

# **'Interstellar' Film Theaters Versus Digital: How Many More Digital Theaters Are There?**

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If your local theater has a film projector, it’s likely you can see **Christopher Nolan’s *Interstellar*** beginning on Wednesday, two days before the rest of the country. It was the famously old school director’s way to paying respects to the past, and also letting people know his preferred format: film. The problem is, over the past few years, almost every theater in the country has begun to transition to digital projection. It’s cheaper, easier to handle and the quality is higher for longer.

The final numbers have been released and the number of theaters opening *Interstellar* on film versus on digital (which happens Friday) is pretty staggering. Read more about the *Interstellar* film theaters below.

According to [Box Office Mojo](#), 249 screens will open the *Interstellar* on film Wednesday with an additional 3,500 doing it digitally Friday. That’s about a 14:1 ratio and a pretty accurate representation of just how much digital has taken over your local movie theaters. (By format, it looks like around 190 locations will play 35mm prints, around 10 will play 70mm prints and 40 or so IMAX theaters will play 70mm IMAX prints.)

This, of course, was a huge controversy. To combat it some large theaters, [such as the TCL Chinese in Los Angeles](#) which opened with a digital projector, specially installed a film projector for *Interstellar*. Other smaller theaters – such as Portland’s Cinemagic Theater and the Willow Creek Cinemas Twelve in Minnesota – are doing the same. In fact, here’s a video of the latter. Thanks to [Indiewire](#) for the heads up.

[The Hollywood Reporter](#) spoke to other theater owners who were disappointed at Paramount and Nolan for favoring film. “This devalues what we’ve done,” Joe Paletta, CEO and founder of Spotlight Theatres in Georgia, told the trade. “I can’t afford to get the projectors out of the warehouse for two days, and I don’t even have anyone to operate them.” But Paramount seems content giving fans the change to see the film a few days early, even if it’s in a very select number of theaters, especially since the number of screens explodes exponentially on Friday.

Are you going to try and see *Interstellar* on film? [Here’s a list of locations.](#)

- [Exclusive: Get This ‘Interstellar’ Poster At IMAX Theaters Friday](#)
- [Christopher Nolan’s ‘Interstellar’ Will Be Projected in 70mm IMAX at About 50 Locations](#)
- [New ‘Interstellar’ Images With Matthew McConaughey, Casey Affleck, and More](#)
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  - [Video: Meet the New IMAX 3D Digital Camera Used in ‘Transformers: Age of Extinction’](#)
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