

# Venom: Let There Be Carnage

***Venom: Let There Be Carnage*** is a 2021 American superhero film featuring the Marvel Comics character Venom. Produced by Columbia Pictures in association with Marvel, and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing, it is the second film in Sony's Spider-Man Universe and the sequel to *Venom* (2018). The film was directed by Andy Serkis from a screenplay by Kelly Marcel, based on a story she wrote with Tom Hardy, who stars as Eddie Brock and Venom alongside Michelle Williams, Naomie Harris, Reid Scott, Stephen Graham, and Woody Harrelson. In the film, Eddie and the alien symbiote Venom must face serial killer Cletus Kasady (Harrelson) after he becomes the host of an offshoot of Venom named Carnage.

*Venom* was intended by Sony to be the start of a new shared universe, and plans for a sequel began during production on the first film. Harrelson was cast to make a brief appearance as Cletus at the end of *Venom*, with the intention of him becoming the villain Carnage in the sequel. Official work on the sequel began in January 2019, with Hardy and Harrelson confirmed to return along with Marcel as writer. Serkis was hired as director that August, partly due to his experience working with CGI and motion capture technology, which was an important part of portraying Venom and Carnage in the film. Filming took place at Leavesden Studios in England from November 2019 to February 2020, with additional filming in San Francisco in February. The title was announced in April 2020. Marco Beltrami was hired to compose the film's score, replacing Ludwig Göransson from the previous film.

*Venom: Let There Be Carnage* premiered in London on September 14, 2021, and was theatrically released in the United States on October 1, after multiple delays from an initial October 2020 date due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The film received mixed reviews from critics but was a box office success, grossing \$506.9 million worldwide and becoming the seventh-highest-grossing film of 2021. A sequel, *Venom: The Last Dance*, is scheduled for release on October 25, 2024.

## Plot

### Venom: Let There Be Carnage



Theatrical release poster

**Directed by** Andy Serkis

**Screenplay by** Kelly Marcel

**Story by** Tom Hardy  
Kelly Marcel

**Based on** Marvel Comics

**Produced by** Avi Arad  
Matt Tolmach  
Amy Pascal  
Kelly Marcel  
Tom Hardy  
Hutch Parker

**Starring** Tom Hardy  
Michelle Williams  
Naomie Harris  
Reid Scott  
Stephen Graham  
Woody Harrelson

**Cinematography** Robert Richardson

**Edited by** Maryann Brandon

In 1996, a young Cletus Kasady watches helplessly as his lover, Frances Barrison, is taken away from St. Estes Home for Unwanted Children to the Ravencroft Institute. On the way, Frances uses her sonic scream powers to attack young police officer Patrick Mulligan. Mulligan shoots Frances in the eye and suffers an injury to his ear due to her scream. Unbeknownst to Mulligan, who believes he killed her, Frances is still taken to Ravencroft, where her abilities are restricted.

In the present day, Mulligan is now a detective and asks journalist Eddie Brock to speak to serial killer Cletus in San Quentin State Prison, as Cletus refuses to talk to anyone other than Eddie. After the visit, Eddie's alien symbiote Venom deduces where Cletus has hidden the bodies of his victims, which gives Eddie a considerable career boost. Eddie is contacted by his ex-fiancée Anne Weying, who tells him that she is now engaged to Dr. Dan Lewis, to Venom's displeasure. Cletus, who has been found guilty of his crimes and sentenced to death by lethal injection, invites Eddie to attend his execution. Eddie speaks with Cletus, who insults Eddie, provoking Venom to attack Cletus. Cletus bites Eddie's hand and ingests a small part of the symbiote. Back home, Venom has an argument with Eddie about wanting more freedom to eat criminals, and the symbiote decides to leave Eddie's body and go off on its own.

As Cletus's execution begins, a red symbiote emerges and blocks the injection. Named Carnage, it goes on a violent rampage through the prison, freeing inmates and killing guards. Carnage agrees to help Cletus break Frances out of Ravencroft in exchange for Cletus's help eliminating Eddie and Venom. Mulligan visits Eddie at home and warns him about the situation. At Ravencroft, Cletus frees Frances, and they travel to the St. Estes children's home to burn it down. Mulligan grows suspicious of Eddie and arrests him. Eddie contacts Anne as his lawyer and reveals that Venom has separated from him. As Venom makes his way through San Francisco by hopping from body to body, Anne finds him bonded to Mrs. Chen and convinces him to forgive Eddie. Venom reunites with Eddie after first bonding with Anne to get into the police station, and they escape custody. Cletus takes Mulligan hostage, and Frances captures Anne, taking them both to Grace Cathedral where Cletus and Frances plan to get married.

