

JURASSIC WORLD DOMINION

One Of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing



▶ **RELEASED OUT NOW!**

12A | 147 minutes

▶ Director **Colin Trevorrow**

▶ Cast **Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard, Laura Dern, Sam Neill, Jeff Goldblum, BD Wong**

❖ **As a wise, leather jacket-clad** man once observed, “Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn’t stop to think if they should.” So said Jeff Goldblum’s Dr Ian Malcolm, offering a word of caution to Richard Attenborough’s John Hammond in a pivotal scene from 1993’s *Jurassic Park*. It’s advice you occasionally wish the creators of *Jurassic World Dominion* had heeded, even if this final film in the trilogy is a thrilling, dino-driven action-adventure that finds some space for its characters to breathe.

Following on from *Fallen Kingdom*’s release of a clutch of prehistoric creatures out into the world, *Dominion* seeks to both address its own franchise legacy and keep you on the edge of your seat. It does the latter effectively, to sometimes numbing effect, as

chase scene follows critter confrontation with clockwork reliability. In fact, the whole concept of humans suddenly forced to live alongside the flying/stalking/swimming beasts is essentially just the backdrop for a much more conventional story of finding the whatsit or stopping the bad person from doing the thing (in both cases, this can refer to the kidnapping of Raptor Blue’s baby, Beta, a key plot point). That involves a globe-trotting journey ending up in a giant dino facility which evokes feelings of the locations from Steven Spielberg’s films and the first *World* movie.

Though co-writer/director Colin Trevorrow has certainly scaled up his ambitions from even the widened scope of his first entry in the franchise, there’s a permeating feeling that several of the set-pieces are designed to ape the original trilogy, albeit with more, and larger, dinosaurs. A hefty threat this time is the Giganotosaurus, referred to at least twice as the biggest carnivore to stalk the planet. It is, however, used relatively sparingly, and is just one of the toothy terrors on



“Why do they call it a Giganoto – oh.”



“I said we should go to Champneys instead.”

display here. Among the others that show up to menace/delight the protagonists are Atrociraptors, Ankylosaurs, Baryonyx, Compsognathus, Dreadnoughtus, Quetzalcoatlus and, keeping up the franchise hat-tips, more than one of those poisonous spitting fiends known as Dilophosaurus, offering a nod to Wayne Knight’s ill-fated Nedry. A noddy?

CGI is, naturally, utilised a lot, but there’s still the welcome frisson of seeing animatronics and puppeteering on display, with certain creatures brought to life in reassuringly old-school – ways that

“Finds some space for its characters to breathe”

look completely believable. The biggest villain, nevertheless, is grasping humanity, always seeking new ways to exploit both the animals and the genetic tinkering that has brought them roaring back into the world. *Dominion* dives even further than *Fallen Kingdom* into that idea, swapping an animal auction for underground



dino-rumbles. Most of the baddies are faceless hunters or traders, but the prime wrong 'un is an old one given a new face: Lewis Dodgson, the scheming executive briefly seen in Spielberg's initial outing, and here played by Campbell Scott as a mixture of tech bro stereotypes – he looks like Tim Cook but acts like Elon Musk. You know he's up to no good from the moment you glimpse him, even if you don't know his name/history.

Thank goodness, then, that he's in a franchise sequel designed to unite heroes from previous incarnations and the present

Jurassic ensemble (there's a lot of that legacy casting in big movies right now). While Jeff Goldblum popped up in *Fallen Kingdom*, here he's the catalyst to bring back Laura Dern's palaeobotanist Ellie Sattler and Sam Neill as cranky palaeontologist Alan Grant. They slip back into their old roles with ease, and there's a warm charm to their chemistry. Trevorrow makes you wait for the big team-up with Bryce Dallas Howard's Claire Dearing and Chris Pratt's Owen Grady (who still spends half his screen time looking like he's trying to high-five Raptors), keeping the

two groups apart on separate missions until the final act. Everyone else (Omar Sy, Justice Smith etc) is either a quick cameo or a relatively minor supporting role, though a few people pop against the regulars.

A sometimes uneasy blend of *Bourne*-with-a-Brachiosaurus thriller and *Jurassic* reference box-ticking, *Dominion* still delivers on the dino encounters, while avoiding having its human side trampled underfoot. **James White**

i Souvenirs Chris Pratt took home included the Raptor training clicker, his knife, his Isla Nublar ID and a Raptor tooth.

THEY WALK AMONG US

Four more examples of modern-day dinos

PRIMEVAL

Raptors in a shopping mall, a Mosasaur in a swimming pool, and a Pteranodon on a golf course were just some of the troubling scenarios faced by the team in ITV's noughties family show, in which critters pass through temporal anomalies.



SLIDERS: IN DINO VERITAS

In this season two episode of the parallel universes show, the heroes "slide" to an Earth on which dinosaurs still exist, but are an endangered species, with a nature preserve where San Francisco should be.



DOCTOR WHO: INVASION OF THE DINOSAURS

London is evacuated in this Jon Pertwee tale, in which a group plotting to roll back time empty the capital by transporting dinosaurs from the past via a "Timescoop", thereby pitting UNIT grunts against wobbly puppets.



ANONYMOUS REX

In Eric Garcia's 1999 novel (and the 2004 movie), some dinosaur species survived the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event, reduced in size, and live among us wearing human-suit disguises... The lead character is a Velociraptor private eye!



BBC, ITV, NBC