



Deadpool & Wolverine

Deadpool & Wolverine is a 2024 American superhero film based on Marvel Comics featuring the characters Deadpool and Wolverine. Produced by Marvel Studios, Maximum Effort, and 21 Laps Entertainment, and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, it is the 34th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and the sequel to *Deadpool* (2016) and *Deadpool 2* (2018). The film was directed by Shawn Levy from a screenplay he wrote with Ryan Reynolds, Rhett Reese, Paul Wernick, and Zeb Wells. Reynolds and Hugh Jackman respectively star as Wade Wilson / Deadpool and Logan / Wolverine, alongside Emma Corrin, Morena Baccarin, Rob Delaney, Leslie Uggams, Aaron Stanford, and Matthew Macfadyen. In the film, Deadpool learns that the Time Variance Authority plans to destroy his universe and works with a reluctant Wolverine from another universe to stop them.

Development on a third *Deadpool* film began at 20th Century Fox by November 2016, but was placed on hold after the studio was acquired by Disney in March 2019. Control of the character and Fox's *X-Men* film series was transferred to Marvel Studios, which began developing a new film with Reynolds. It integrates Deadpool with the MCU and retains the R rating of the previous Deadpool films, a first for the MCU. Wendy Molyneux and Lizzie Molyneux-Logelin joined in November 2020 as writers. Reese and Wernick returned from the previous films for rewrites by March 2022, when Levy was hired as director. They, along with Reynolds and Wells, had difficulty figuring out the film's story until Jackman decided to reprise his role as Wolverine from the *X-Men* films in August 2022. Several other actors from the *X-Men* films and other Marvel productions also returned as part of the film's multiverse story, which serves as a tribute to Fox's Marvel films. Filming began in May 2023 at Pinewood Studios in England, with additional filming in Norfolk, Los Angeles, and

Deadpool & Wolverine



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Shawn Levy</u>
Written by	<u>Ryan Reynolds</u> <u>Rhett Reese</u> <u>Paul Wernick</u> <u>Zeb Wells</u> <u>Shawn Levy</u>
Based on	<u>Marvel Comics</u>
Produced by	<u>Kevin Feige</u> <u>Lauren Shuler Donner</u> <u>Ryan Reynolds</u> <u>Shawn Levy</u>
Starring	<u>Ryan Reynolds</u> <u>Hugh Jackman</u> <u>Emma Corrin</u> <u>Morena Baccarin</u> <u>Rob Delaney</u> <u>Leslie Uggams</u> <u>Aaron Stanford</u> <u>Matthew Macfadyen</u>

at Bovingdon Film Studios. Production was suspended in July due to the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike, but resumed in November and wrapped in January 2024. The title was revealed a month later. Rob Simonsen composed the original score, while numerous artists were compiled for the soundtrack.

Deadpool & Wolverine premiered on July 22, 2024, at the David H. Koch Theater in New York City, and was released across the United States on July 26 as part of Phase Five of the MCU. It has grossed \$1.34 billion worldwide, becoming the 20th-highest-grossing film of all time, the highest-grossing R-rated film of all time and the second-highest-grossing film of 2024.

Plot

In 2018, after Wade Wilson uses Cable's time-travel device to prevent the death of his girlfriend Vanessa Carlyle,^[a] he travels from his universe, Earth-10005,^[b] to Earth-616 on the "Sacred Timeline",^[c] hoping to join that reality's Avengers. However, he is rejected by Happy Hogan and returns to his universe. Six years later, Wade has broken up with Vanessa, retired from being the masked mercenary Deadpool, and works as a used-car salesman with his friend and former X-Force member Peter Wisdom.

During Wade's birthday party, the Time Variance Authority (TVA) captures him and takes him to Mr. Paradox, who explains that they are an organization outside of time that monitors the Sacred Timeline and wider multiverse, and offers Wade a future on Earth-616. Wade initially accepts, but when Paradox reveals that Wade's timeline is deteriorating as a result of the death of its stabilizing "anchor being", Logan,^[d] and that he plans to use a "Time Ripper" device to accelerate this process, Wade steals his TemPad and uses it to travel to Logan's grave, hoping to resurrect him and save the timeline. When this fails, Wade travels the multiverse searching for a replacement alternate universe "variant" of Logan.

