

= The Incredible Hulk (film) =

The Incredible Hulk is a 2008 American superhero film featuring the Marvel Comics character the Hulk , produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Universal Pictures . It is the second film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) . The film was directed by Louis Leterrier , with a screenplay by Zak Penn . It stars Edward Norton , Liv Tyler , Tim Roth , Tim Blake Nelson , Ty Burrell , and William Hurt . In The Incredible Hulk , a new backstory is established where Bruce Banner becomes the Hulk as an unwitting pawn in a military scheme to reinvigorate the supersoldier program through gamma radiation . On the run , he attempts to cure himself of the Hulk before he is captured by General Thaddeus " Thunderbolt " Ross , but his worst fears are realized when power @-@ hungry soldier Emil Blonsky becomes a similar but more bestial creature .

After the mixed reception to the 2003 film Hulk , Marvel Studios reacquired the rights to the character . Leterrier , who had expressed interest in directing Iron Man , was brought onboard and Penn began work on a loose sequel that would be much closer to the comics and the 1978 television series of the same name . In April 2007 , Norton was hired to portray Banner and to rewrite Penn 's screenplay in order to distance itself from the 2003 film and establish its own identity , although he would go uncredited for his writing . Filming mostly took place in Toronto , Ontario , from July to November 2007 . Over 700 visual effects shots were created in post @-@ production using a combination of motion capture and computer @-@ generated imagery to complete the film .

The Incredible Hulk premiered on June 8 , 2008 at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City , California and was released in theaters on June 13 , 2008 , receiving generally favorable reviews by critics upon release with critics praising the improved visuals , action sequences and the portrayal of the title character . The film was number one at the box office , grossing over \$ 263 million worldwide . Norton was initially intended to again portray Bruce Banner in The Avengers and other future MCU installments featuring the character , but he was replaced by Mark Ruffalo , who has signed on to reprise the role in all potential sequels .

= = Plot = =

At Culver University in Virginia , General Thunderbolt Ross meets with Dr. Bruce Banner , the colleague and boyfriend of his daughter Betty , regarding an experiment that Ross claims is meant to make humans immune to gamma radiation . The experiment ? part of a World War II era " super soldier " program that Ross hopes to recreate ? fails , and the exposure to gamma radiation causes Banner to transform into the Hulk for brief periods of time , whenever his heart rate rises above 200 . The Hulk destroys the lab and injures or kills the people inside . Banner becomes a fugitive from the U.S. military and Ross in particular , who wants to weaponize the Hulk process .

Five years later , Banner works at a bottling factory in Rocinha , Rio de Janeiro in Brazil , while searching for a cure for his condition . On the Internet , he collaborates with a colleague he knows only as " Mr. Blue " , and to whom he is " Mr. Green " . He is also learning meditative breathing techniques to help keep control , and has not transformed in five months . After Banner cuts his finger , a drop of his blood falls into a bottle , and is eventually ingested by an elderly consumer in Milwaukee , Wisconsin , giving him gamma sickness . Using the bottle to track down Banner , Ross sends a SWAT team , led by Russian @-@ born British Royal Marine Emil Blonsky , to capture him . Banner transforms into the Hulk and defeats Blonsky 's team . After Ross explains how Banner became the Hulk , Blonsky agrees to be injected with a small amount of a similar serum , which gives him enhanced speed , strength , agility , and healing , but also begins to deform his skeleton and impair his judgment .

Banner returns to Culver University and reunites with Betty , who is dating psychiatrist Leonard Samson . Banner is attacked by Ross and Blonsky 's forces , tipped off by the suspicious Samson , causing him to again transform into the Hulk . The ensuing battle outside the university proves to be futile for Ross ' forces and they eventually retreat , though Blonsky , whose sanity is starting to falter , boldly attacks and mocks the Hulk . The Hulk seemingly kills Blonsky and flees with Betty . After the Hulk reverts to Banner , he and Betty go on the run , and Banner contacts Mr. Blue , who urges

them to meet him in New York City . Mr. Blue is actually cellular biologist Dr. Samuel Sterns , who tells Banner he has developed a possible antidote to Banner 's condition . After a successful test , he warns Banner that the antidote may only reverse each individual transformation . Sterns reveals he has synthesized Banner 's blood samples , which Banner sent from Brazil , into a large supply , with the intention of applying its " limitless potential " to medicine . Fearful of the Hulk 's power falling into the military 's hands , Banner wishes to destroy the blood supply .

Meanwhile , Blonsky is revealed to have survived the battle and has completely healed . He joins Ross ' forces for a third attempt to take Banner into custody . They succeed and Banner , along with Betty , are taken away in a helicopter . Blonsky stays behind and forces Sterns to inject him with Banner 's blood , as he covets the Hulk 's power . Sterns warns that the combination of the super @-@ soldier formula and Banner 's blood may cause him to become an " abomination " , but Blonsky insists . The experiment mutates Blonsky into a creature with size and strength surpassing that of the Hulk , but drives him mad . He attacks Sterns , who gets some of Banner 's blood in a cut on his forehead , causing him to begin mutating as well . Blonsky then rampages through Harlem . Realizing that the Hulk is the only one who can stop Blonsky , Banner convinces Ross to release him . He jumps from Ross ' helicopter and transforms after hitting the ground . After a long and brutal battle through Harlem , the Hulk defeats Blonsky . After having a small , peaceful moment with Betty , the Hulk flees from New York .

