

The Nun II

The Nun II (also known as The Nun: Chapter Two) is a 2023 American gothic supernatural horror film directed by Michael Chaves, with a screenplay written by Ian Goldberg, Richard Naing, and Akela Cooper from a story by Cooper. Serving as a sequel to The Nun (2018) and the eighth installment in The Conjuring Universe franchise, the film stars Taissa Farmiga, Jonas Bloquet, and Bonnie Aarons, returning from the first film, with Storm Reid and Anna Popplewell joining the cast. Peter Safran and James Wan return as producers.

In 2017, Wan discussed the possibility of a *Nun* sequel and by 2019, Safran revealed that the film was in early development. Cooper was initially hired as the sole writer, before Goldberg and Naing contributed as screenwriters to the final script. Chaves, who had previously helmed *The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It* (2021) and *The Curse of La Llorona* (2019), was announced as director. Principal photography began in October 2022 in France.

The Nun II was released in the United States by Warner Bros. Pictures on September 8, 2023. The film was a commercial success, grossing \$269 million worldwide and received mixed reviews from critics.

Plot

In 1956, Father Noiret and young Jacques perform their daily chores in their church in <u>Tarascon</u>, France. While investigating a disturbance, Noiret is raised into the air, set on fire, and burned to death before a terrified Jacques who then flees.

Four years following the events at Saint Cartha's monastery, Sister Irene now serves in a convent in Italy. Maurice works at a boarding school in France, where he has befriended a young Irish student named Sophie and her teacher and mother, Kate. Irene has a vision of Maurice asking her to save him. She is dispatched by the Cardinal to investigate a series of deaths across Europe (including that of Father Burke), attributed to the demon Valak, due to her previous experience with the demon. She travels to Tarascon with Sister Debra, a young novice who expresses her difficulty in accepting miracles, such as the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The Nun II



Theatrical release poster

Theathcal release poster	
Directed by	Michael Chaves
Screenplay by	Ian Goldberg
	Richard Naing
	Akela Cooper
Story by	Akela Cooper
Based on	Characters
	by James Wan
	Gary Dauberman
Produced by	Peter Safran
	James Wan
Starring	Taissa Farmiga
	Jonas Bloquet
	Storm Reid
	Anna Popplewell
Cinematography	Tristan Nyby
Edited by	Gregory Plotkin
Music by	Marco Beltrami ^[1]
Production companies	New Line Cinema
	Atomic Monster



A version of the *Saint Lucy* by Italian painter <u>Beccafumi</u> is shown in some sequences

In Tarascon, Irene is haunted by Valak and has a strange vision. Sister Debra tells Irene that she received Noiret's rosary from Jacques. At school, Sophie is bullied by classmates and locked the deconsecrated sealed-off chapel. The bully points out the goat the stained-glass

	The Safran Company
Distributed by	Warner Bros. Pictures
Release date	September 8, 2023
Running time	110 minutes ^[2]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$38.5 million ^[3]
Box office	\$269.5 million ^{[4][5]}

window, claiming the devil appears when the sun shines through and turns the goat's eyes red. One night, the headmistress encounters a sleepwalking Maurice and is killed by Valak in the guise of her deceased son.

Irene and Debra travel to the <u>Palais des Papes</u> and meet with a librarian. He explains that Valak was an angel rejected by God and

the emblem on Noiret's rosary is the family crest of <u>St. Lucy</u>, who was <u>martyred</u> by a pagan. Though she was set on fire, she miraculously did not burn; her eyes were gouged out, but her family recovered them. The librarian suggests the demon is killing St. Lucy's descendants because it wants this powerful <u>relic</u>, last known to be stored in a former <u>monastery</u>-turned-winery. The winery then became the present-day boarding school.

At the school, Irene and Debra face off against a fully possessed Maurice. Sophie shows the women the stained-glass goat in the chapel and they use a flashlight to make its eyes glow red. The red light acts as a laser-like pointer, pointing to where the eyes of St. Lucy are buried. Irene finds the relic and the stained-glass goat vanishes, reappearing in real life as a demonic creature.