Wade returns to the TVA with a Logan variant but is told by Paradox that an anchor being cannot be replaced, and that this variant is considered "the worst Wolverine" in the multiverse. When Wade deduces that Paradox is acting without the knowledge of his superiors, Paradox sends Wade and Logan to the Void. Logan agrees to work with Wade when he claims that the TVA can change his timeline. Wade and Logan are captured alongside Johnny Storm and taken to Cassandra Nova, the powerful and sadistic twin sister of X-Men leader Charles Xavier. Cassandra, who made a deal with the TVA to oversee the Void, kills Johnny and leaves Wade and Logan to be consumed by Alioth, but the pair manage to escape.

Logan and Wade meet a Deadpool variant called "Nicepool" who directs them towards a resistance group that have been fighting Cassandra. On the way, Wade accidentally admits that he was lying about the TVA being able to fix Logan's timeline, and the pair fight until both are left unconscious. They are found by the resistance group, consisting of Laura, Elektra, Blade, and Gambit. Wade

Cinematography	<u>George Richmond</u>
Edited by	<u>Dean Zimmerman</u> <u>Shane Reid</u>
Music by	<u>Rob Simonsen</u>
Production companies	<u>Marvel Studios</u> <u>Maximum Effort</u> <u>21 Laps Entertainment</u>
Distributed by	<u>Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures</u>
Release dates	July 22, 2024 (<u>David H. Koch Theater</u>) July 26, 2024 (<u>United States</u>)
Running time	128 minutes ^[1]
Country	<u>United States</u>
Language	<u>English</u>
Budget	\$200 million ^[2]
Box office	\$1.337 billion ^{[3][4]}

proposes an alliance to fight Cassandra, and Laura convinces Logan, distraught over his reluctance that led to the death of his fellow X-Men, to join the cause. The resistance members distract Cassandra's henchmen while Wade and Logan block her powers by placing Juggernaut's helmet on her head. Cassandra is betrayed by her follower Pyro on behalf of Paradox, and almost dies until Logan convinces Wade to remove the helmet. Cassandra heals herself and opens a portal to Earth-10005, which Logan and Wade jump through.

Cassandra learns about Paradox's Time Ripper from Pyro, kills him, and follows Logan and Wade to Earth-10005. There, she reveals her plan to destroy all timelines, leaving only the Void. Cassandra summons an army of Deadpool variants, who kill Nicepool and battle Wade and Logan until Peter arrives and distracts them. Paradox tells Wade and Logan that while one of them could destroy the Time Ripper by disrupting its power flow, this would kill them, even with their healing powers. Wade and Logan destroy the Time Ripper together, killing Cassandra in the process, and are able to survive by sharing the burden. Paradox is arrested by the TVA's Hunter B-15, who congratulates Wade and Logan and says their actions have stopped Earth-10005 from deteriorating. Wade asks Hunter B-15 to save the resistance group from the Void and change the history of Logan's world. She explains that the latter is not possible because Logan's history is what led to him being a hero now, and allows Logan to stay in Wade's world. Wade invites Logan to meet his friends and, with encouragement from Logan, reconciles with Vanessa.

Cast

- **Ryan Reynolds as Wade Wilson / Deadpool:**
A wisecracking mercenary from Earth-10005 with accelerated healing but severe scarring over his body after undergoing an experimental regenerative mutation to treat terminal cancer.^[6] Wade begins the film retired from being Deadpool, no longer dating Vanessa, and working as a used car salesman.^[7] Writer Rhett Reese described Deadpool as a fish-out-of water in the film, a lunatic dropped into the "sane world" of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).^[8] Though Reynolds said the audience did not have to take Deadpool seriously, particularly with his fourth wall breaking and unreliable narration, he wanted them to be invested in the other characters.^[9] Deadpool's opening dance number was performed by Nick Pauley, who is credited as "Dancepool".^{[10][11]} Reynolds also portrays the variant Nicepool, who has no scars or healing factor, for which he is credited as "Gordon Reynolds".^{[5][12]}
- **Hugh Jackman as Logan / Wolverine:**
A former member of the X-Men and a mutant with healing abilities, retractable claws, and an adamantium-infused skeleton.^[13] This Wolverine is a variant from an alternative universe where he let down its inhabitants.^{[7][14]} This, and the pairing with Deadpool, allowed Jackman to explore new aspects of the character not developed in his prior appearances in 20th Century Fox's X-Men film series.^{[9][15]} Jackman said Logan and Wade are opposites and have a "quarreling dynamic",^[16] while director Shawn Levy said their relationship is affected by both characters being "haunted with regret".^[9] To prepare for the role, Jackman began a vigorous workout routine that included eating up to 8,000 calories a day.^[17] Jackman also portrays several other Wolverine variants in the film, including: one with the character's comic book-accurate height of 5 feet 3 inches (160 cm); Wolverine's gambling alter-ego Patch, who wears an eyepatch and a white tuxedo; an Old Man Logan variant; a variant being crucified on a giant X, reminiscent of the cover of Uncanny X-Men #251; a variant wearing the brown and tan costume from comic book artist John Byrne who fights the Hulk, as the character did in his first appearance in the Incredible Hulk comics; and an Age of Apocalypse variant with "glam rock-like" hair, one hand, and a black and red costume.^[18]