A month later , Banner is in Bella Coola , British Columbia . Instead of trying to suppress his transformation , he successfully transforms in a controlled manner . In a final scene , Tony Stark approaches Ross at a local bar and informs him a team is being put together .

= = Cast = =

Edward Norton as Bruce Banner / Hulk :

A nuclear physicist who , because of exposure to gamma radiation , transforms into an enormous green humanoid monster when enraged or agitated . David Duchovny was a front @-@ runner for the film before Norton 's casting , while Louis Leterrier 's original choice for the role was Mark Ruffalo , who would later play Banner in The Avengers . Gale Anne Hurd recalled Norton 's portrayals of duality in Primal Fear and Fight Club , while Norton reminded Kevin Feige of Bill Bixby , who played Banner in the TV series . Lou Ferrigno , who played the Hulk with Bixby , remarked Norton " has a similar physique [and a] similar personality " . Norton was a Hulk fan , citing the first comic appearances , the Bixby TV show , and Bruce Jones ' run on the comic , as his favorite depictions of the character . He had expressed interest in the role for the first film . He initially turned down the part , recalling " there [was] the wince factor or the defensive part of you that recoils at what the bad version of what that would be " , as he felt the previous film " strayed far afield from a story that was familiar to people , [...] which is a fugitive story " . When he met Leterrier and Marvel , he liked their vision , and believed they were looking to him to guide the project . Thus , Norton rewrote the script . " Edward 's script has given Bruce 's story real gravitas , " Leterrier said . " Admittedly I 'm not the most adult director , but just because we 're making a superhero movie it doesn 't have to just appeal to 13 @-@ year @-@ old boys . Ed and I both see superheroes as the new Greek gods . "

Lou Ferrigno voices Hulk :

During the 2008 New York Comic Con Leterrier publicly offered Ferrigno the chance to voice the Hulk for the film . This marks the third time Ferrigno portrayed the Hulk , having also voiced the character in the 1996 animated series . Originally , the Hulk 's only line was " Betty " at the film 's ending , which would have been his first word . Leterrier was aware that fans wanted him to speak normally , and added " leave me alone " and " Hulk smash ! " The latter line received cheers during a screening he attended . Ferrigno also has a cameo in the film as a security guard who is bribed by Banner with a pizza .

Liv Tyler as Betty Ross :

A cellular biologist and Bruce 's girlfriend , from whom he is separated as a result of his condition . Tyler was attracted to the love story in the script , and was a fan of the TV show , because of the "

humanity and what [Banner] is going through " . She was called about the role while driving to her home , and she accepted the part after a day without reading the script . Tyler and Norton spent hours discussing Bruce and Betty 's life before he became the Hulk . She said filming the part " was very physical , which was fun " , and compared her performance to " a deer caught in the headlights " , because of Betty 's shock at Bruce 's unexpected return into her life .

Tim Roth as Emil Blonsky / Abomination :

A Russian @-@ born officer in the United Kingdom 's Royal Marines Commandos loaned to Gen. Ross who , lusting for the Hulk 's power , is injected with various serums to transform into a monster more powerful than the Hulk himself . Roth said he took the part to please his sons , who are comic @-@ book superhero fans . As a teenager , Roth was a fan of the 1970s TV series , and he also found Leterrier 's ideas " very dark and very interesting " . Roth started watching the 2003 film to prepare for the part , but stopped as he did not want to be caught up in the controversy over its quality , and to compare himself to it . It was Roth who suggested Blonsky be a soldier , whereas in the comics he was a KGB agent . Leterrier was a fan of Roth 's work , and felt " it 's great watching a normal Cockney boy become a superhero ! " , but Marvel and Norton were initially reluctant to cast him . Before he was cast in Punisher : War Zone , Ray Stevenson was in discussions for the role . Roth prepared for the part by learning to fire guns and break into rooms with two experts . Roth found it tough shooting the chases , because to show Blonsky 's aging he could not work out . He especially found it difficult to run while pulled with a harness , which was used to show the injected Blonsky 's 30 ? 40 mile per hour running abilities . Cyril Raffaelli performed some of Roth 's stunts . Roth enjoyed the motion capture , which reminded him of fringe theatre , and he hired his trainer from Planet of the Apes to aid him in portraying the monster 's movement .

Tim Blake Nelson as Samuel Sterns :

The cellular biologist who develops a possible antidote to Banner 's condition . Towards the end of the film , Sterns is exposed to some substance that begins his transformation into Leader .

