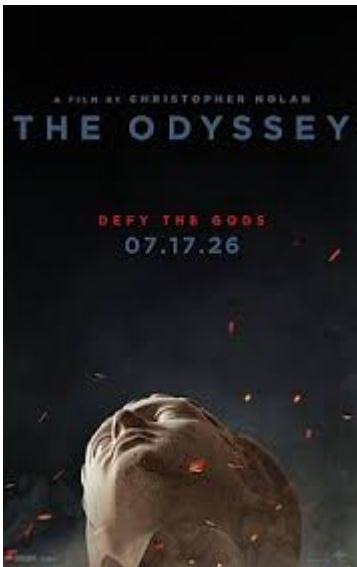


NEXT YEAR IN FILM: 2026 SPOTLIGHT

Christopher Nolan has another masterpiece in store again



With 2025 coming to a close, it's time to preview 2026 movies. Christopher Nolan is arguably one of the greatest directors of all time and he isn't slowing down anytime soon. According to [IMDb](#), Nolan has 234 award wins and 302 nominations for various films from Dark Knight trilogy to Oppenheimer. Nolan is directing "The Odyssey" which releases on July 17, 2026. The film comes with an all-star cast including: Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Zendaya, Anne Hathaway, Robert Pattinson and many more.

Nolan is known for his amazing visuals and using limited CGI. The Odyssey will be no different. "I've been out on the sea for the last four months. We got the cast who play the crew

of Odysseus's ship out there on the real waves, in real places. We really wanted to capture how hard those journeys would have been for people," Nolan said in an [interview](#). Nolan will look to add accolades to his name in which it's projected to be a top film next year.

December 18 includes another "Barbenheimer"



No, there won't be another Barbie or Oppenheimer releasing next year. Instead, two film franchises will be competing against each other to end 2026. Dune and Avengers will be releasing their sequels on December 18 where both could make almost a billion dollars in the box office. Marvel is bringing back Robert Downey Jr. as Doctor Doom in "Avengers Domsday". Downey was revealed at Comic Con 2024 by the Russo Brothers who previously directed the last two Avengers films. Many criticized Downey for coming back but as the saying goes, "money talks." It was originally supposed to release in May 2026 but got delayed.

“Dune: Part Three” will show Timothée Chalamet back as Paul Atreides and the final film of the Dune trilogy. Dune: Part Two was claimed as one of the best films in 2024 and 92% on Rotten Tomatoes. The two films have received praise from its soundtrack by Hans Zimmer to the visual design. Question is: which film will come out on top?

Pixar back again with its sequels



Many people are probably thinking, “really another Toy Story movie?” While many are reluctant to the idea of “Toy Story 5” being made, it’s a good summer movie for kids and parents who need a break during the hot weather. The gang of Woody, Buzz and Jessie will return but this time are facing an opponent unlike any other. The first [teaser trailer](#) released on November 11 where technology poses a threat against the toys.

The last Toy Story film released in 2019 where it made over a billion dollars in the box office. Andrew Stanton will be directing the film who is one of the four original founders of Pixar. Toy Story was the first film Pixar made back in 1995 and it still continues to impact generations. While many think it’s a pointless film or they’re running out of ideas, it still will be a successful film based on its history.

The King of Pop is returning on the big screen



A Michael Jackson film entitled “Michael” will be in theaters on April 26. Jackson’s nephew, Jaafar Jackson, will be portraying his uncle and making his film debut. “Michael” could be one of the most historic films not only for 2026 but all time. It will show Michael Jackson’s life from Jackson 5 to becoming a global sensation. The anticipated [trailer](#) was released on November 7 where it was viewed over 116 million times across media platforms, the most from a Lionsgate movie.

After the release, there could be more films as a sequel to “Michael.” Originally, it was going to be a 3.5-4 hour movie but the studio had to cut it down and do reshoots which forced several delays. “While we’re not yet ready to confirm plans for a second film, I can tell you that the creative team is hard at work making sure that we’re in a position to deliver more Michael soon after we release the first film,” [said](#) Adam Fogelson who serves as Chairman of the Lionsgate Motion Picture Group.