

= Saw VI =

Saw VI is a 2009 Canadian @-@ American horror film directed by Kevin Greutert from a screenplay written by Patrick Melton and Marcus Dunstan . It is the sixth installment in the seven ? part Saw franchise and stars Tobin Bell , Costas Mandylor , Betsy Russell , Mark Rolston , Peter Outerbridge , and Shawnee Smith . It was produced by Mark Burg and Oren Koules of Twisted Pictures and distributed by Lionsgate .

Saw VI continues the franchise 's focus on the posthumous effects of the Jigsaw Killer and the progression of his successor , Mark Hoffman . In this film , Hoffman sets a series of traps for an insurance executive , William Easton , and his employees . Meanwhile , the FBI trails Peter Strahm , now suspected of being Jigsaw 's last accomplice , and Hoffman is drawn into motion to protect his secret identity .

Greutert , who served as editor for all the previous Saw films , made his directorial debut with Saw VI . Melton and Dunstan , the writers for both Saw IV and Saw V , returned to write the screenplay and Charlie Clouser , who provided the score for all previous Saw films , composed the score . Filming took place in Toronto from March to May 2009 with a budget of \$ 11 million .

The film was released in New Zealand and Australia on October 22 , 2009 , and October 23 , 2009 in the United States and Canada . In Spain it was the first film to receive a Película X rating for violence ( a rating usually reserved for pornographic films ) ; the rating restricted screenings to eight select theaters in that country . It was released almost a year later on October 8 , 2010 in Spain with an " 18 " rating , after the producers had the offensive content edited out , according to the rating board . With gross receipts of \$ 14 million in its opening weekend , Saw VI placed second to Paranormal Activity 's \$ 21 million . Saw VI went on to gross over \$ 68 million worldwide , the lowest @-@ grossing Saw film to date , but still a financial success compared to its small budget . Reviews were mixed , with some criticizing the acting and others praising Greutert 's directing .

= = Plot = =

Two predatory lenders awaken on either side of a room split by a caged @-@ in scale , wearing head harnesses with screws poised to pierce their temples . The one who sets more flesh weight upon their tray will survive . Eddie cuts fat from his torso , but Simone chops off her arm , and Eddie is killed when the timer expires . As he reviews the game 's footage , Detective Lieutenant Mark Hoffman is called to the scene by FBI Agent Dan Erickson , who has found Peter Strahm 's fingerprints . Also present is Lindsey Perez , whose survival was covered up by Erickson for her protection . They learn from Dr. Adam Heffner , the coroner who performed all of the autopsies for the case thus far , that the knife used to cut the jigsaw piece from Eddie 's flesh was only used once before , on Seth Baxter . The agents intend to find the Baxter videotape to prove Strahm 's involvement .

While at the hospital to meet with Simone , Hoffman is met by reporter Pamela Jenkins , who claims to have found something at the meatpacking plant . He later meets with Jill Tuck at her clinic and takes control of the games , and is given five envelopes from the box left to her in John Kramer 's will , each containing photos of people to be tested . After he leaves , a flashback reveals that Kramer brought Amanda Young to Jill , who had deemed her a lost cause , as proof of his methods . A later flashback , as Jill delivers a package from the box to the hospital , shows that Jill met with Kramer at the plant hours before his death , where he gave her the box 's key and his promise that she would be protected when the games ended .

William Easton , an insurance executive for Umbrella Health , meets with Debbie , the company 's attorney , about Harold Abbott , who succumbed to heart disease after his coverage request was denied due to an application discrepancy . Hoffman abducts Easton from his office that night and brings him to an abandoned zoo , where he and his janitor , Hank , awaken in vises designed to tighten around their torsos each time they breathe into oxygen masks strapped to their faces . Kramer himself appears in a videotape and informs Easton that he has one hour to complete four tests and remove the bombs strapped to his limbs , or he will lose his family . Hank , a heavy

smoker , is unable to hold his breath for long and is killed by the vise . The other tests force Easton to save his staff and associates , including Debbie , from their own traps , usually by choosing between them ; this forces him to confront his own probability formula , which favors the healthy over the ill . It is shown that Kramer met Easton at the opening of Jill 's clinic and took issue with his formula . After his cancer was diagnosed , Kramer 's coverage request for an experimental Norwegian treatment was rejected by Easton .

The game is viewed by a woman named Tara and her son Brent from a cage below the observation room , which contains a tank of hydrofluoric acid and a switch marked " Live " and " Die " . Pamela awakens in another cage on the other side of the room . During the game , Hoffman is called away by Erickson and Perez , who found the Baxter videotape and are having it unscrambled by an offsite technician . They inform him that abnormalities were found in Strahm 's fingerprints , and Erickson eventually reveals their knowledge of Strahm 's death . The moment his voice is unscrambled , Hoffman attacks and kills everyone in the room , plants fingerprints using Strahm 's severed hand , and lights the room on fire to destroy the evidence .