Ty Burrell as Leonard Samson :

The psychiatrist in a relationship with Betty during Bruce 's absence . Burrell had performed with Norton in the off Broadway play Burn This in 2003 , and when Leterrier met him , he recognized Burrell as the " jerk " from the 2004 Dawn of the Dead remake , which was how Samson was characterized in the script before Norton rewrote it .

William Hurt as Thaddeus " Thunderbolt " Ross :

Betty 's arrogant father , who has dedicated himself to capturing the Hulk . Leterrier cast Hurt because " Ross is more physical , more explosive in this movie , and no actor goes from zero to 100 as well as William . " He compared Ross to Captain Ahab . The Hulk is Hurt 's favorite superhero , and his son is also a big fan of the character . Hurt found production very different from the typical " pure anxiety " of a studio film , finding it more akin to an independent film . He described Ross as " humiliated by Hulk 's conscience : he actually sees and recognizes that it 's more developed than his own , even though he 's a patriot and a warrior for his country . He 's sacrificed [much] for that purpose , but at the expense at times of his humanity ? which he occasionally recovers . " In June 2015 , when reflecting on how his reprisal in Captain America : Civil War was different from this film , Hurt said , " What I created [for The Incredible Hulk] was a Ross who was right out of the graphic novel type of thing , where he was as much of a cartoon , in a way , as the monsters were . His ego was just as big and his problems were just as big . I really did do that consciously . I created a General Ross before which created a verisimilitude for the monsters , by making him a human monster . I worked really hard on the makeup and the exaggerated behavior and things like that and a controlled psychosis . " Sam Elliott , who played Ross in the first film , would have liked to reprise the role , noting it was odd seeing someone take his part , " but I 'll be looking forward to seeing this one " .

Robert Downey , Jr. has an uncredited cameo as Tony Stark at the end of the film . Downey appeared as a favor to Marvel Studios , which he acknowledged as a smart move on Marvel 's part , because when he was promoting his film he would also have to mention their other production . Hulk co @-@ creator Stan Lee cameos as a man who becomes ill when drinking the soda poisoned by Banner 's blood . Michael K. Williams appears as a Harlem bystander , a role that was written for

him by Norton , who is a fan of The Wire . Paul Soles , who voiced Banner in the 1966 The Marvel Superheroes cartoon , appears as Stanley , a kindly pizza restaurant owner who helps Banner . Additionally , the late Bill Bixby appears , when a scene featuring Bixby on his TV comedy @-@ drama The Courtship of Eddie 's Father plays on a television Banner is watching at the beginning of the film . Rickson Gracie has a small role as Bruce Banner 's martial arts instructor , despite his Brazilian Jiu @-@ Jitsu background , he is credited as an Aikido instructor . Peter Mensah plays a small role as General Joe Gellar , one of General Ross ' military friends / associates . Martin Starr plays a college student , identified as Amadeus Cho in the novelization for the film .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

At the time of the release of Ang Lee 's Hulk , screenwriter James Schamus was planning a sequel , featuring the Grey Hulk . He was also considering the Leader and the Abomination as villains . Marvel wanted the Abomination because he would be an actual threat to the Hulk , unlike General Ross . During the filming of Hulk , producer Avi Arad had a target May 2005 theatrical release date . On January 18 , 2006 Arad confirmed Marvel Studios would be providing the money for The Incredible Hulk 's production budget , with Universal distributing , because Universal did not meet the deadline for filming a sequel . Marvel felt it would be better to deviate from Ang Lee 's style to continue the franchise , arguing his film was like a parallel universe one @-@ shot comic book , and their next film needed to be , in Kevin Feige 's words , " really starting the Marvel Hulk franchise " . Producer Gale Anne Hurd also felt the film had to meet what " everyone expects to see from having read the comics and seen the TV series " .

= = = Pre @-@ production = = =

Louis Leterrier , who enjoyed the TV series as a child and liked the first film , had expressed interest in directing the Iron Man film adaptation . Jon Favreau had taken that project , so Marvel offered him the Hulk . Leterrier was reluctant as he was unsure if he could replicate Lee 's style , but Marvel explained that was not their intent . Leterrier 's primary inspiration was Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale 's Hulk : Gray (a retelling of the character 's first appearance) . He replicated every comic book panel that he pinned @-@ up during pre @-@ production , from the many comics he browsed , in the final film . Leterrier said that he planned to show Bruce Banner 's struggle with the monster within him , while Feige added the film would explore " that element of wish fulfillment , of overcoming an injustice or a bully and tapping into a strength that you didn 't quite realize you had in yourself " . Arad also said the film would be " a lot more of a love story between Bruce Banner and Betty Ross " .