Eddie and Venom arrive to fight Carnage, while Frances seemingly kills Mulligan by hanging him with a chain. Venom is overpowered by Carnage but provokes Frances into using her powers to separate Carnage and Cletus. Venom devours Carnage and kills Cletus, while the collapsing cathedral crushes Frances. Mulligan is revealed to be alive, and his eyes glow blue. Eddie and Venom, now fugitives, decide to take a vacation while they ponder their next steps.

	Stan Salfas
<b>Music by</b>	<u>Marco Beltrami</u>
<b>Production companies</b>	<u>Columbia Pictures</u> <u>Marvel</u> <u>Entertainment</u> Arad Productions Matt Tolmach Productions Pascal Pictures
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Sony Pictures</u> <u>Releasing</u>
<b>Release dates</b>	September 14, 2021 (London) October 1, 2021 (United States)
<b>Running time</b>	97 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$110 million <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Box office</b>	\$506.9 million <sup>[3][4]</sup>

In a mid-credits scene, as Venom tells Eddie about the symbiotes' knowledge of other universes, a blinding light suddenly transports them from their hotel room to another room where they watch J. Jonah Jameson talking about Spider-Man's revealed identity as Peter Parker on television.<sup>[a]</sup>

## Cast

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- Tom Hardy as Eddie Brock / Venom:  
An investigative journalist who is the host of an alien symbiote, Venom, that imbues him with superhuman abilities.<sup>[7]</sup> Director Andy Serkis described Eddie and Venom's relationship as being in the "Odd Couple stage" in the film, with Venom trapped in Eddie's body and just wanting to be the "Lethal Protector" which distracts Eddie from work and putting his life back together.<sup>[8]</sup>
- Michelle Williams as Anne Weying: A defense attorney and Eddie's ex-fiancée, who briefly hosts Venom.<sup>[9]</sup>
- Naomie Harris as Frances Barrison / Shriek:  
Cletus' lover who can create sonic screams.<sup>[10][11]</sup> Serkis described her as a damaged soul who has been living in isolation and has a dark side to her.<sup>[8]</sup> Olumide Olorunfemi portrays a young Frances.<sup>[12]</sup>
- Reid Scott as Dan Lewis: A doctor and Anne's fiancé.<sup>[13]</sup>
- Stephen Graham as Patrick Mulligan: A detective hoping to use Eddie to find the remains of Cletus' murder victims.<sup>[8][11]</sup> Sean Delaney portrays a young Mulligan.<sup>[14]</sup>
- Woody Harrelson as Cletus Kasady / Carnage:  
A psychotic serial killer who becomes the host of Venom's spawn, Carnage.<sup>[15][16]</sup> While in prison, Cletus refuses to talk with anyone besides Eddie, who he considers to be a kindred spirit. Cletus looks different compared to his appearance in the mid-credits scene of *Venom*, which Serkis said indicates the passage of time between films;<sup>[8]</sup> the character's hair was changed for the sequel so it would not be distracting to the audience,<sup>[17]</sup> coupled with Harrelson's dislike for the earlier hairstyle and preference for a more realistic one.<sup>[18]</sup> Harrelson was initially reluctant to provide the voice for Carnage and wanted Serkis to perform it instead, but Serkis encouraged him to find the right tone for the character.<sup>[19]</sup> Jack Bandeira portrays a young Cletus.<sup>[12]</sup>

Additionally, Peggy Lu reprises her role from the first film as convenience store owner Mrs. Chen, who briefly hosts Venom.<sup>[20][21]</sup> Sian Webber portrays Ravencroft doctor Camille Pazzo,<sup>[22]</sup> Larry Olubamiwo appears as a Ravencroft guard,<sup>[23]</sup> and Little Simz appears as herself.<sup>[24]</sup> Footage of Tom Holland as Peter Parker / Spider-Man and J. K. Simmons as J. Jonah Jameson from the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) appears in the mid-credits scene, with both actors uncredited.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Production