- **Emma Corrin as Cassandra Nova:**
A mutant in the Void with telekinetic and telepathic powers, who is the twin sister of Charles Xavier.^{[19][20]:10:43–10:51} Corrin was excited to play a villain in the film as they had not played many villainous roles before.^[21] Corrin took inspiration from Christoph Waltz's character Hans Landa in the film *Inglourious Basterds* (2009), while Reynolds highlighted Corrin's humanization and the motivation of the character, comparing Cassandra's "mischief, danger, [and] unpredictability" to the energy of actor Gene Wilder.^[22] Reynolds and Levy explained Cassandra to Corrin as someone who would endear and charm others to the point that "you are going to be best friends for life" only to realize she could easily kill them.^[7] Corrin was interested in having a physical transformation for the role but was told by the studio that this was not required for the character.^[23] Corrin also wanted to pay homage to Patrick Stewart and James McAvoy's performances as Xavier in previous *X-Men* films, as well as be faithful to Cassandra's relationship with him from the comics.^[24]
- **Morena Baccarin as Vanessa Carlyle:** Wade's former fiancée^{[7][20]:1:59}
- **Rob Delaney as Peter Wisdom:** A car salesman alongside Wade and a member of his X-Force team^{[5][20]:7:42}
- **Leslie Uggams as Blind Al:** Wade's blind elderly roommate^[25]
- **Aaron Stanford as John Allerdyce / Pyro:**
A pyrokinetic mutant working for Cassandra in the Void.^{[19][26]} Stanford, as Pyro, wears a more comics-accurate costume than in the films *X2* (2003) and *X-Men: The Last Stand* (2006).^[7]
- **Matthew Macfadyen as Mr. Paradox:**
A Time Variance Authority (TVA) agent who oversees an unsanctioned project to speed up the death of Earth-10005 with a "Time Ripper" machine. Paradox hopes to prove himself to become the leader of the TVA.^[5]

Also reprising their roles from the previous *Deadpool* films are: Karan Soni as Dopinder, a taxi driver and admirer of Wade;^[25] Brianna Hildebrand as Negasonic Teenage Warhead, a teenage member of the X-Men with the mutant power to detonate atomic bursts from her body;^[27] Shioli Kutsuna as Yukio, Negasonic Teenage Warhead's girlfriend and fellow X-Men member;^[27] Stefan Kapičić as the voice of X-Men member Piotr Rasputin / Colossus;^[28] Randal Reeder as Buck, a friend of Wade from his mercenary days;^[29] and Lewis Tan as Rusty / Shatterstar, a member of X-Force.^[19] Other characters from previous Marvel films include Tyler Mane as Victor Creed / Sabretooth, reprising his role from *X-Men* (2000);^{[30][31]} Aaron W. Reed as Cain Marko / Juggernaut;^[10] and Mike Waters as Frederick Dukes / Blob.^[32] Uncredited actors, not reprising previous appearances, include Billy Clements as the Russian,^[33] Eduardo Gago Munoz as Azazel, Jade Lye as Lady Deathstrike, Ayesha Hussain as Psylocke,^[10] Daniel Medina Ramos as Toad,^{[10][34]} Curtis Small as Bullseye,^[34] Chloe Kibble as Callisto,^[35] and Nilly Cetin as Quill.^{[36][37][31]}

