.](#)

Maybe Leia tells Rey to "Go with Calrissian Jr. and meet him at the Mos Eisley Cantina." [Leia never tells Rey to do anything in the movie, but she probably sends her to train with Luke at the end.](#)

Wouldn't it be funny if Rey (assuming she's Han's daughter) falls in love with a nerf herder and Han says "No, what about that other guy? He's a pilot!" [If Rey has yet fallen in love, it's with Finn. Plus, she might not even be Han's daughter. Probably not, as Han and Leia never mention a lost daughter.](#)

15-20 minutes of movie in Tatooine [Jakku]. [This sounds about right.](#)

One of the new characters has to "Steal dad's car". [Rey and Finn do steal the \*Falcon\*, though not from Han.](#)

Will we see Luke show up in his X-Wing and meet Han in the *Falcon*? Luke doesn't fly his X-Wing, but we do meet Han in the *Falcon*. (Though he's not flying it.)

Finn is shot down by the bad guys and lands on Tatooine [Jakku] and Rey saves him. Finn is shot down with Poe, and Rey does save him when they escape in the *Millennium Falcon*, but not without his help.

It wouldn't be that exciting just to have a search for Luke and have that be the plot and the storyline. Exciting or not, that is the storyline. Of course, there were a couple of other stories going on at once, but the overarching plot was the search for Luke Skywalker.

If they do that, we won't see Luke for hardly any of the movie. Exactly! That's what happened.

Rey and Luke might be visiting the island as teacher and Padawan. New Dagobah? Or could be farewell to Luke ☹️ Not so much a farewell, as much as a hello. Rey's not visiting with Luke, but rather to find him.

If Rey is a Solo, Han and Leia might have sent her to find Luke. Solo or not, I'm pretty sure Leia did send Rey to find him.

VII will be a JJ Abrams script so really quick we'll know who's good, who's bad and get to know the characters. Pretty quick, though I was confused as to what Lor San Tekka was.

Severed hand holding lightsaber—Finn and Rey find it and bring it to Han, who recognizes it as Luke's, who he hasn't seen in 30 years. They go on a quest to find him. Meanwhile the bad guys are constructing a superweapon on an ice planet that can destroy entire solar systems. There was no hand with the lightsaber, but Rey found it. They go on a quest to find Luke, but because of the map, not the lightsaber. The bad guys have constructed Starkiller base, a superweapon that can destroy solar systems.

Big space battle has to have the *Falcon*. This space battle was more of a Return of the Jedi type, with the trio working to disable a shield on the planet and the pilots attacking. The *Falcon* was not in it.

Could there be a battle at Greenham Common on the planet with the stunt double? No pyrotechnics so they could just be preparing for a space battle. There was no battle, they were just preparing for it.

There might be flashback scenes. There was a flashback when Rey touched the lightsaber.

This might be a villain flashback since Adam Driver is an X-Wing pilot. Adam Driver wasn't an X-Wing pilot, so maybe that was Oscar Isaac? Or maybe just an extra.

Luke rebuilt the Jedi Order and went into hiding only 10 years ago. His Force power is so strong he can move mountains and entire planets. He tried to rebuild the Jedi Order and went into hiding after Ben Solo turned to the Dark Side. I'm pretty sure he can't move mountains or planets.

Adam Driver says 7 is all about character and story. “Yeah, I’ve never done anything on this scale before, it is a very exciting project to be involved with. I love it. When I first met JJ Abrams he was all about character and story. That was the first thing out of his mouth...even though it is A Long Time Ago in a Galaxy Far, Far Away it’s still very human, it’s not taking the back seat to effects or the spectacle of it.”  
The characters and story were definitely very strong, and the best points of the movie.

One scene has lightsaber—maybe they found it in an X-Wing. Rey found the lightsaber in Maz Kanata’s castle.

What if the Jedi never came back? Maybe Luke crashed somewhere and never could bring it back. The Jedi haven’t come back yet, but I’m sure they will.

Maybe the story is the main characters have to find Luke. It was!

Rey is startled when Finn ignites the lightsaber. Oh boy, I don’t remember anymore. Was she? I think she was. But I think she was more startled when she touched it.

Two characters at the Forest of Dean fighting with lightsabers and a blaster with huge *Falcon* in the background. Finn and Kylo Ren fought with lightsabers and Rey with a blaster, until Finn was cut open.

Black cloaked figure approached by Rey with a fiery light behind him. Rey expects to find Luke but instead finds “Monster”. Next image the camera is facing Rey. The hooded figure is embracing her and she looks defeated. The *Millennium Falcon* is outside. Maybe she’s turning to the Dark Side. Luke is the hooded figure. Was this maybe an Idea for a Luke scene? Or early concept art for the thing Kylo Ren does to get Rey and Poe’s thoughts?

Is this a Force Cave scene? There wasn’t really a Force Cave scene unless you count Rey’s flashback.

Could the crash on Abu Dhabi be another “Guardians of young Jedi are killed” story? The guardians of the young Jedi (Rey) haven’t revealed themselves yet. That was Finn and Poe’s TIE Fighter.