As the goat attacks the students, Maurice attacks Irene, chases Sophie, and causes the bell tower to collapse. Debra admits to Irene that she now has faith. Irene uses the relic against Maurice, but he grabs it, causing Valak to appear. Similar to Father Noiret, Valak lifts Irene in the air and sets her ablaze. Irene does not burn as Valak realizes she is a descendant of St. Lucy, able to harness the same power associated with the relic. Irene and Debra pray the Words of Institution as the old barrels of wine in the room become the blood of Christ, banishing the demon and freeing Maurice of possession.

The next morning, Irene leads Maurice outside and helps him to regain his senses. However, she becomes concerned as she watches him going with Sophie and Kate inside.

Cast

- Taissa Farmiga as Sister Irene^[7]
- Jonas Bloquet as Maurice^[8]
- Storm Reid as Sister Debra^[9]
- Anna Popplewell as Kate^[10]

- Bonnie Aarons as The Demon Nun
- Katelyn Rose Downey as Sophie^[10]
- Suzanne Bertish as Madame Laurent
- Léontine d'Oncieu as Simone
- Anouk Darwin Homewood as Celeste
- Maxime Elias-Menet as Jacques
- Pascal Aubert as Father Noiret
- David Horovitch as Cardinal Conroy
- Kate Colebrook as Irene's Mom / Saint Lucy
- Andrew Morgado provides the demonic voice

Additionally, <u>Patrick Wilson</u> and <u>Vera Farmiga</u> reprise their roles as <u>Ed and Lorraine Warren</u> respectively in the mid-credits scene, using archived footage from *The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It*.^[11]

Production

Development

In August 2017, Wan discussed the possibility of a *Nun* sequel and what its story may be: "I do know where potentially, if *The Nun* works out, where *The Nun 2* could lead to and how that ties back to Lorraine's story that we've set up with the first two *Conjurings* and make it all come full circle." [12]

In April 2019, it was announced by <u>Peter Safran</u> that a sequel was in development. Safran stated that there was a "really fun" storyline planned for the film and commented that there was an "inevitability to another *The Nun* movie". [13] Later that month, Akela Cooper signed onto the project as screenwriter while Safran and <u>James Wan</u> agreed to serve as producers. [14]

In February 2022, <u>Taissa Farmiga</u> stated that she had had discussions with Warner Bros. Pictures to reprise her role from the first film while stating that the <u>restrictions</u> on the film industry as a <u>result of the COVID-19 pandemic</u> had delayed the project. <u>[15]</u> In April 2022, <u>Warner Bros. Pictures</u> officially announced the movie as a part of its upcoming slate at the 2022 <u>CinemaCon</u>. <u>[16]</u> The following day, it was announced that <u>Michael Chaves</u> would direct the film. <u>[17]</u>



Former Couvent des Prêcheurs monastery in <u>Aix-en-Provence</u>, the location of the boarding school in the film.



Arc de Boqui in Tarascon, one of the filming locations.

In September 2022, it was revealed that <u>Ian Goldberg</u> and Richard Naing had contributed as screenwriting co-authors of the most recent draft of the script. [18]

Casting

In April 2022, <u>James Wan</u> confirmed that <u>Bonnie Aarons</u> would be reprising her role as <u>Valak</u>. <u>[19]</u> In September 2022, <u>Storm Reid</u> was cast as a new lead. <u>[18][20]</u> In October 2022, <u>Taissa Farmiga</u> and <u>Jonas Bloquet</u> were confirmed to be reprising their roles from the first film, with <u>Anna Popplewell</u> and Katelyn Rose Downey added to the cast later that month. <u>[21][22][10][8]</u>

Filming

Preliminary production photography began on April 29, 2022. [23][24] Filming was originally scheduled to start on September 5, 2022. [25][6] Principal photography began in France on October 6, 2022, [26] and concluded later that year. [27] Filming locations include the former Couvent des Prêcheurs monastery in Aix-en-Provence and rue Proudhon in Tarascon. [28]



Chapelle des Ursulines aka.
Chapelle Sainte Catherine
de Sienne in Aix-enProvence portrays the
church of Tarascon in the
film.