Returning Marvel characters, and actors who had previously portrayed them, form the resistance group in the Void: Dafne Keen as Laura / X-23, Logan's biological daughter, from *Logan* (2017);^{[31][38]} Jennifer Garner as Elektra Natchios, a skilled fighter who uses a pair of sai weapons, from *Daredevil* (2003) and *Elektra* (2005);^{[39][38]} Wesley Snipes as Eric Brooks / Blade, a half-vampire warrior, from New Line Cinema's *Blade* film trilogy (1998–2004); and Chris Evans as Johnny Storm / Human Torch, a member of the Fantastic Four who can control flames and set himself ablaze, from Tim Story's *Fantastic Four* duology (2005–2007).^[38] Additionally, Channing Tatum joins them as Remy LeBeau / Gambit, the character he was attached to portray in an unproduced *Gambit* film.^[38] Keen rewatched *Logan* to help prepare for her return as Laura after seven years, and was eager to explore an older version of the character who now has a better understanding and appreciation of what Logan went through in *Logan*.^[31] Snipes worked out to be "Blade-ready" for the film. After struggling with Reynolds's humor when the pair co-starred in

Blade: Trinity (2004), Snipes said he finally understood it within the context of *Deadpool & Wolverine* which made it an enjoyable experience.^[40] Evans, who previously portrayed Steve Rogers / Captain America in the MCU (as referenced in Deadpool's dialogue in this film), said Marvel Studios was more relaxed about creating Johnny's costume, which is a rundown version due to the character living in the Void, compared to the process for the *Fantastic Four* films.^[41]

The film features several variants of Deadpool, including: dog actor Peggy as Mary Puppins / Dogpool;^{[42][43]} Reynolds's wife Blake Lively as the voice of Ladypool, who is physically portrayed by stuntwoman Christiaan Bettridge;^{[12][44][45]} Reynolds and Lively's children Inez and Olin Reynolds as Kidpool and Babypool, respectively;^{[46][47]} Nathan Fillion as the voice of Headpool;^[46] Matthew McConaughey as the voice of Cowboypool;^{[46][48]} Wrexham A.F.C. player Paul Mullin as Welshpool;^[49] Reynolds's stunt double Alex Kyshkovych as Canadapool;^[11] an uncredited Harry Holland – brother of Tom Holland, who portrays Peter Parker / Spider-Man in the MCU – as Haroldpool;^[50] and Kevin Fortin, also uncredited, as Zenpool.^[49] Deadpool variants played by undisclosed actors include Watari / The Fool, Deadpool 2099, Golden Age Deadpool, Piratepool, Iron Deadpool, Greatest Showman Deadpool, and Knightpool.^{[12][47][51][52]} The Greatest Showman Deadpool variant is a reference to Jackman's role as P.T. Barnum in the 2017 film *The Greatest Showman*.^[51]

Jon Favreau reprises his MCU role of Harold "Happy" Hogan,^[5] along with Wunmi Mosaku as Hunter B-15 from the MCU television series *Loki* (2021–present).^[53] Chris Hemsworth appears as Thor through repurposed archival footage from *Thor: The Dark World* (2013),^{[54][55]} while a version of the Hulk appears fighting a variant of Wolverine.^[5] Cameo appearances include Henry Cavill as a Wolverine variant dubbed "Cavillrine",^[56] Wrexham A.F.C. player Ollie Palmer as a bar patron,^[57] Greg Hemphill as a bartender,^[58] and Reynolds's oldest daughter James as a screaming mutant.^[59] Reynolds's co-chairman of Wrexham, Rob McElhenney, filmed a cameo as a TVA soldier, but his appearance was ultimately cut.^[60]

Production

Background

After the success of *Deadpool* (2016), 20th Century Fox began developing two sequels. The third film was set to include the superhero team X-Force.^[61] *Deadpool* director Tim Miller chose not to return for the sequels due to creative differences with star Ryan Reynolds, and David Leitch was hired to direct *Deadpool 2* (2018) in November 2016. Fox was looking for another filmmaker to develop the third film.^[62] In March 2017, *Deadpool* and *Deadpool 2* co-writer Rhett Reese said X-Force would be introduced in *Deadpool 2* before starring in a planned spin-off film that would launch "something bigger", separate from the third *Deadpool* film, which would be more personal.^[63] When the acquisition of 21st Century Fox by Disney was announced in December 2017, the Walt Disney Company CEO Bob Iger said Reynolds's Wade Wilson / Deadpool would be integrated with the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). This was despite those films being rated PG-13 and the *Deadpool* films being R-rated.^[64] Iger said Disney was willing to make R-rated *Deadpool* films "as long as we let the audiences know what's coming" and said a "Marvel-R brand" could be created for characters like Deadpool.^[65] In May 2018, Reynolds said a third *Deadpool* film may not be made due to the shift of focus to X-Force.^[66] Reese and his writing partner Paul

