

Luther: The Fallen Sun

Luther: The Fallen Sun is a 2023 crime thriller film directed by Jamie Payne and written by Neil Cross. It serves as a film continuation of *Luther*. The film stars Idris Elba (who also serves as a producer on the film), reprising his role as police detective John Luther, with Cynthia Erivo and Andy Serkis. The film is about the detective's efforts to stop a wealthy serial killer's complex schemes.

Luther: The Fallen Sun was released in select cinemas on 24 February 2023, before its streaming release on 10 March 2023, by Netflix.

Plot

David Robey, a wealthy trader and serial killer, blackmails and kidnaps cleaner Callum Aldrich. DCI John Luther is assigned to the case and promises Callum's mother, Corinne, he will find her son. Concerned about his involvement, Robey digs up dirt on the various illegal acts Luther has committed as a police officer, resulting in him being fired, prosecuted and imprisoned.^[a]

Years later, Robey coaxes Corrine and the parents of other victims to a house where he burns their children's corpses. Corrine visits Luther in prison, admonishing him for not finding her son's killer. Robey sends a recording of him murdering Callum to Luther in prison via a radio frequency. Luther informs DCI Odette Raine, the new head of Serious and Serial Crime, of the broadcast. He liaises with prison guards and former associate McCabe to break him out. Raine brings in retired DSU Martin Schenk as a consultant. Luther traces Robey to Piccadilly Circus, where Raine deploys armed police SCO19. The two confront him there, but some people he has blackmailed cause a distraction by publicly killing themselves. Robey escapes into the London Underground after fighting Luther and murdering an armed policeman.

Robey kidnaps Raine's daughter, Anya. He blackmails Raine to bring him Luther in exchange for Anya's life. Raine meets with Luther, points a gun at him, and forces him to climb into a car trunk. She has a change of heart and reluctantly agrees to work with him. They visit Robey's ex-wife Georgette, discovering he owns property abroad. DS Archie Woodward, Raine's

Luther: The Fallen Sun



Release poster

Directed by	Jamie Payne
Written by	<u>Neil Cross</u>
Based on	<i><u>Luther</u></i> by Neil Cross
Produced by	<u>Peter Chernin</u> <u>Neil Cross</u> <u>David Ready</u> <u>Jenno Topping</u> <u>Idris Elba</u>
Starring	<u>Idris Elba</u> <u>Cynthia Erivo</u> <u>Dermot Crowley</u> <u>Andy Serkis</u>
Cinematography	<u>Larry Smith</u>
Edited by	<u>Justine Wright</u>
Music by	<u>Lorne Balfe</u>
Production companies	<u>BBC Film</u> <u>Chernin</u> <u>Entertainment</u>
Distributed by	<u>Netflix</u>

subordinate, is blackmailed by Robey into killing Georgette but is intercepted by Schenk. Archie commits suicide. Luther and Raine travel to Robey's mansion in rural Norway, where they discover he tortures kidnapped victims to death on a live stream called "The Red Bunker". The two are overpowered, and Robey tries to force them to hurt each other to save Anya. Luther reveals Georgette told the police the location and they are en route. After a brutal fight, the three are able to escape the bunker, and Luther chases Robey into a frozen lake, where Robey drowns. Luther is rescued by police divers and Schenk. Recovering from his injuries back in London, he is approached by a senior official with MI5, who, it is implied, offers him a job in lieu of going back to prison.

Release dates	24 February 2023 (United Kingdom and United States) 10 March 2023 (Netflix)
Running time	129 minutes ^[1]
Countries	United Kingdom United States
Language	English

Cast

- Idris Elba as John Luther, a brilliant but disgraced former Detective Chief Inspector who escapes prison to pursue Robey.
- Cynthia Erivo as Odette Raine, the current head of the Serious and Serial Crime Unit (SSCU), hunting down Luther and Robey.
- Dermot Crowley as Martin Schenk, the retired former head of the SSCU and Luther's former boss.
- Andy Serkis as David Robey, a wealthy and psychopathic millionaire turned high body count serial killer, who uses surveillance technology to manipulate and kill civilians.
- Thomas Coombes as Archie Woodward, Raine's subordinate in the SSCU and one of Robey's blackmail victims.
- Hattie Morahan as Corinne Aldrich, the mother of Robey victim Callum Aldrich.
- Lauryn Ajufo as Anya Raine, Odette's teenage daughter.
- Vincent Regan as Dennis McCabe, a criminal associate of Luther who helps him escape
- Henry Hereford as Brian Lee, one of Robey's blackmail victims.

In addition, Einar Kuusk as Arkady Kachimov, Robey's right-hand man, and Tara Fitzgerald in an uncredited role as Georgette, Robey's ex-wife and victim.

Production

The concept of a film adaptation for the BBC series was broached in August 2013, when series creator Neil Cross revealed he had written a script for a prequel to the series.^[2]

In July 2020, Idris Elba stated that there were no "formal plans" for another season of the show, but expressed his desire to return to the role in a film, and that this was close to happening.^[3] The film was confirmed in September 2021 for release on Netflix, with Cynthia Erivo and Andy Serkis starring alongside Elba.^[4]

Elba announced on 10 November 2021 that filming had begun.^{[5][6]} Filming took place in London and at Lite Studios in Brussels, Belgium.^{[7][8][9]}

Lorne Balfe composed the score, incorporating motifs from Massive Attack's Paradise Circus, which was used as the theme for the television series. The film also features a cover of the aforementioned song.

Release

Luther: The Fallen Sun had a limited theatrical release in select cinemas on 24 February 2023,^[10] before its streaming release on 10 March 2023, by Netflix.^{[11][12]}

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 68% of 99 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.0/10. The website's consensus reads: "Longtime fans will be happy to have more of Idris Elba's brilliant detective, but *Luther: The Fallen Sun* is a fairly uninspired addition to his case files."^[13] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 53 out of 100, based on 32 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[14]

Notes

- a. Overlapping with developments depicted in the final 2019 episode of *Luther Series 5*.

References

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External links

- *Luther: The Fallen Sun* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3155298/>) at *IMDb*
 - *Luther: The Fallen Sun* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v734548>) at *AllMovie*
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