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### Development

During the long development of the 2018 film *Venom*, the character Carnage was expected to appear as an antagonist.<sup>[25][26]</sup> During pre-production on that film, the creative team decided not to include the character so they could focus on introducing the protagonists, Eddie Brock and Venom. Director Ruben Fleischer felt that leaving Venom's most formidable villain for a sequel would give the franchise a place to go and would be a natural next step, so Carnage's alter ego, Cletus Kasady, was introduced in a mid-credits scene at the end of the first film with the intention of featuring him in a sequel. Fleischer wanted to cast Woody

Harrelson in the role, feeling there was a natural connection between the character and Harrelson's performance in *Natural Born Killers* (1994), and asked Harrelson while the pair were discussing a sequel to their film *Zombieland* (2009). After meeting with Fleischer and Tom Hardy—who portrays Eddie and Venom—for dinner, Harrelson agreed to take on the part.<sup>[16]</sup> Harrelson described his decision as a roll of the dice since he was unable to read a script for the sequel before signing on to the first film.<sup>[15]</sup> In August 2018, ahead of *Venom*'s release, Hardy confirmed that he had signed on to star in two sequels.<sup>[7]</sup> At the end of November 2018, Sony gave an October 2, 2020, release date to an untitled Marvel sequel that was believed to be *Venom 2*,<sup>[27][28]</sup> which would place the film in the same release timeframe as the first *Venom*;<sup>[27]</sup> box office analysts believed *Venom* had been successful enough to guarantee a sequel would be made.<sup>[29]</sup>

*Venom* writer Jeff Pinkner confirmed in December 2018 that a sequel was happening, but he was not involved in writing it.<sup>[30]</sup> Fleischer reiterated this, saying that he could not discuss a sequel but he saw the first film as Eddie and Venom "coming together. So there's a natural evolution from that to [a sequel where it is] like, okay, now what's it like to live together? It's like a bromantic sort of relationship."<sup>[31]</sup> In January, Kelly Marcel signed a "significant" deal with Sony to write and produce the sequel after also working on the first film's script. This marked the official beginning of work on the film for the studio, and was revealed alongside confirmation of Avi Arad, Matt Tolmach, and Amy Pascal returning as producers. Hardy and Harrelson were also expected to return for the sequel, along with Michelle Williams in the role of Eddie's ex-fiancée Anne Weying. No director was confirmed, with Sony considering replacing Fleischer due to his commitments to *Zombieland: Double Tap* (2019),<sup>[9]</sup> though he still intended to be involved in *Venom 2*.<sup>[32]</sup> By the end of July 2019, Sony hoped for filming to begin that November and had met with several candidates to replace Fleischer as director since he was still completing work on *Double Tap*;<sup>[33][34]</sup> directors the studio met with include Andy Serkis, Travis Knight, and Rupert Wyatt.<sup>[33]</sup> Sony was also interested in Rupert Sanders directing the film, but that "didn't work out".<sup>[35]</sup> Serkis confirmed at the start of August that he had discussed the project with Sony and it was "potentially something that might happen".<sup>[36]</sup>

Serkis was officially hired to direct the film in early August 2019,<sup>[37]</sup> partly due to his experience working with CGI and motion-capture technology as both an actor and director.<sup>[37]</sup> Soon after his hiring, Serkis said Hardy had been working closely with Marcel on the screenplay which was "centered around their take";<sup>[38]</sup> Marcel explained that she and Hardy spent months developing ideas for the film, which is the first time he received a story credit on a project, before she then spent three months writing the screenplay herself.<sup>[39]</sup> Fleischer said he was happy to let Serkis take over the franchise following the negative critical reaction that the first film received, believing reviewers had unfairly treated the "crowdpleasing movie", potentially due to biases against Sony and towards Marvel Studios' rival superhero films.<sup>[40]</sup> By the time Serkis was hired, Hutch Parker had joined the sequel as a producer. A friend of Sony Pictures chairman Tom Rothman, Parker previously served as a producer for several Marvel-based films produced by 20th Century Fox.<sup>[13][41]</sup>