Wernick said a third film would happen after Reynolds took a break from the character and the X-Force film was released, similar to the MCU crossover film *The Avengers* (2012) being released between *Iron Man 2* (2010) and *Iron Man 3* (2013).^[67]

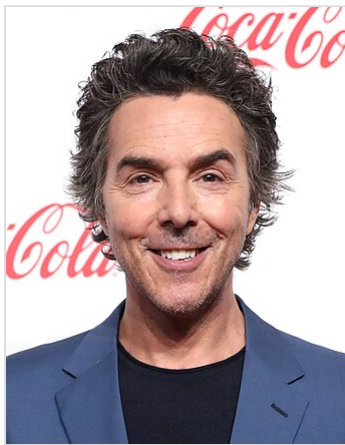
At the end of May 2018, Leitch expressed interest in returning for another *Deadpool* film, depending on the schedule.^[68] A third *Deadpool* film was believed to be in active development by that August, with production planned to take place in Atlanta, Georgia, rather than in Vancouver, Canada, where the previous films were made.^[69] *Once Upon a Deadpool*, a PG-13 version of *Deadpool 2*, was released at the end of the year. It was watched carefully by Disney and Marvel Studios to see how it might inform their approach to the character in the MCU.^[70] While promoting *Once Upon a Deadpool*, Reynolds confirmed that a third *Deadpool* film was in development and said it would go in a "completely different direction".^[71] Reynolds later revealed that they were considering a road trip film styled after *Rashomon* (1950) featuring Hugh Jackman's X-Men film series character Logan / Wolverine.^[72] Karan Soni, who portrayed Dopinder in the first two *Deadpool* films, reiterated these plans and explained that the film would have focused on Deadpool trying to save Christmas by going on a road trip to the North Pole.^[73] Jackman had himself envisioned a team-up film with Reynolds inspired by *48 Hrs.* (1982) while attending a screening of *Deadpool* in 2016, but chose to retire from the role of Wolverine after *Logan* (2017).^[74] In March 2019, Disney officially acquired Fox and gained the film rights to several Marvel Comics characters for Marvel Studios, including Deadpool and the X-Men.^{[75][76]} The Marvel-based films that Fox had been developing were placed "on hold".^[77]

Josh Brolin, who portrayed Cable in *Deadpool 2* and Thanos in the MCU, said in June 2019 that he had discussed his future as Cable with Marvel Studios.^[78] In October, Zazie Beetz said she would be surprised if she did not reprise her *Deadpool 2* role of Domino in a future film.^[79] That month, Reese and Wernick said they and Reynolds were taking a "much-needed rest from Deadpool" while they waited to hear from Marvel Studios about the franchise's future. They confirmed that another *Deadpool* film would be made, that it would be R-rated like the previous films, and that it would integrate the character with the MCU. Wernick said there was never a set pitch for a third *Deadpool* film between their exhaustion following *Deadpool 2* and the announcement of Fox's acquisition by Disney. Reese said they now had to "land on the right idea and once we do, I think we'll be off to the races". The writers felt there would be more characters available in the MCU to act as foils for Deadpool compared to their restricted options among the characters that Fox had control over for the previous films.^[80]

Development

Reynolds revealed in mid-October 2019 that he was meeting with Marvel Studios.^[81] At that time, Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige was unsure how to integrate Deadpool into the MCU and was still thinking about how the X-Men and mutants in general would be added to the franchise. Feige described Reynolds as an "idea machine" who pitched many different approaches for the film,^[82] including a low budget road trip film with Deadpool and Dopinder that was compared to independent films from the Sundance Film Festival,^[7] and one that included a dance number with Wolverine set to "I Guess That's Why They Call It the Blues" by Elton John.^[83] Reynolds also pitched his previous idea for a *Rashomon*-style team-up film with Wolverine, which would tell one story from three different perspectives.^{[7][82]} He was told that it would not be possible to include Wolverine in the film.^{[74][82]} In December, Reynolds confirmed that the "whole team" was actively developing a *Deadpool* film at Marvel Studios.^[84]