Zak Penn , who wrote a draft of the first film in 1996 , said the film would follow up Hulk , but stressed it would be more tonally similar to the TV show and Bruce Jones ' run on the comic . He compared his script to Aliens , which was a very different film from Alien , but still in the same continuity . He included two scenes from his 1996 script : Banner jumping from a helicopter to trigger a transformation , and realizing he is unable to have sex with Betty . After the studio rejected a treatment by another screenwriter in 2006 , Penn wrote three drafts before departing in early 2007 to promote his film The Grand . Norton , that April , began discussions to play Banner , and arranged a deal that included him as both an actor and a writer , with a screenplay draft he was contractually obligated to turn in in under a month . He did so , and continued to polish his draft as late as halfway through principal photography . In November 2006 , a June 13 , 2008 release date was set . Leterrier acknowledged the only remaining similarity between the two films was Bruce hiding in South America , and that the film was a unique reboot , as generally audiences would have expected another forty @-@ minute origin story . There were previous discussions to set the first act in Thailand . Leterrier felt audiences were left restless waiting for the character to arrive in Ang Lee

's film .

Shortly after the release of *The Incredible Hulk* , Gale Anne Hurd commented on the uncertainty of its relationship with Ang Lee 's *Hulk* film . " We couldn 't quite figure out how to term this ... It 's kind of a reboot and it 's kind of sequel . " Hurd said that " requel " , a portmanteau of " reboot " and " sequel " , was a " perfect " description for the film . Norton explained his decision to ignore Lee 's origin story : " I don 't even like the phrase ' origin story ' , and I don 't think in great literature and great films that explaining the roots of the story doesn 't mean it comes in the beginning . " " Audiences know this story , " he added , " [so] deal with it artfully . " He wanted to " have revelations even in the third act about what set this whole thing in motion " . The new origin story references Ultimate Marvel 's take on the Hulk , which also had him created in an attempt to make super soldiers . Norton removed Rick Jones and toned down S.H.I.E.L.D. ' s presence . He also added the scene where Banner attempts to extract a cure from a flower and his e @-@ mailing with Samuel Sterns , which references Bruce Jones ' story . Norton rewrote scenes every day . Ultimately , the Writers Guild of America decided to credit the script solely to Penn , who argued Norton had not dramatically changed his script . Journalist Anne Thompson explained " The Guild tends to favor plot , structure and pre @-@ existing characters over dialogue . " Penn said in 2008 , " I wasn 't happy with [Norton] coming to Comic @-@ Con saying that he wrote the script . " Before either Penn and Norton joined the project , an anonymous screenwriter wrote a draft and lobbied for credit .

= = = Filming = = =

Leterrier had to direct four units with a broken foot . Filming began on July 9 , 2007 . Shooting primarily took place in Toronto , because mayor David Miller is a Hulk fan and promised to be very helpful to the crew when closing Yonge Street for four nights in September to shoot the Hulk and Blonsky 's climactic fight . Despite messing the street with explosives and overturned burning vehicles , the crew would clean @-@ up within twenty minutes so business could continue as normal each day . The first action sequence shot was the Culver University battle , which was filmed at the University of Toronto and Morningside Park . The filmmakers built a glass wall over a walkway at the University for when the soldiers trap Banner inside to smoke him out . There was also shooting in the Financial District . A factory in Hamilton , Ontario , which was due for demolition , was the interior of the Brazilian factory . The site 's underground floors were used for Ross ' military command center . The crew also shot part of the Hulk and Blonsky 's fight on a backlot in Hamilton . Other Canadian locations included CFB Trenton and a glacier in Bella Coola , British Columbia . Afterwards , there was a week @-@ long shoot in New York City and two weeks in Rio de Janeiro . While there , the crew shot at Rocinha , Lapa , Tijuca Forest and Santa Teresa . Filming concluded in November after eighty @-@ eight days of filming .

The Incredible Hulk joined Toronto 's Green @-@ Screen initiative , to help cut carbon emissions and waste created during filming . Producer Gale Anne Hurd acknowledged the Hulk , being green , was a popular environmental analogy , and Norton himself was an environmentalist . Hybrid and fuel efficient vehicles were used , with low sulfur diesel as their energy source . The construction department used a sustainably harvested , locally sourced yellow pine instead of lauan for the sets , and also used zero @-@ or low @-@ VOC paint . The wood was generally recycled or given to environmental organizations , and paint cans were handed to waste management . In addition , they used cloth bags , biodegradable food containers , china and silverware food utensils , a stainless steel mug for each production crew member , a contractor who removed bins , recycled paper , biodegradable soap and cleaners in the trailers and production offices , and the sound department used rechargeable batteries . *The Incredible Hulk* became the first blockbuster film to receive the Environmental Media Association 's Green Seal , which is displayed during the end credits .

= = = Post @-@ production = = =

Leterrier cited Andy Serkis ' motion capture portrayals of Gollum and King Kong in *The Lord of the*

Rings and King Kong , respectively , as the standard he was aiming for . Norton and Roth filmed 2500 takes of different movements the monsters would make (such as the Hulk 's " thunder claps ") . Phosphorescent face paint applied to the actors ' faces and strobe lighting would help record the most subtle mannerisms into the computer . Others including Cyril Raffaelli provided motion capture for stunts and fights , after the main actors had done video referencing . Leterrier hired Rhythm and Hues to provide the CGI , rather than Industrial Light & Magic who created the visual effects for Ang Lee 's Hulk . Visual effect company , Image Engine , spent over a year working on a shot where Banner 's gamma @-@ irradiated blood falls through three factory floors into a bottle . Overall 700 effects shots were created . Motion capture aided in placing and timing of movements , but overall key frame animation by Rhythm and Hues provided the necessary " finesse [and] superhero quality " . Many of the animators and Leterrier himself provided video reference for the climactic fight .

