

Kraven the Hunter (film)

Kraven the Hunter is an upcoming American superhero film featuring the [Marvel Comics](#) character of the same name. Produced by [Columbia Pictures](#) in association with [Marvel Entertainment](#), [Arad Productions](#), and [Matt Tolmach Productions](#), and distributed by [Sony Pictures Releasing](#), it is intended to be the sixth film in [Sony's Spider-Man Universe](#) (SSU). The film was directed by [J. C. Chandor](#) from a screenplay by [Richard Wenk](#) and the writing team of [Art Marcum](#) and [Matt Holloway](#). It stars [Aaron Taylor-Johnson](#) in the title role alongside [Ariana DeBose](#), [Fred Hechinger](#), [Alessandro Nivola](#), [Christopher Abbott](#), and [Russell Crowe](#).

Kraven was considered for film appearances several times before Sony became interested in a standalone film for the character, as part of their new shared universe, in 2017. Wenk was hired in August 2018, with Marcum and Holloway joining later. Chandor entered negotiations to direct in August 2020, and was confirmed in May 2021 when Taylor-Johnson was cast. Further casting took place in early 2022, before filming began in late March in London, England and concluded by mid-June. Shooting also occurred in [Iceland](#), and was expected to occur in [Glasgow](#).

Kraven the Hunter is scheduled to be released in the United States on December 13, 2024.

Cast

- [Aaron Taylor-Johnson](#) as [Sergei Kravinoff](#) / [Kraven](#): A big-game hunter.^{[2][3]} Taylor-Johnson described his take on the character as a conservationist,^[4] a "protector of the natural world", and an "animal lover".^[5]
- [Ariana DeBose](#) as [Calypso](#): A [voodoo](#) priestess and Kraven's love interest.^{[6][7]}
- [Fred Hechinger](#) as [Dmitri Smerdyakov](#) / [Chameleon](#): Kraven's estranged half-brother who is a master of disguise.^{[8][9]}
- [Alessandro Nivola](#) as [Aleksei Sytsevich](#) / [Rhino](#): A Russian mercenary who can turn into a human-rhino hybrid.^{[10][11]}
- [Christopher Abbott](#) as the [Foreigner](#): A mercenary

Kraven the Hunter



Teaser poster

Directed by	J. C. Chandor
Screenplay by	Richard Wenk Art Marcum Matt Holloway
Story by	Richard Wenk
Based on	Marvel Comics
Produced by	Avi Arad Matt Tolmach David Householter
Starring	Aaron Taylor-Johnson Ariana DeBose Fred Hechinger Alessandro Nivola Christopher Abbott Russell Crowe
Cinematography	Ben Davis
Edited by	Craig Wood
Music by	Benjamin Wallfisch

and assassin.^[12]

- Russell Crowe as Nikolai Kravinoff: Kraven's estranged father.^{[10][11][13]}

Additionally, Levi Miller is cast in an undisclosed role.^[14]

Production

Development

Director Sam Raimi planned to include the Marvel Comics character Kraven the Hunter in his fourth *Spider-Man* film before that project was cancelled in favor of rebooting the franchise with *The Amazing Spider-Man* (2012).^[15] Sony Pictures announced plans in December 2013 for *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* (2014) to establish a shared universe—inspired by the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU)—based on the Marvel properties they held the rights to.^[16] Kraven was teased in that film,^[17] with its director Marc Webb expressing interest in seeing the character appear on film.^[18] In February 2015, Sony and Marvel Studios announced a new partnership to co-produce the film *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017), and integrate the Spider-Man character with Marvel's MCU.^[19] Sony announced their own shared universe, "Sony's Spider-Man Universe",^[20] in May 2017.^[21] Sony intended this to be "adjunct" to their MCU Spider-Man films,^[22] featuring Spider-Man related properties beginning with *Venom* (2018).^[21] The studio was considering a Kraven film for the universe.^[23] Before learning that Sony had the film rights for Kraven, director Ryan Coogler hoped to include the character in his MCU film *Black Panther* (2018) because of a fight between Black Panther and Kraven in Christopher Priest's *Black Panther* comic book run.^[24]

Richard Wenk was hired to write a screenplay for *Kraven the Hunter* in August 2018, a month after the successful release of Sony's *The Equalizer 2* (2018), which he wrote. The project was billed as "the next chapter" of Sony's shared universe.^{[3][25]} Wenk was tasked with introducing Kraven to audiences and figuring out which character he could hunt in the film since Spider-Man, considered to be Kraven's "white whale" in the comic books, was unlikely to appear due to the MCU deal. Whether the film would target adult audiences would depend on the audience response to *Venom*'s darker approach.^[3] In October, Wenk said he was "cracking" the story and tone of the film before beginning scripting. He intended to adhere to the character's comic book lore, including by featuring Kraven fighting Spider-Man. Wenk said Sony intended to adapt the *Kraven's Last Hunt* comic book storyline, and there were ongoing discussions over whether to do that in this film or a later one. Wenk compared the latter approach to the two-part film *Kill Bill* (2003/2004). He expressed interest in having *Equalizer* director Antoine Fuqua join the film; Fuqua considered directing Sony's Marvel-based film *Morbius* (2022), and would decide on directing *Kraven* based on the script.^[26] Sony confirmed that a film featuring Kraven was in development in March 2019.^[27]