Reynolds and Marvel Studios met with potential writers throughout October 2020, including Wendy Molyneux and Lizzie Molyneux-Logelin whose pitch was in line with their intentions for the film. The Molyneux sisters were hired to write the screenplay the next month. Reynolds and Marvel Studios were open to Leitch returning for the film, but he was not expected to due to other commitments throughout 2021 and was not involved in hiring the writers.^[6] Leitch later confirmed that he met with Marvel for the film, but both parties understood that scheduling and other commitments would prevent him from returning.^[85] In January 2021, Feige reaffirmed that the film would receive an R rating and would be set in the MCU. Reynolds was supervising the scripting process at that time, and Feige said filming would not begin until after 2021 due to Reynolds's busy schedule.^[86] An idea that Reynolds had in 2020 or 2021 was an action sequence set to the song "Like a Prayer" by Madonna. It was intended to follow the death of Piotr Rasputin / Colossus from the previous films, which would have motivated Deadpool after being at a low point.^[87]



Director Shawn Levy at CinemaCon in April 2024, where he promoted the film

While filming *The Adam Project* (2022) with director Shawn Levy, Reynolds approached Levy about working together on the next *Deadpool* film after they had become frequent collaborators. Reynolds assumed Levy would not be interested due to it being a sequel and not an original work, but Levy was enthused about the idea as long as they had the right story to tell.^[9] In July 2021, Reynolds and Taika Waititi promoted their film *Free Guy* (2021), also directed by Levy, by appearing as Deadpool and Waititi's MCU character Korg, respectively, in a commercial for that film titled *Deadpool and Korg React*. Deadpool, who often breaks the fourth wall, discusses joining the MCU with Korg in the commercial.^{[88][89]} The next month, Reynolds said he expected filming to begin in 2022,^[90] which Feige soon confirmed. Feige added that Marvel Studios had a release timeframe in mind for the film.^[91] In November, Beetz and Rob Delaney expressed interest in returning as their *Deadpool 2* characters

Domino and Peter,^{[92][93]} but Beetz ultimately did not return for the third film.^[94] Also in November, Reynolds said they were "plugging away" at the film.^[95]

Levy was revealed to be directing the film in March 2022,^{[96][97]} and said filming would not begin until after 2022 due to his busy schedule through the remainder of the year.^[98] Reese and Wernick were hired to rewrite the screenplay,^{[96][97]} and said they were excited to use MCU elements in the film. They added that Disney and Marvel were supportive of jokes about the MCU that they were writing for Deadpool given the success of the previous films. They would not confirm whether they were starting from scratch or reworking the previous draft by the Molyneux sisters.^[99] In June, Raymond Chan was revealed to be the production designer after working on the Disney+ MCU series *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* (2021).^[100] Feige said in July that the film would be elevated from the first two in a similar way to other third installments of MCU film series, such as *Captain America: Civil War* (2016), *Thor: Ragnarok* (2017), and *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018).^[101]

Levy and Reynolds worked on the script with Reese, Wernick, and Zeb Wells,^[9] who previously worked on the MCU series *She-Hulk: Attorney at Law* (2022) and *Marvel Zombies* (2024), and the film *The Marvels* (2023).^{[102][103]} They all began to feel that they did not have an original story that was not derivative of the other *Deadpool* films. Levy explained that they felt the film had to be "deserving" of being the first *Deadpool* film set within the MCU, while still feeling "grounded

because this is an earthbound, gritty, realistic superhero franchise". Levy and Reynolds were prepared to suggest to Feige that the film not move forward at that time because of the trouble they had landing on a story idea,^[9] with executive producer Wendy Jacobson also stating that Marvel was struggling to settle on a core idea for the film.^[82] In August 2022, Jackman reached out to Reynolds about wanting to be part of the film. Reynolds was preparing for a meeting with Feige to discuss how to proceed given their lack of story ideas, and realized that including Wolverine would solve many of the issues they were coming up against.^{[9][74]} Jackman had a change of heart, after being content with his decision to retire as Wolverine for several years, and decided that a team-up film with Reynolds "could be so much fun; I'll probably have more fun on that movie than anything I've ever done".^{[16][74]} Feige advised Jackman not to return, as he felt Wolverine's death in *Logan* was the "greatest ending in history" and did not want to undo that. He was won over by the idea that Jackman would portray a new version of Wolverine, and Jackman confirmed that he wanted to return after taking a long drive to think about it.^[15]