Dale Keown 's comic book artwork of the Hulk was an inspiration for his design . Leterrier felt the first Hulk had " too much fat [and] the proportions were a little off " . He explained , " The Hulk is beyond perfect so there is zero grams of fat , all chiseled , and his muscle and strength defines this creature so he 's like a tank . " Visual effects supervisor Kurt Williams envisioned the Hulk 's physique as a linebacker rather than a bodybuilder . A height of nine feet was chosen for the character as they did not want him to be too inhuman . To make him more expressive , computer programs controlling the inflation of his muscles and saturation of skin color were created . Williams cited flushing as an example of humans ' skin color being influenced by their emotions . The animators felt green blood would make his skin become darker rather than lighter , and his skin tones , depending on lighting , either resemble an olive or even gray slate . His animation model was completed without the effects company 's full knowledge of what he would be required to do : he was rigged to do whatever they imagined , in case the model was to be used for The Avengers film . The Hulk 's medium @-@ length hair was modeled on Mike Deodato 's art . He originally had a crew cut , but Leterrier decided flopping hair imbued him with more character . Leterrier cited An American Werewolf in London as the inspiration for Banner 's transformation , wanting to show how painful it was for him to change . As a nod to the live action TV series , Banner 's eyes change color first when he transforms . Leterrier changed the Abomination 's design from the comics because he felt the audience would question why he resembled a fish or a reptile , instead of " an über @-@ human " like the Hulk . Rather , his hideousness is derived from being injected multiple times into his skin , muscles and bones ; creating a creature with a protruding spine and sharp bones that he can use to stab . His green skin is pale , and reflects light , so it appears orange because of surrounding fire during the climactic battle . The motion capture performers , including Roth , tried to make the character behave less gracefully than the Hulk . They modeled his posture and the way he turns his head on a shark . The character also shares Roth 's tattoos . A height of eleven feet was chosen for the character . Leterrier tried to work in the character 's pointed ears , but realized the Hulk would bite them off (using the example of Mike Tyson when he fought Evander Holyfield) , and felt ignoring that would make the Hulk come across as stupid .

Leterrier had planned to use prosthetic makeup and animatronics to complement the computer @-@ generated imagery that was solely used in the previous film . The make @-@ up artists who worked on X @-@ Men : The Last Stand were set to portray Blonsky 's gradual transformation , which Zak Penn said would portray Blonsky " not [being] used to having these properties . Like he 's much heavier , and we talked about how when he walks down the sidewalk , his weight destroys the sidewalk and he 's tripping . [It 's all about] the humanization of these kinds of superhero characters , showing the effects physics may actually have on [them] . " Tom Woodruff , Jr. of Amalgamated Dynamics (who created all the costumes for the Alien films since Alien 3) was in negotiations , and created two busts of the Hulk and prosthetic hands to act as stand @-@ ins for the character . A full animatronic was never created as it was decided it would complicate production to set up shots for a puppet and then a computer graphic . An animatronic was used for Sterns ' mutating head , however . Destruction was mostly done practically . A model of a bottling machine was smashed through a wall for when the Hulk escapes the factory . The filmmakers used steam and dry ice for the gas used to smoke out the Hulk , and they destroyed a real Humvee by dropping a weight on it when shooting the Culver University battle . Pipes blew fire for when the Hulk strikes

down the computer @-@ generated helicopter . When Banner falls from the helicopter to trigger the Hulk into fighting the Abomination , Norton was attached to a surface held by a bar which turned 90 degrees while the camera was pulled to the ceiling to simulate falling . Leterrier jokingly remarked that making Norton fall that distance would obviously render him unable to act .

= = Music = =

The Incredible Hulk : Original Motion Picture Score is the soundtrack for the film , composed by Craig Armstrong . Armstrong was the arranger for Massive Attack , a band Leterrier was fond of and had collaborated with on the 2005 film Unleashed . Armstrong was his first choice , which surprised Marvel , not knowing if he had scored an action film (he did compose 2001 's Kiss of the Dragon) . Even the temp track consisted of Armstrong 's work and similar music by others . The Hulk , alongside the Green Lantern , was one of Armstrong 's favorite comics as a child , although he did not see Ang Lee 's Hulk .