## Pre-production

In September 2019, Reid Scott was expected to reprise his role as Anne's boyfriend Dan Lewis from the first film.<sup>[13]</sup> The character Shriek was also expected to appear as the film's secondary villain and a love interest for Carnage. Many different actresses were looked at for the part,<sup>[42]</sup> before Naomie Harris was cast in the role in mid-October.<sup>[10][11]</sup> Stephen Graham had also joined the film, as Detective Mulligan, by the end of the year.<sup>[8][11]</sup> Tolmach said there was a chance the sequel could be rated R following the success of

the R-rated *Joker* (2019), as well as previous successful R-rated comic book films such as *Deadpool* (2016) and *Logan* (2017). However, Tolmach cautioned that the PG-13 rating of the first *Venom* had led to box office success and they would not be looking to change the franchise's tone simply because it had worked for others;<sup>[43]</sup> the sequel ultimately received a PG-13 rating.<sup>[44]</sup> Tolmach said the biggest lesson learned from the first *Venom* was that fans loved the relationship between Eddie and Venom, and the sequel would focus more on the two characters together because of this.<sup>[45]</sup> Serkis described the relationship as the "central love affair" of the film, and explained that the sequence in the film where Venom goes to a rave and talks about the "cruel treatment of aliens" uses imagery reminiscent of LGBTQIA festivals because the sequence is intended to be Venom's "coming-out party".<sup>[17]</sup> Chinese production company *Tencent Pictures* co-financed the sequel after previously doing the same for the first film.<sup>[46]</sup>

## Filming

Principal photography began on November 15, 2019,<sup>[47]</sup> at Leavesden Studios in Hertfordshire, England, under the working title *Fillmore*.<sup>[48][49]</sup> Robert Richardson served as cinematographer for the film, reuniting with Serkis after they worked together on *Breathe* (2017).<sup>[50]</sup> Filming took place at the campus of London South Bank University in mid-January 2020.<sup>[51]</sup> Hardy revealed that filming in England was completed on February 8, with the production then moving to San Francisco where the film is set.<sup>[52]</sup> Location filming continued in that city for several weeks, taking place in several neighborhoods including the Tenderloin, North Beach, Nob Hill, and Potrero Hill. In Potrero Hill, the Anchor Brewery stood in for a police station, while filming in Nob Hill took place at Grace Cathedral on February 20 and 21. Filming also took place at the Palace of Fine Arts in the Marina District.<sup>[53]</sup> Some filming in San Francisco was impacted by production on *The Matrix Resurrections* (2021), with certain locations such as roads for driving scenes being unavailable to the *Venom* crew because that film was already using them. Helicopters that were being used to film *Matrix* sequences are visible in the background of a scene in the *Venom* sequel which uses dialogue to explain them as being police helicopters searching the city.<sup>[54]</sup> Reshoots occurred at Pinewood Studios.<sup>[55]</sup>

## Post-production

Post-production for the film began shortly before many film productions were forced to shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Serkis beginning work editing the film in London with the editorial department. Once post-production had to be shut down, the film's editor returned to the United States and began working with Serkis remotely to finish editing the film.<sup>[56]</sup> The initial director's cut for the film was around 10 or 15 minutes longer than the final runtime, with Serkis wanting the film to be shorter than expected to make it a "real thrill ride" and to try get to Carnage's introduction with as little exposition as possible.<sup>[17]</sup>

Sony confirmed in April that the film was scheduled to be released on October 2, 2020, and was intended to keep that release date despite the pandemic.<sup>[14]</sup> Later that month, the studio moved the film's release to June 25, 2021, after that date became available due to other COVID-19 related delays. Sony also announced the film's title as *Venom: Let There Be Carnage*.<sup>[57]</sup> An alternate title that was considered for the film was *Venom: Love Will Tear Us Apart*, which was named for the Joy Division song "Love Will Tear Us Apart".<sup>[58]</sup> Serkis felt the delay in release would give more time to improve the film's visual effects, and would help ensure that audience members would be comfortable with going to see the film in theaters.<sup>[56]</sup> The director was excited to adapt the comic book version of Carnage for the screen, and explained that the symbiotes were designed to reflect their hosts, so he differentiated Venom and Carnage by reflecting Eddie

and Cletus, respectively, through their designs, abilities, and movements. Serkis worked with dancers and actors on a motion-capture stage to help define the movements of the two characters, and compared Venom to a quarterback who used brute force. For Carnage, Cletus' psychotic personality is shown through idiosyncratic and off-kilter movements, as well as being able to turn into mist and create "all manner of tendrils". Serkis compared fighting Carnage to fighting with an octopus.<sup>[8]</sup> The film's mid-credits scene was directed by *Spider-Man: No Way Home* (2021) director Jon Watts during production of that film.<sup>[59]</sup>