Reynolds announced in September 2022 that Jackman would return as Wolverine for *Deadpool 3*, which was set for release on September 6, 2024.^[13] The pair said the film would avoid affecting the events of *Logan* by using a narrative device from Marvel Studios that allowed different versions of characters to move around timelines.^{[104][105]} Levy said preserving *Logan*'s legacy was top priority for the creative team.^[9] Jackman reached out to *Logan* director James Mangold to inform him of the film's story and said Mangold was both enthusiastic about the idea and relieved that *Logan* would not be impacted.^[16] Alongside Feige, Reynolds and Levy produced the film through their respective production companies Maximum Effort and 21 Laps Entertainment,^{[106][107][108]} as did *X-Men* film producer Lauren Shuler Donner.^[109] Simon Kinberg served as an executive producer after producing the previous *Deadpool* films and some *X-Men* films.^{[110][111][112]} He said the film had been authored by Levy, Reynolds, and Feige, and they all cared deeply about *Logan*, *Deadpool*, and Wolverine.^[111] Levy added that the legacies of *Deadpool* and Wolverine informed the film's story and themes.^[7] Jackman said the film may not be titled *Deadpool 3*,^[74] with Reynolds later referring to it as "The Deadpool/Wolverine film",^[113] and Jackman referring to it as *Wolverine and Deadpool*.^[114] Levy said the creative team were discussing multiple options for the title, and he had at times referred to it as *Deadpool Versus Wolverine*, *Deadpool and Wolverine*, and *Deadpool 3 with Wolverine*.^[115] The title *Deadpool & Friend*, which Reynolds claimed was the official title, leaked online in February 2024. After a negative fan response to the title, a different title was officially announced the next day: *Deadpool & Wolverine*.^{[116][117]} Levy acknowledged that the film was the third *Deadpool* film but he did not want to call it *Deadpool 3* because it is a "two-hander character adventure" that focuses on both title characters.^[118] Despite this, Reynolds said the film was tonally still a *Deadpool* film, with violence, swearing, and "meta mayhem". He called it "the most *Deadpool* movie in the history of *Deadpool*".^[119]

Pre-production

Pre-production work began by October 2022,^[120] less than two months after Jackman decided to join the film. Jacobson said this was one of the fastest turnarounds she had seen for a big production.^[82] Filming was expected to begin in January 2023 in Vancouver.^[121] In mid-October, the film's release date was pushed back to November 8, 2024.^[122] Reynolds said the next month that filming would begin in mid-2023,^[123] and Levy confirmed in December that filming was set to begin that May. He said developing the film was one of the most fun creative experiences of his career, citing the film's self-awareness, violence, and foul language.^[124] Levy said he did not want

to alter the franchise's DNA from the prior films and called the new film "raw, audacious, [and] very much R-rated", comparing it to the buddy comedy films *Midnight Run* (1988), *48 Hrs.*, and *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* (1987).^[125]

Patrick Stewart, who portrayed Charles Xavier / Professor X in the *X-Men* film series and reprised the role in the MCU film *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* (2022), had been approached about potentially making an appearance in the film by February 2023.^[126] Later that month, filming was set to take place in London,^[127] and Emma Corrin joined the cast in a lead villain role. Marvel had been considering Corrin since late 2022 but had to work through scheduling issues with their other commitments before they signed on.^[106] Corrin was cast after Levy saw their performance in a stage production of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* in 2022.^[21] In March, the Time Variance Authority (TVA), Mobius M. Mobius (portrayed by Owen Wilson), and Miss Minutes (voiced by Tara Strong) from the MCU television series *Loki* (2021–present) were reported to be featured in the film.^[128] Later that month, Matthew Macfadyen joined the cast in an undisclosed role,^[129] which was described as a third wheel to Deadpool and Wolverine.^[130] Karan Soni and Leslie Uggams were set to reprise their roles as Dopinder and Blind Al from the previous *Deadpool* films.^[25] In early April, Morena Baccarin said she was in negotiations to reprise her *Deadpool* role as Vanessa Carlyse,^[131] and she was confirmed to be returning later that month along with Stefan Kapičić as the voice of Piotr Rasputin / Colossus.^[28] The following month, Delaney, Brianna Hildebrand, and Shioli Kutsuna were revealed to be reprising their respective roles as Peter Wisdom, Negasonic Teenage Warhead, and Yukio.^{[27][132]}