Jon Watts, director of *Homecoming* and its sequel *Spider-Man: Far From Home* (2019), expressed interest in featuring Kraven in a potential third *Spider-Man* film set within the MCU;^[28] Watts pitched a film pitting Peter Parker / Spider-Man against Kraven to Spider-Man star Tom Holland, but this idea was abandoned in favor of the story of *Spider-Man: No Way Home* (2021).^[29] By August 2020, Art Marcum and Matt Holloway had re-written the script, after doing uncredited rewrites for *Morbius*.^{[30][31]} At that time, J. C. Chandor entered talks to direct the film,^[30] while Matt Tolmach, Avi Arad, and David Householter were set

Production companies	<u>Columbia Pictures</u>
	<u>Marvel</u>
	<u>Entertainment</u>
	<u>Arad Productions</u>
	<u>Matt Tolmach Productions</u>
Distributed by	<u>Sony Pictures Releasing</u>
Release date	December 13, 2024
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$100–130 million ^[1]

as producers.^{[30][32]} Chandor was confirmed as director in May 2021, when Aaron Taylor-Johnson was cast to star as Kraven,^[2] and signed on to portray the character in multiple films.^[2] Sony had previously approached actors such as Brad Pitt, Keanu Reeves, John David Washington and Adam Driver for the role,^[33] but Sony executives moved quickly to cast Taylor-Johnson after they were "blow[n] away" by early footage of him in the film *Bullet Train* (2022). Taylor-Johnson began negotiations shortly after an initial phone call with Chandor and Tolmach.^{[34][35][36]} By July, Jodie Turner-Smith was reportedly in talks to portray Kraven's love interest, Calypso.^[37] That October, Holland said he and Pascal had discussed him potentially reprising his role as Spider-Man in the film.^[38]

Pre-production

Russell Crowe was cast in an undisclosed role in early February 2022. *The Hollywood Reporter* noted that many of the main characters in the film would be members of Kraven's family, with Crowe potentially portraying Kraven's father.^[13] By then, Kodi Smit-McPhee had been offered the role of Chameleon, Kraven's half-brother, but declined due to a scheduling conflict.^[39] Turner-Smith was also confirmed to have not been cast as Calypso.^[40] Later in February, Fred Hechinger joined the cast, reportedly as Chameleon.^[8] In March, Ariana DeBose joined the cast, reportedly in the Calypso role,^[6] Alessandro Nivola was cast as a villain,^[41] and Christopher Abbott was cast as the film's main villain, which was reported to be the Foreigner.^[12] Nivola said he joined the film to work with Chandor again after *A Most Violent Year* (2014).^[42] Taylor-Johnson was preparing for stunt training with Chandor in England, just outside of London, for the following couple of weeks.^[43]

Filming

Filming occurred in Iceland in early February 2022,^{[44][45]} at Lake Mývatn, using the working title *Safari*.^[44] TrueNorth Productions handled the production services,^{[44][46]} with an 80-person crew involved in the shooting over two days.^[44] Principal photography began on March 20, 2022,^[47] in London, England, under the working title *Spiral*.^[48] Ben Davis served as cinematographer after doing so for several MCU films.^{[45][49]} Levi Miller joined the cast in April,^[14] and DeBose confirmed that she was portraying Calypso in the film a month later when she had already been filming in London.^[7] In mid-June, Taylor-Johnson revealed that he had wrapped filming and stated that the film was shot entirely on location,^[5] which he said "add[ed] something really beautiful" to the personal story, and called it important for the authenticity of the character.^[36] Nivola also wrapped filming at that time,^[50] and said the characters' physical abilities in the film were grounded in reality, while Chandor described it as depicting the "most incredible Olympic athlete you've ever seen".^[42] Filming was also expected to occur in Glasgow, Scotland.^[45]

Post-production

In August 2022, Nivola revealed that the film would include a time jump and that his character would physically transform in the third act, which he did not use any visual effects for. He described it as a "classic villain role" with "complex psychology and personal history to draw on".^[42] The following month, Hechinger confirmed that he was portraying Dmitri Smerdyakov / Chameleon.^[9] Later in September, the film's release date was delayed to October 6, 2023.^[51] In April 2023, Crowe and Nivola were confirmed to be respectively portraying Kraven's father and the character Rhino. Taylor-Johnson confirmed that the film would receive an R rating by the Motion Picture Association, the first SSU film to do so.^{[52][10]} In July, the

film's release date was delayed to August 30, 2024, due to the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike.^[53] In August 2023, the film's final writing credits were given: Wenk received sole credit for the story and shared credit for the screenplay with Marcum and Holloway, while off-screen additional literary credit was given to Donny Cates, Chris Bremner, Chandor, Adamma Ebo, Adanne Ebo, Zak Olkewicz, and Oren Uziel.^[54] In April 2024, the film's release date was further delayed to December 13, 2024.^[55] Craig Wood serves as the film's editor.^[56]

Music

Benjamin Wallfisch was hired in June 2023 to compose the score for the film.^[57]

Marketing

Sony debuted the first footage from the film in a "show reel" of the studio's upcoming films at CinemaCon in April 2022.^[58] The first trailer was showcased during Sony's panel at CinemaCon in April 2023.^[10] On June 19, 2023, the trailer leaked online and was subsequently followed by the official poster and a red band trailer the same day.^{[59][60][32]}

Release

Kraven the Hunter is scheduled to be theatrically released in the United States on December 13, 2024, in IMAX and premium large formats (PLFs).^[55] It was previously scheduled for January 13, 2023,^[2] October 6, 2023,^[51] and August 30, 2024.^[53]

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- [Official website \(<https://www.kravenmovie.com>\)](https://www.kravenmovie.com) 
 - *Kraven the Hunter* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8790086/>) at [IMDb](#)
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