In March 2021, the film's release was moved back again to September 17, 2021,<sup>[60]</sup> and then moved a week later to September 24.<sup>[61]</sup> In August 2021, amidst SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant surges in the United States, the film was delayed again to October 15, 2021.<sup>[62]</sup> By the end of the month, Sony was reportedly considering delaying the film to *Morbius*'s release date of January 21, 2022, following continued Delta variant surges and low box office returns for films released earlier in August.<sup>[63]</sup> *Variety* reported that the studio was not planning to move the film again at that time,<sup>[64]</sup> but *Deadline Hollywood* described plans to change the film's release date as "the worst kept secret in Hollywood". Following the box office success of *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* in early September, Sony moved the film's release date forward two weeks to October 1.<sup>[65]</sup>

## Music

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Marco Beltrami was revealed to be the composer for the film in December 2020, after previously composing for several Marvel-based films produced by Parker.<sup>[66]</sup> In September 2021, Eminem was revealed to be composing a new song for the film after doing the same for the first *Venom*. Titled "Last One Standing", it was made in collaboration with Skylar Grey, Polo G, and Mozzy.<sup>[67]</sup>

## Marketing

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After announcing the film's official title in April 2020, Sony also released a short teaser featuring the official logo for the film.<sup>[68]</sup> Many fans of the *Venom* comic books criticized the title, with some wondering why the comic book storyline title *Maximum Carnage* was not used.<sup>[69]</sup> Sam Barsanti of *The A.V. Club* also thought *Maximum Carnage* would have worked better, or even *Venom 2*, and negatively compared the official title to films like *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* (2016), *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (2007), and *Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole* (2010).<sup>[70]</sup> *Film*'s Ethan Anderton acknowledged these criticisms, but felt it was a great title given the first film was "surprisingly goofy".<sup>[71]</sup> Vinnie Mancuso at *Collider* agreed, calling it "the perfect title for a beautifully stupid franchise". He said it suggested Sony "knows the kind of property it has on its hands".<sup>[72]</sup> Tom Reimann, also at *Collider*, described the teaser as Sony "proudly showing off the logo of the new film as if the title isn't completely insane".<sup>[68]</sup>

In March 2021, Serkis said a trailer for the film had not yet been released due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Sony waiting until audiences could see it in theaters.<sup>[73]</sup> The film's first trailer was released in May,<sup>[8]</sup> with Ryan Parker of *The Hollywood Reporter* describing it as intense but with some lighter moments. Parker highlighted Harrelson's improved wig compared to the first film,<sup>[74]</sup> as did *Collider*'s Rafael Motamayor,<sup>[75]</sup> and Corey Chichizola at *CinemaBlend*. Chichizola praised Harrelson's presence in the trailer, and expressed excitement at the brief shots of Venom and Carnage,<sup>[76]</sup> with Michael Kennedy of *Screen Rant* noting that the first trailer for *Venom* had received negative responses for not featuring Venom in it and this trailer avoided that problem by showing both of the sequel's symbiote characters.<sup>[77]</sup> A second trailer was released in August, with Sam Barsanti of *The A. V. Club* highlighting the expanded footage of

Carnage as well as the continued focus on Eddie and Venom's chemistry.<sup>[78]</sup> Lauren Massuda at *Collider* concurred with Barsanti on both points, and felt Harrelson had "taken the spotlight" of the second trailer. Massuda felt the sequel appeared more intriguing and mature than the first film,<sup>[79]</sup> while *Screen Rant*'s James Hunt opined that the sequel "already looks much better" than the first film in terms of tone, character, and visual effects.<sup>[80]</sup> In September, a character poster for Anne was alleged to have copied the silhouette of *She-Venom* from fan art published by *DeviantArt* artist spaceMAXmarine in October 2018.<sup>[81]</sup> In December, to promote the digital and then-upcoming *Blu-ray home media* release of the film, a *web series* titled *Chen's Market* was released to *Facebook* and *Instagram Live*, starring Peggy Lu and Santana Maynard, the former reprising their roles from the film, alongside the voices of Hardy and *Jon Bailey*.<sup>[82]</sup>