What if there is a battle above Tatooine [Jakku] that gets Rey involved? More like an escape followed by an invasion to catch Finn and BB-8. Rey gets stuck labeled as a “fugitive”. “You’ve been seen with me, now you’re marked.” -Finn

Blue lightsaber brought to them by a blue alien. I don’t know anything about a blue alien, but I think Maz Kanata was supposed to be blue, since she gets the lightsaber to Rey.

What if there is this mysterious evil guy who needs Vader’s helmet kind of like it’s a Horcrux? By “mysterious evil guy” I’m pretty sure we mean Kylo Ren. I don’t think it had to do anything with being a Horcrux type thing, I think he’s just obsessed with Darth Vader.

George Lucas said that Luke will pass on the knowledge to a new generation of Jedi but maybe JJ Abrams changed it to Sith. Luke actually gets to do both; he trains a Jedi and then he/she turns to the Dark Side. I think Rey will turn out all right though.

Hooded character embracing female character, she has an expression of “No Hope”. I think this is when Kylo Ren is interrogating Rey.

Looks like the TIE fighters are shooting at each other in the first trailer. They’re not shooting at each other; they’re just shooting in the same direction: at the *Millennium Falcon*.

The TIEs are flying towards each other. They’re both flying in the same direction, not at each other.

Imperial Probe Droid sound in first scene.

Maybe that wakes Finn up. I don’t know what wakes Finn up, but there weren’t any Imperial Probe Droids in sight.

Probe Droid might be shot down by Rey. Rey didn’t meet Finn until long after that scene. Plus, she doesn’t have a blaster until Han gives one to her.

Maybe she’s flying the *Falcon*. She is! And she’s doing a mighty fine job considering she’s never flown it in her entire life, and it’s in a state of disrepair.

The Empire is alive. The Empire is dead, but the First Order has risen from its ashes.

You feel like something is wrong. Something is wrong, the Dark Side is back.

The Force might be too big for Luke (like in *Frozen*) so the galaxy is in disrepair. I don’t think the Force is too big for him, I just think he’s being too hard on himself.

There are no Jedi so the bad guys come back. There is one Jedi, and a new hope (Rey), but nonetheless the bad guys came back.

Kylo Ren’s looking for Rey and Finn. He is. He wants Finn since he had betrayed the First Order, and Rey, because she has BB-8.

Maybe Finn has plans or an artifact and that’s why the Stormtroopers are there looking for him. Finn doesn’t, but Poe and BB-8 do, and he wants that map!

“Sith Inquisitor” may be looking for Luke. Everyone’s looking for Luke.

Yes, the Dark Side is awakening, but so is the light. The “Awakening” they’re talking about is Rey, as she’s the only Force powerful person to use they’re powers in years, other than Kylo Ren.

“Wickermen” are white skinned things who fight the Stormtroopers who in turn burn their village and the Hutttese trading post. I don’t know about the “wickermen”, but I do know those Jakku villagers fought the Stormtroopers, who were in turn killed and their village burned. The Hutttese gate was run over by Rey in the *Millennium Falcon*.

Rey has to leave since she can’t trade her stuff. Rey has to leave or be killed! Trading her stuff doesn’t matter to her at that point.

Does the lightsaber sound at the end of the trailer mean Luke will show up at the end? I don't know if that's what they meant to accomplish, but he did show up at the end, mechanical hand and all.

This movie won't be slow; it will move at breakneck speed. It *wasn't* slow.

There will be a very emotional scene. Han Solo trying to bring his son home, and the thanks he gets for it (getting killed), is probably considered the most emotional scene in the film, but there were others.

Rey's living on Jakku by herself, she makes her money by salvaging ship parts and selling them at the market. There's no money involved, it's just her "one quarter portion".

Rey will start to socialize with Finn which she's not used to. She's not used to anything that happens to her in the movie, but socializing with Finn definitely took a lot to get used to.

Maybe Anakin's Force Ghost will be present in some way or another. We didn't in this movie, and we probably won't in any other movies as Hayden Christensen has aged too much, and Sebastian Shaw died years ago.

Maz handing the lightsaber to Rey is another Star Wars parallel like Ben handing the lightsaber to Luke. Passing on the sword to begin your quest is an old theme from King Arthur used in many stories. Yes, and there were other parallels as well.

Kylo Ren could be the failed first Padawan of Luke and Luke retreats. Kylo Ren was, and Luke probably did retreat, otherwise Kylo Ren would know where he was if they trained there.

We need another Vader/Ben battle but NO! Not between Luke Skywalker and Kylo Ren! Luckily we didn't get one, but I almost feel like this is a kind of "stick your kid in a closet and it'll never get hurt" kind of a deal. If Luke always stays in hiding, Kylo Ren will never kill him.

It's the New Order and the Resistance now. It is the Resistance, but it's actually called the "First Order".

Han and Chewie were not flying the *Falcon*. Not in the trailer, and never together, but they did fly the *Millennium Falcon* during the movie.

Evil is always defeated by good. Yes, it is.