

Top Gun

Main Facts

Year Made: 1986

Production Company: Paramount Pictures

Directed by: Tony Scott

Written by: Jim Cash, Jack Epps Jr.

Genre: Action, Drama, Romance

Main Actors

1. Tom Cruise
2. Kelly McGillis
3. Val Kilmer
4. Tom Skerrit
5. Michael Ironsides
6. Anthony Edwards

Major Plot Summary

Code-named "Maverick", Pete Mitchell, the impetuous daredevil Navy-pilot ace, is accepted into Miramar's elite Fighter School, also known as "Top Gun". There, as the impulsive pilot competes with the best of the best, not only will he meet Charlie, the flying school's curvaceous astrophysics instructor, but also the brilliant and highly competitive fellow student, "Iceman", with whom right from the start, he will engage in a reckless contest. As Maverick is haunted by his father's mysterious death, will he be able to suppress his wild nature to win both the prestigious Top Gun Trophy and the girl?

Written by [Nick Riganas](#)

Financial Information

Budget: 15,000,000

Money Made: Gross USA-\$179,800,601 Worldwide Gross - \$356,830,607

Special Costs: Use of real planes for filming

Major Quotes

Iceman: Maverick, it's not your flying, it's your attitude. The enemy's dangerous, but right now you're worse. Dangerous and foolish. You may not like who's flying with you, but whose side are you on?

Iceman: Maverick, it's not your flying, it's your attitude. The enemy's dangerous, but right now you're worse. Dangerous and foolish. You may not like who's flying with you, but whose side are you on?

Maverick: I feel the need...

Maverick, Goose: ...the need for speed!

Charlie: Listen, can I ask you a personal question?

Maverick: That depends.

Charlie: Are you a good pilot?

Maverick: I can hold my own.

Charlie: Great, then I won't have to worry about you making your living as a singer.

Maverick: The point is, I don't want to let the enemy fly over my head. You know, I'm a pilot.

Historical Significance

Increased sales of bomber jackets and Ray Bans

Set records for home video release

Filming Information

Filming Location: [102 Pacific Street, Oceanside, California, USA](#) [Kansas City Barbeque - 610 W. Market Street, San Diego, California, USA](#) [USS Enterprise, Pacific Ocean Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada, USA](#) [Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, California, USA](#)

Composition/Music

Danger Zone

By [Giorgio Moroder](#) & [Tom Whitlock](#)

Performed by [Kenny Loggins](#)

Produced by [Giorgio Moroder](#)

Kenny Loggins courtesy of CBS Records

Lead Me On

By [Giorgio Moroder](#) & [Tom Whitlock](#)

Performed by [Teena Marie](#)

Produced by [Giorgio Moroder](#)

Teena Marie courtesy of CBS Records

Hot Summer Nights

By [Michael Jay](#), [Alan Roy Scott](#), and [Roy Freeland](#)

Performed by [The Miami Sound Machine](#)

Produced by [Emilio Estefan Jr.](#) and [Giorgio Moroder](#)

Miami Sound Machine courtesy of CBS Records

WON ACADEMY AWARD FOR TAKE MY BREATH AWAY by BERLIN

Inane Trivia

[Val Kilmer](#) did not want to be in this film, but was forced to by contractual obligations. However, it became one of his most iconic roles in his career.

[Anthony Edwards](#) is the only actor who didn't vomit while in the fighter jets.

[Tom Cruise](#) actually had to wear lifts in his scenes with [Kelly McGillis](#). Cruise is 5'7" while McGillis is 5'10".

The character portrayed by [Kelly McGillis](#) is based on Christine Fox, a civilian flight instructor the producers met on a visit to Miramar while doing research to prepare for the movie. Fox eventually rose through the ranks at the Pentagon, retiring in May 2014 as Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense, the highest post ever held by a woman at the Department of Defense.

Most of the actors who portrayed F-14 crewmembers received backseat rides in the F-14, and several of the scenes which appear in the film were filmed with the actors in the air.

The highest-grossing movie of 1986.

The film was inspired by an article in the May 1983 issue of "California" magazine about the U.S. Navy's Top Gun School.

Accolades/Recognition

Winner

Oscar

Best Music, Original Song

[Giorgio Moroder](#) (music)

[Tom Whitlock](#) (lyrics)

For the song "Take My Breath Away".

Winner

Golden Globe

Best Original Song - Motion Picture

[Giorgio Moroder](#) (music)

[Tom Whitlock](#) (lyrics)

Song: "Take My Breath Away"

Winner

ASCAP Award

Top Box Office Films

[Harold Faltermeyer](#)

Most Performed Songs from Motion Pictures

[Giorgio Moroder](#)

[Tom Whitlock](#)

For the song "Take My Breath Away".