## Release

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### Theatrical

*Venom: Let There Be Carnage* was screened for fans in London on September 14, 2021,<sup>[83]</sup> and was released in the United States on October 1<sup>[65]</sup> in *RealD 3D* and *IMAX*.<sup>[84][8]</sup> In August 2021, Sony and CJ 4DPLEX announced a deal to release 15 of Sony's films over three years in the *ScreenX* format, starting with *Let There Be Carnage*.<sup>[85]</sup> The film was originally set for release in the U.S. on October 2, 2020.<sup>[14]</sup> It was delayed several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, moving to June 25, 2021,<sup>[57]</sup> September 17,<sup>[60]</sup> September 24,<sup>[61]</sup> and then October 15,<sup>[62]</sup> before being moved back up to October 1.<sup>[65]</sup>

### Home media

The film debuted atop the *iTunes*, *Google Play*, and *Vudu* charts following its release on *PVOD* services in late November 2021.<sup>[86]</sup> In April 2021, Sony signed a deal giving Disney access to their legacy content, including Marvel content in *Sony's Spider-Man Universe* (SSU), to stream on *Disney+* and *Hulu* and appear on Disney's linear television networks. Disney's access to Sony's titles would come following their availability on *Netflix*.<sup>[87][88]</sup>

## Reception

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### Box office

*Venom: Let There Be Carnage* grossed \$213.6 million in the United States and Canada, and \$293.3 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$506.9 million.<sup>[3]</sup>

In the United States and Canada, the film was released alongside *The Many Saints of Newark* and *The Addams Family 2*, with Sony estimating a \$40 million debut and box office analysts predicted it could reach as much as \$65 million in its opening weekend.<sup>[89][2]</sup> The film grossed \$37.3 million on its first day, which included \$11.6 million from Thursday night previews, besting the \$10 million made by the first *Venom* and marking the second-biggest total since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, behind *Black Widow*'s \$13.2 million. In its opening weekend, *Let There Be Carnage* debuted to \$90.1 million, marking the largest opening of the pandemic to that point, and surpassing the opening weekend gross of *Venom* (\$80.3 million).<sup>[90][91]</sup> The film declined 64% in its second weekend with \$32 million, finishing second behind newcomer *No Time to Die*.<sup>[92]</sup> During the weekend ending November 14, *Let There Be Carnage*

became the second film to cross the \$200 million mark at the United States and Canadian box-office during the pandemic, following *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*.<sup>[93]</sup> It ended its box office run as the third highest-grossing film of 2021 in this region.<sup>[94]</sup>

## Critical response

The film received mixed reviews from critics, most of whom praised the performances of Hardy and Harrelson, chemistry between Eddie and Venom, and the mid-credits scene, but criticized the screenplay.<sup>[95]</sup> The review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes reports an approval rating of 57% based on 281 reviews, with an average rating of 5.4/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "A sequel aimed squarely at fans of the original's odd couple chemistry, *Venom: Let There Be Carnage* eagerly embraces the franchise's sillier side."<sup>[96]</sup> Metacritic assigned the film a weighted average score of 49 out of 100, based on 48 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews".<sup>[97]</sup> Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "B+" on an A+ to F scale, the same as the first film, while those at PostTrak gave it a 76% positive score, with 65% saying they would definitely recommend it.<sup>[90]</sup>

Writing for *RogerEbert.com*, Christy Lemire gave the film 3 out of 4 stars and praised Hardy's "gung-ho physical performance".<sup>[98]</sup> Kristen Page-Kirby of *The Washington Post* praised the film, commenting, "It's fast, it's fun, and buried within is a genuinely sweet story about friendship and self-acceptance."<sup>[99]</sup> Tim Grierson of *Screen International* said that Serkis' direction "keeps the rambunctious proceedings relatively taut, making room for operatic action and a sneaky emotional undercurrent that pokes through the broad comedy and comic-book grandeur."<sup>[100]</sup> James Mottram of the *South China Morning Post* gave the film a score of 4/5 stars, writing that the film "is simplified, more focused and even more intimate than its predecessor – employing only a handful of characters and a remarkably stripped down narrative."<sup>[101]</sup> Clarisse Loughrey of *The Independent* also gave the film a score of 4/5 stars, describing it as "a love story written in blood, sweat and the slime of half-eaten brains."<sup>[102]</sup> Tim Robey of *The Daily Telegraph* gave the film a score of 3/5 stars, writing: "*Venom: Let There Be Carnage* is refreshingly nuts, and benefits from being a whole 45 minutes shorter than its predecessor."<sup>[103]</sup> Joe Morgenstern of *The Wall Street Journal* wrote that the film "manipulates its audience with all the tentacles it can deploy, most of them cheerfully ridiculous."<sup>[104]</sup>