Release

The Nun II was theatrically released in the United States on September 8, 2023, by Warner Bros. Pictures and New Line Cinema. [29]

Home media

The Nun II was released on <u>digital download</u> on October 3, 2023, and on <u>Ultra HD Blu-ray</u>, <u>Blu-ray</u> and <u>DVD</u> on November 14, 2023, by <u>Warner Bros. Home Entertainment</u>.

Reception

Box office

The Nun II grossed \$86.3 million in the United States and Canada, and \$183.2 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$269.5 million. $\underline{^{[4][5]}}$ <u>Deadline Hollywood</u> calculated the net profit of the film to be \$85 million, when factoring together all expenses and revenues. $\underline{^{[31]}}$

In the United States, *The Nun II* was released alongside $\underline{My \ Big \ Fat \ Greek \ Wedding \ 3}$, and was projected to gross \$31–34 million from 3,728 theaters in its opening weekend. The film made \$13 million on its first day, including \$3.1 million from Thursday night previews. It went on to debut to \$32.6 million, topping the box office. In its second weekend the film made \$14.5 million, dropping 55.4% and topping newcomer \underline{A} $\underline{Haunting \ in \ Venice}$ (\$14.3 million). The film made \$8.6 million in its third weekend, topping the box office again whilst narrowly defeating another new release, $\underline{The \ Expendables \ 4}$ (\$8.4 million). $\underline{^{[34]}}$

Critical response

On the <u>review aggregator</u> website <u>Rotten Tomatoes</u>, 52% of 139 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 5.2/10. The website's consensus reads: "Scarier than its predecessor, *The Nun II* makes for an entertaining addition to the *Conjuring* franchise despite not being the most original horror sequel." [35] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 47 out of 100, based on 24 critics,

indicating "mixed or average" reviews. [36] Audiences polled by <u>CinemaScore</u> gave the film an average grade of "C+" on an A+ to F scale (up from the first film's "C"), while those polled at <u>PostTrak</u> gave it a 64% overall positive score, with 47% saying they would definitely recommend the film. [3]

Frank Scheck of *The Hollywood Reporter* wrote, "The filmmaker does a fine job creating a suitably ominous atmosphere (the old-world European locations and Tristan Nyby's gloomy cinematography really help) and orchestrates the violent mayhem, much of it involving terrified little girls, with disturbing relish." *The Times*'s Ed Potton gave the film 3/5 stars, saying it "often flirts with ridiculousness", but praised Chaves's direction, Farmiga and Downey's performances and the finale. CNN's Brian Lowry called the film "a slick if familiar addition to the very fertile *Conjuring* universe that, by deftly expanding on the 2018 hit, appears destined to become another cinematic habit." Dennis Harvey of *Variety* wrote, "In some respects an improvement on its predecessor, in others not, this is finally one more good-enough if unmemorable entry sure to extend the series' life in lucrative fashion."

Bob Smithouser of <u>Plugged In (publication)</u> stated that "The Nun II is one of the purest cinematic versions of palpable image over substance that I've seen in some time." Claire Shaffer of <u>The New York Times</u> said the film "runs like haunted clockwork, shoving characters down dark alleyways or abandoned chapels every five minutes with little justification. Scene after scene builds fear and tension, and then a monster appears, and then ... not much else, in most cases." The Sydney Morning Herald's Jake Wilson gave it 2/5 stars, writing, "The shocks are brief and not too grisly, the dingy Gothic look is as you'd expect, and the mechanical climax steers clear of the more unsettling possibilities that might have emerged if Frenchie's Jekyll and Hyde sides had been meaningfully linked." Mark Kennedy of the <u>Associated Press</u> gave it 1/5 stars, writing, "A new directing and writing team fails to shock or scare with a color-by-numbers plot and a meandering, languid wannabe frightfest."

Accolades

The film was nominated in the category of <u>Outstanding Effects Simulations in a Photoreal Feature</u> at the 22nd Visual Effects Society Awards. [45]

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External links

Official website (https://www.thenunmovie.net/)

- *The Nun II* (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10160976/) at IMDb
- The Nun II (https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_nun_ii) at Rotten Tomatoes

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