

# 'Star Wars' and 'Rocky,' Separated at Birth?

• The seventh installments of "Rocky" and "Star Wars" debut within a month of each other, on Nov. 25 and Dec. 18. The original films premiered months apart in 1976 and '77, and the two franchises have inhabited parallel universes for close to four decades. Together they changed Hollywood. Both were fantasies that climaxed in thrilling battles, and their success swayed studios away from the moody adult dramas of the early 1970s toward more crowd-pleasing, all-ages blockbusters. As their episodes have rolled out chronologically—as Luke used The Force and Rocky summoned the Eye of the Tiger—they've kept more in common than you think.

—Don Steinberg

'Rocky'  
(1976)



*Two unheralded films about motley underdogs move Hollywood past slow-paced 1970s dramas to crowd-pleasing blockbusters.*

'Star Wars'  
(1977)



'Rocky II'  
(1979)



*Hero has inevitable showdown against his imposing but overconfident archrival.*

'The Empire Strikes Back'  
(1980)



'Rocky III'  
(1982)



*A cartoonishly gigantic villain makes his presence felt.*

'Return of the Jedi'  
(1983)



'Rocky IV'  
(1985)



*Introduction of an unpleasant alien upsets loyal audiences.*

'The Phantom Menace'  
(1999)



'Rocky V'  
(1990)



*A young apprentice learns from the master—but will he betray his mentor?*

'Attack of the Clones'  
(2002)



'Rocky Balboa'  
(2006)



*Questioning his purpose and destiny, a warrior enters into an ill-advised battle.*

'Revenge of the Sith'  
(2005)



'Creed'  
(2015)



*Aging heroes return for what could be their final chapter...*

'The Force Awakens'  
(2015)