Armstrong began composing in his home in Glasgow , Scotland with three sequences ; the Hulk and Betty in the cave ; the Abomination and the Hulk 's alley fight ; and Bruce and Betty 's reunion . The majority was composed in a few weeks in Los Angeles , California , which was very intense for the director and composer . The score was recorded over four days during late 2007 in a chapel in Bastyr University , located in Kenmore , Washington . Pete Lockett played ethnic instruments in the score , which were recorded in London and mixed together with the orchestra and electronics . The score was orchestrated by Matt Dunkley , Tony Blondal , Stephen Coleman , David Butterworth , and Kaz Boyle . Leterrier suggested the score be released on two discs , which Armstrong believed to be a joke . Only when he compiled the album ? and Marvel asked why they were only given one disc ? did he realize they were serious .

The Hulk and the Abomination both have two themes , representing their human and monstrous forms . The Hulk 's theme was meant to be iconic and simple , like Jaws (1975) , with string glissandos on a bass C note . Banner 's theme is tragic and includes parts of Joe Harnell 's " The Lonely Man " theme from the television series . Armstrong played the piano for one scene featuring that piece . Blonsky has a dark theme , which becomes aggressive when he transforms . Armstrong inter played the Hulk and the Abomination 's themes during their battle , and found scoring the action sequences similar to a dance . There is also a suspenseful theme , and a love theme .

Critical opinion is split with the Chicago Tribune describing the soundtrack as " the dullest musical score of the year " in their review of the film , while Dan Goldwasser of Soundtrack.net described it as " bombastic , thematic and energy @-@ filled " .

= = = Track listing = = =

All music composed by Craig Armstrong .

= = Release = =

The Incredible Hulk premiered on June 8 , 2008 at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City , California and was released in theaters on June 13 .

= = = Editing = = =

Seventy minutes of footage , mostly dealing with the origin , were not included in the final cut . Much of this back @-@ story was unscripted and the filmmakers were never sure of including it into the final cut , and had considered releasing some of these clips on the internet . Editor Kyle Cooper , creator of the Marvel logo (with the flipping pages) and the montage detailing Iron Man 's biography in that film , edited together much of this footage into the opening credits . Leterrier explained a negative test screening , where flashbacks were placed across the film that the audience found too similar to Hulk , had resulted in compressing these to the film 's start . This replaced the original

opening , where Banner comes to the Arctic to commit suicide . When the scene ends , in an instant the frozen body of Captain America is partially seen in the ice . Leterrier said he did not want this scene to be lost amid the opening montage .

Norton and Leterrier disputed with the producers over the final running time : they wanted it to be near 135 minutes , while the producers wanted the film to be under two hours . This was made public , and rumors spread that Norton " made it clear he won 't cooperate with publicity plans if he 's not happy with the final product " . Norton dismissed this , " Our healthy process [of collaboration] , which is and should be a private matter , was misrepresented publicly as a ' dispute ' , seized on by people looking for a good story , and has been distorted to such a degree that it risks distracting from the film itself , which Marvel , Universal and I refuse to let happen . It has always been my firm conviction that films should speak for themselves and that knowing too much about how they are made diminishes the magic of watching them . "

= = = Marketing = = =

Effort was made to promote the story as having a romance and a physical antagonist , and the title was used for promotional puns (such as 7 @-@ Eleven 's " Incredible Gulp " slurpees , and " Incredible Dad " themed Father 's Day gifts at Kmart) . Burger King also promoted the film , and General Nutrition Centers used the title character as a role model for strength training . Hasbro created the toy line , which they released on May 3 , 2008 , while Sega released a video game on June 5 , 2008 . The film was promoted in an episode of American Gladiators on June 9 , 2008 , which was hosted by Hulk Hogan and featured Lou Ferrigno .

Following the edit dispute , Universal 's Adam Fogleson and Norton planned a promotional tour which would avoid constant media interviews and therefore uncomfortable questions . He attended the premiere , took part in a Jimmy Kimmel Live ! sketch and would also promote the film in Japan . However , during the film 's release he chose to do charity work in Africa .

= = = Home media = = =

The Incredible Hulk was released on Blu @-@ ray and DVD on October 21 , 2008 . It includes behind @-@ the @-@ scenes featurettes , audio commentary , deleted scenes , and an alternate opening . The film was number one in sales when released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray on October 21 , 2008 , in the United States (having been available in the United Kingdom since October 13) . There are widescreen and fullscreen single @-@ disc editions ; a three @-@ disc special edition ; and a two @-@ disc Blu @-@ ray package . The first disc contains an audio commentary by Leterrier and Roth , while the second comes with special features and deleted scenes , and the third with a digital copy of the film . The Blu @-@ ray edition compresses the content of the first two DVDs onto one , while the second disc contains the digital copy .

The film was also collected in a 10 @-@ disc box set titled " Marvel Cinematic Universe : Phase One ? Avengers Assembled " which includes all of the Phase One films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe . It was released by Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment on April 2 , 2013 .