Graham Churchyard and Mayes C. Rubeo were the film's costume designers.^[135] Jackman wears a yellow and blue costume similar to Wolverine's costumes from *X-Men: The Animated Series* (1992–1997) and the comic books,^{[134][136]} specifically *Astonishing X-Men* volume 3 (2004–2013) drawn by John Cassaday,^[137] it also features elements of the character's 1970s design by John Romita Sr. and Dave Cockrum and the 1990s design by Jim Lee.^[138] Jackman did not wear a comics-accurate costume in the *X-Men* film series, though it was referenced in *X-Men* (2000) and a deleted scene from *The Wolverine* (2013).^[134] The film was therefore an opportunity to see Jackman in a comics-accurate costume for the first time,^[15] and Levy felt this could be the last chance for Jackman to wear such a costume. They went through several iterations and fittings to get the suit right.^[139] Jackman said putting the suit on "looked so right [and] felt so right" and he questioned why he had not worn such a costume for the previous *X-Men* films.^[15] An early reveal of the costume was met with positive reactions online,^{[138][140][141][142]} and led some commentators to determine that Jackman was portraying a different iteration of the character in the film from the one he portrayed in the *X-Men* films.^{[141][143]} Reynolds also has an updated costume from the previous



Ryan Reynolds as Deadpool (left) and Hugh Jackman as Wolverine (right) in the film. Reynolds's costume was updated from the previous *Deadpool* films,^[133] while Jackman wore a comic-accurate Wolverine costume for the first time.^[134]

Deadpool films,^[136] featuring a brighter shade of red and larger black circles on his mask. This is reminiscent of the character's comic book design from the 1990s.^[133] Levy was pleased with the "overwhelmingly positive" response to the suit designs.^[139]

Filming

Principal photography began on May 22, 2023, in London and at Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire, England,^{[144][145][146]} under the working title *Tidal Wave*.^[147] George Richmond served as the cinematographer after working with Levy and Reynolds on *Free Guy*.^[148] Reynolds lobbied Marvel Studios to film in Vancouver, where he is from and the previous *Deadpool* films were made, but conceded that "they have their [established] infrastructure, and you just have to sort of fall in line".^[149] However, a United States Copyright Office filing for the film indicated that some filming did occur in Vancouver.^[150] Levy worked with Marvel Studios and the producers of the Netflix series *Stranger Things* (2016–present), on which he was an executive producer, to allow him to direct for that series' final season since the schedules for the two projects were expected to overlap.^{[151][152]} Filming was not expected to be impacted by the 2023 Writers Guild of America strike that began in early May, outside of Reynolds being unable to contribute to the script during filming as he had done for the previous films. Marvel Studios was reportedly planning to shoot what they could during principal photography and make any necessary writing adjustments during the film's already scheduled reshoots.^[153] The film was shot on location where possible, to create a more grounded feeling than can be achieved with soundstages.^{[125][139][154]} In June, the film's release date was moved forward to May 3, 2024.^[155] Filming for a car crash scene took place in London in early July 2023.^[156] Shortly after, Jennifer Garner was revealed to be appearing in the film as Elektra Natchios after portraying a version of that character in the Fox-produced film *Daredevil* (2003) and its spin-off *Elektra* (2005);^[39] Garner denied her involvement.^[157]

Filming with Reynolds and Jackman took place in Norfolk in early July.^[158] Production was suspended on July 14 because of the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike.^[159] 35 days of filming were completed before the shutdown, with another 35 days left.^{[125][160]} Filming was set to resume following the conclusion of the dual Hollywood strikes.^[125] Disney paid to keep the film's sets intact during the strike.^[161] During the hiatus, Levy and Reynolds began work on the editing and visual effects,^{[162][161]} though they had not prioritized filming major visual effects sequences before the strike.^[160] Prior to the strike, Baccarin completed filming all of her scenes,^[163] and Levy shot a sequence that he likened to the lightsaber duel between Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader in *Return of the Jedi* (1983). He asked the film's stunt team to look to that scene's blocking, tempo, and framing.^[164] Another key action sequence in the film is the one that Reynolds wanted to be set to Madonna's "Like a Prayer", which evolved to include Wolverine alongside Deadpool. Reynolds did not know what he would do if Madonna did not allow the song to be used.^[87]

Levy acknowledged some of the casting rumors surrounding the film—including Garner appearing as Elektra, Liev Schreiber returning as Victor Creed / Sabretooth from *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* (2009), and Taylor Swift making a cameo appearance as Dazzler—and said some of them were true, but would not confirm which ones.^{[139][162]} Swift was later stated to not be appearing in the film.^{[165][166]} Levy said the characters that were included, such as Aaron Stanford reprising his role as John Allerdyce / Pyro from *X2* (2003) and *X-Men: The Last Stand* (2006), were added as the story developed rather than being based on a wishlist of characters and cameos that the producers wanted to include.^[19] They did not want cameos or "global MCU stakes" to be the focus of the film, and were able to include "deep-cut" references to Marvel's history because *Deadpool* can serve as a