Richard Roeper of the *Chicago Sun-Times* gave the film a mixed review, giving it a score of 2/4 stars. He described the film as being "marginally better than the original, with a firmer commitment to the comedic angle and Tom Hardy clearly having a lot of fun", but added: "this vehicle runs out of gas halfway through the yawner of a climax."<sup>[105]</sup> John DeFore of *The Hollywood Reporter* wrote: "The film does develop the chemistry between the titular alien and the human he's forced to inhabit while inside Earth's atmosphere. But the distinctiveness of this buddy-movie bond is often drowned out by giant set pieces of CG mayhem that feel exactly like those found in the good guys' movies."<sup>[106]</sup> Brian Lowry of CNN was more critical of his review for the film and described the film as "a mind-numbingly tiresome sequel, filled with uninspired comedy and a CGI monster fight that seems to drag on forever."<sup>[107]</sup> David Sims of *The Atlantic* described the viewing experience as being "like going to a nightclub and having someone scream the plot in your ear over a thumping bass line".<sup>[108]</sup> Kevin Maher of *The Times* gave the film a score of 1/5 stars, describing it as an "abominable sequel".<sup>[109]</sup>

William Hughes at *The A.V. Club* believed the mid-credits scene would overshadow the rest of the film, saying, "In the span of about 120 seconds, the most externally interesting thing about Sony's latest big superhero blockbuster... [is] its connection to a whole other studio's library of films". He continued that the



two *Venom* films were "at least genuinely interesting and weird ... propelled by a devotedly odd performance" from Hardy, but ultimately felt *Let There Be Carnage* would become "little more than 'the one where Venom gets pulled into the MCU'".<sup>[110]</sup> Barry Hertz of *The Globe and Mail* praised the film's mid-credits scene but described the rest of the film as "ugly, cheap and dumb-but-not-good-dumb" and "a throwaway kind of trashy nothingness".<sup>[111]</sup>

## Accolades

Award	Date of ceremony	Category	Recipient(s)	Result	Ref.
<u>People's Choice Awards</u>	<u>December 7, 2021</u>	The Movie of 2021	<i>Venom: Let There Be Carnage</i>	Nominated	<sup>[112]</sup>
		The Action Movie of 2021	<i>Venom: Let There Be Carnage</i>	Nominated	
<u>Visual Effects Society Awards</u>	<u>March 8, 2022</u>	<u>Outstanding Animated Character in a Photoreal Feature</u>	Richard Spriggs, Ricardo Silva, Lucas Cuenca, Federico Frassinelli (for Carnage)	Nominated	<sup>[113]</sup>
<u>Artios Awards</u>	<u>March 23, 2022</u>	The Zeitgeist Award	Lucy Bevan, Nina Henninger (Location Casting), Emily Brockmann (Associate), Sarah Kliban (Associate)	Nominated	<sup>[114]</sup>

## Sequel

In December 2021, Pascal said they were in the "planning stages" of *Venom 3*.<sup>[115]</sup> Sony confirmed the film was in development at CinemaCon in April 2022.<sup>[116]</sup> In June, Hardy revealed that Marcel was writing the script after previously working on the prior *Venom* films, and that he was co-writing the story with her.<sup>[117]</sup> That October, Marcel was set to make her directorial debut with the film and to also produce it.<sup>[118]</sup> *Venom: The Last Dance* is scheduled to be released on October 25, 2024.<sup>[119]</sup>

## See also

- List of Marvel Cinematic Universe films

## Notes

- Eddie and Venom are transported to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) as a result of Doctor Strange's spell in *Spider-Man: No Way Home* (2021).<sup>[5][6]</sup>

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## External links

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- [Official website \(<https://www.venom.movie/>\)](https://www.venom.movie/)
  - *Venom: Let There Be Carnage* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7097896/>) at IMDb
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