= = Reception = =

= = = Box office = = =

The Incredible Hulk earned \$ 134 @.@ 8 million in North America , as well as \$ 128 @.@ 6 million internationally for a worldwide total of \$ 263 @.@ 4 million . The film , even though it barely passed its predecessor , and equalled if the smaller budget of the first film is taken into account , is still considered successful . Entertainment analyst David Davis told The Hollywood Reporter , " The first Hulk had such high expectations after the NBC Universal merger and was supposed to be critical favorite Ang Lee 's breakout commercial blockbuster . Then with the new Hulk film , Marvel was able

to underplay the importance of the success after the great success of Iron Man this summer . So the new one overdelivered , relative to its underpromise . "

== == North America == ==

In its opening weekend , the film grossed \$ 55 @. @ 4 million in 3 @, @ 505 theaters in the United States and Canada , ranking No. 1 at the box office . The previous film earned \$ 62 @. @ 2 million in its opening weekend , but dropped 70 % in its second weekend . The second film by comparison , dropped 60 % in its second weekend . Behind Fantastic Four : Rise of the Silver Surfer , it was the second @-@ highest gross for a film released over a Father 's Day weekend . This surpassed industry expectations of a \$ 45 million opening , following the disappointing response to the 2003 film . Universal believed word of mouth would contribute to the film breaking even eventually .

== == Outside North America == ==

It also opened in thirty @-@ eight other countries , adding \$ 31 million to the total opening . The film outgrossed the 2003 film in South Korea , while its openings in Mexico and Russia created records for Universal . The film grossed 24 million yuan (roughly \$ 3 @. @ 4 million) in its Chinese opening on August 26 , outgrossing the previous film 's overall gross of ten million yuan .

== == Critical response == ==

The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported a 67 % approval rating with an average rating of 6 @. @ 2 / 10 based on 219 reviews . The website 's consensus reads , " The Incredible Hulk may not be quite the smashing success that fans of Marvel 's raging behemoth might hope for , but it offers more than enough big green action to make up for its occasionally puny narrative . " Metacritic gave the film an average score of 61 out of 100 , based on 38 reviews . The site characterized reviews as " generally favorable " . A CinemaScore poll indicated the majority of viewers were male and graded the film an A- , and 82 % of them had seen the 2003 film .

Todd McCarthy of Variety said , " what seemed , in theory , the least @-@ necessary revival of a big screen superhero emerges as perfectly solid summer action fare in The Incredible Hulk . " He emphasized " it 's all par @-@ for @-@ the @-@ course cinematic demolition and destruction , staged efficiently and with a hint of enthusiasm , " and " penned with sporadic wit [...] Visuals lean toward the dark and murky , but editing by three ? actually six ? hands is fleet , and Craig Armstrong 's ever @-@ present score is simultaneously bombastic and helpfully supportive of the action . Effects are in line with pic 's generally pro but not inspired achievements . " Rene Rodriguez of The Miami Herald applauded that the film " does a lot of things [Ang] Lee 's Hulk didn 't : It 's lighter and faster @-@ paced , it 's funnier and it embraces (instead of ignoring) the 1970s TV series that furthered the character 's popularity " . Mark Rahner of The Seattle Times wrote that , " The relaunch of Marvel 's green goliath is an improvement over director Ang Lee 's ponderous 2003 Hulk in nearly every way ? except that the actual Hulk still looks scarcely better than something from a video game , and he still barely talks " . Lou Lumenick of the New York Post said , " What lingers in my memory ... is the lengthy , essentially animated climactic battle between the Hulk and the Abomination on the streets and rooftops of Harlem , and an earlier showdown between the title creature and the U.S. Army , which is deploying high @-@ tech weapons including sound @-@ wave cannons . These are expertly staged by director Louis Leterrier , who disposes of the backstory under the opening credits and wraps up the whole thing in twenty @-@ four minutes less than [Ang] Lee took " . Roger Ebert was not a fan of the film stating , " The Incredible Hulk is no doubt an ideal version of the Hulk saga for those who found Ang Lee 's Hulk too talky , or dare I say , too thoughtful . But not for me . It sidesteps the intriguing aspects of Hulkdom and spends way too much time in , dare I say , noisy and mindless action sequences . "

Conversely , Christy Lemire of the Associated Press found that " the inevitable comparisons to Iron Man , Marvel Studios ' first blockbuster this summer , serve as a glaring reminder of what this Hulk

lacks : wit and heart . Despite the presence of Edward Norton , an actor capable of going just as deep as Robert Downey Jr . , we don 't feel a strong sense of Bruce Banner 's inner conflict " . A.O. Scott of The New York Times opined , " ' The Adequate Hulk ' would have been a more suitable title . There are some big , thumping fights and a few bright shards of pop @-@ cultural wit , but for the most part this movie seems content to aim for the generic mean " . David Ansen of Newsweek wrote , " Leterrier has style , he 's good with action and he 's eager to give the audience its money 's worth of bone @-@ crunching battles . Still , once the movie leaves the atmospheric Brazilian settings , nothing in this " Hulk " sinks in deeply : its familiar genre pleasures are all on the surface The movie 's scene stealer is Tim Blake Nelson , making a comically welcome third act appearance as the unethical but madly enthusiastic scientist Samuel Sterns " .

The film was nominated for best superhero film at the 2008 National Movie Awards and for Best Science Fiction Film at the Saturn Awards , but lost to The Dark Knight and Iron Man , respectively .

= = Future = =

On a potential sequel , Norton said , " The whole thing was to envision it in multiple parts . We left a lot out on purpose . [The Incredible Hulk is] definitely intended as chapter one . " Leterrier made the film 's final shot of Banner ambiguous ; the thought being if there is a sequel , it would mean Banner finally masters control over his anger ; if there is not a sequel , the shot indicates instead that he becomes a menace in The Avengers . Leterrier had also intended for a scene in the credits showing Blonsky , human once more , imprisoned and chained in a box . The character of Samuel Sterns , played by Tim Blake Nelson , was introduced to set him up as a villain in a possible future film , where he would become the Leader . Aaron Sims , the lead designer on The Incredible Hulk , also took time to work on concepts for the Leader . Nelson is " signed on " to reprise the role . Ty Burrell wants to portray the superpowered Doc Samson faithfully to the comics .

Leterrier and Roth were originally contracted to return . Leterrier also stated Norton was not signed on , but in October 2008 , Hurd stated that Norton was contracted to reprise the role . The film had outgrossed its predecessor and Universal indicated interest in a sequel , though Leterrier believed a sequel would not be made because of the film 's box office return . Feige said the film met Marvel 's expectations and that Hulk would return , but after the crossover . Hurd was not concerned that a sequel may not be produced until at least 2012 , citing the positive reception to the film and having produced the Terminator series , the second and third film of which had a 12 @-@ year gap . Tim Roth confirmed that Marvel had signed him for three more films . Leterrier , after having previously said he did not want to direct a sequel , said in late 2009 he had changed his mind and was now amenable .

Mark Ruffalo began his role as Banner / Hulk in The Avengers , after Feige said he chose not to bring back Norton . In October 2014 , Norton claimed he chose never to play Hulk again because he " wanted more diversity " with his career , and did not want to be associated with only one character . In April 2012 , despite Ruffalo being on board to play the Hulk in the sequel , Feige confirmed to Collider that Marvel had no plans at that time to film another Hulk film . In a Q & A session , Feige and Ruffalo confirmed that discussions are underway to produce another Hulk film due to the positive audience response to Ruffalo 's performance in The Avengers . In September 2012 , Feige , while exploring all possible story options for a sequel film , including a film based on the " Planet Hulk " and " World War Hulk " storylines , stated , " everything [in terms of stories from the comics] is on the table . Do I think Hulk can carry a movie and be as entertaining as he was in Avengers ? I do believe that . I do believe he absolutely could . We certainly are not even going to attempt that until Avengers 2 . So there 's a lot of time to think about it . "

In June 2014 , Ruffalo said he believed the studio might be considering doing a new standalone Hulk film , saying , " I think they are , for the first time , entertaining the idea of it . When we did The Avengers it was basically ' No ! ' , and now there is some consideration for it . But there 's still nothing definitive , not even a skeletal version of what it would be . " In July , Feige stated that the studio was not considering a " Planet Hulk " film at that time , due to wanting to feature Ruffalo 's Banner in the film . However , he did not rule out a story that saw the Hulk and Banner end up in

space and explained why a solo Hulk film did not occur in Phase Two of the MCU , by saying , " After the first Avengers , Iron Man had his own movie , Thor had his own movie , Captain America had his own movie , and Widow and Fury were in The Winter Soldier . So it was really about , frankly , saving somebody so that the only place you could get Hulk between Avengers movies is the next Avengers movie , so [director Joss Whedon] could continue to play with that in [Avengers : Age of Ultron] . Where we go after that , we 'll see . " In October 2014 , again on a solo film , Feige said " we 'll see . We 'd love to do it , we 'd love to find the place to put it , but right now , Hulk will be appearing , with his friends , in their [Phase Three] films . "

In April 2015 , Ruffalo said Universal holding the distribution rights to Hulk films may be an obstacle to releasing a future Hulk standalone film , and reiterated this in October . Marvel reacquired the film rights for the character , but Universal retained the distribution rights for The Incredible Hulk as well as the right of first refusal to distribute future Hulk films . According to The Hollywood Reporter , a potential reason why Marvel has not reacquired the film distribution rights to the Hulk as they did with Paramount Pictures for the Iron Man , Thor , and Captain America films is because Universal holds the theme park rights to several Marvel characters that Marvel 's parent company Disney wants for its own theme parks . In December , Ruffalo stated that the strained relationship between Marvel and Universal may be another obstacle to releasing a future standalone Hulk film . The following month , he indicated that the lack of a standalone Hulk film allowed the character to play a more prominent role in Thor : Ragnarok and the two part Avengers : Infinity War , stating , " we ? ve worked a really interesting arc into Thor [: Ragnarok] , Avengers [: Infinity War ? Part 1 and 2] for Banner that I think will ? when it ? s all added up ? will feel like a Hulk movie , a standalone movie . "