He returns to the observation room and finds the letter he 'd written to Amanda , in which he 'd used his knowledge of her role in Jill 's miscarriage to blackmail her into killing Lynn Denlon . The letter was found by Pamela and given to Jill , who uses it to ambush Hoffman as Easton reaches the end of his path with one second left , finding himself between the cages . It is revealed that Pamela is his sister , while Tara and Brent are Harold 's family . Tara is informed by a videotape of Kramer that she can either kill Easton or free him using the switch ; when she is unable to do so , Brent angrily shifts the switch and a bed of needles swings down and injects Easton 's body with the acid , killing him . Jill restrains Hoffman and locks a new reverse bear trap to his head . She shows him the sixth envelope , which contains his photo , and leaves him with 45 seconds but no key . He escapes by breaking his hand and jamming the trap as it activates ; he pulls his head free , ripping open his cheek , and the screen cuts to black as he screams .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development and writing = = =

On May 14 , 2008 , Bloody Disgusting reported that Kevin Greutert , the editor of the first five films in the franchise , would make his directorial debut with Saw VI . Newcomer to the series , Andrew Coutts replaced him as editor for the film . Saw VI marked David Armstrong 's last time to serve as cinematographer of the series . Mark Burg and Oren Koules again served as producers , with James Wan and Leigh Whannell , creators of the series , executive producing . Charlie Clouser was brought back to compose the score . Patrick Melton and Marcus Dunstan , writers of Saw IV and Saw V , returned to write the sixth installment . Melton said that the film had good pacing and a resolution for the series . Greutert commented that Saw VI would have some finality to it , something he always wanted to see in the series . During the early planning stage for the script it was suggested that Mandy Patinkin 's character , Detective Hoffman , should take on the mafia , but the idea was quickly dismissed as not " feeling Saw enough " . Greutert said in a Demon FM interview that Lionsgate told him a week before filming , that Saw VI would be post -production converted into 3D . Greutert was upset by this , since the film he envisioned was a 2D film , aesthetically . The plans were later abandoned due to time restraints .

= = = Casting = = =

On July 26 , 2007 before Saw IV was released , CraveOnline 's horror website ShockTilYouDrop.com announced that Costas Mandylor would sign a deal to appear as Mark

Hoffman in Saw V and Saw VI . Mandylor commented on his character : " Hoffman is sort of torn of becoming a mad man or becoming a guy that 's more composed , coming from a pure place like Jigsaw . That 's my character 's dilemma ; does he go fucking crazy or follow the rules of the boss ? " Greutert said in an interview with Bloody Disgusting that Saw VI would have the most characters of any Saw film to date but reassured the writers would stay true to previous storylines to prevent any " violations of logic and chronology " . A TV reality show called Scream Queens aired in 2008 on VH1 , in which 10 unknown actresses competed for a " breakout " role in Saw VI . Unknown actress Tanedra Howard won the role . Lionsgate made a public statement ensuring her a leading role in the film but did not elaborate further on her character .

It was confirmed on March 24 , 2009 that Shawnee Smith would return as Amanda Young . Newly filmed " flashback " scenes would be created instead of using archive footage from previous entries , as had been done in the films since her character 's death in Saw III . On April 19 it was announced that James Van Patten would return as Dr. Heffner , a character featured in the opening scene of the fourth installment performing the autopsy on John Kramer . Peter Outerbridge was cast as a new character , William , and Tobin Bell , Betsy Russell , and Mark Rolston returned as their characters John Kramer , Jill Tuck , and Special Agent Erickson , respectively . Russell commented about her character : " You find out a little more about if Jill is good or evil . Pretty much you 'll know . " Greutert wanted to bring Cary Elwes 's character Dr. Gordon back but Elwes was not available . He was later cast in Saw 3D , though the storyline is very different than the one Greutert had for him in Saw VI .

= = = Filming and trap designs = = =

With a budget of \$ 11 million , Saw VI began principal photography on March 30 , 2009 and wrapped on May 13 , 2009 . The film was shot at Toronto 's Cinespace Film Studios . Greutert said that the victims in traps would be more one @-@ on @-@ one with the trap and would be more personal to them . This was compared to Saw IV and Saw V , which most of the traps were set in big rooms and involved several people at one time .

Armstrong told Bloody Disgusting reviewer Mike Pereira that he thinks " visually " Saw VI might be his favorite , saying " We 're kind of pulling back a little bit in the color palette . It 's going to be more suggestive and not so vibrant , in your face like III and IV . It 's more neutral and shows natural flesh tones . On Saw V , I pulled back a little bit and on this one , I pulled back even more . " He commented that the " steam room " trap was the " best looking " of them all . He went on to say , " It 's big and expensive . It 's got furnaces , fires and steam . It 's multi @-@ leveled . The most complex Saw . We had techno cranes flying through . It was pretty amazing . " Commenting on the " carousel room " trap Armstrong said : " It 's very carnival , playground @-@ like . It 's just nasty . [ There are ] spinning red lights in there . It 's really overwhelming to walk in and look at because everything is spinning . " Greutert said in an issue of the horror magazine Fangoria that the " carousel room " was , to date , the " longest trap scene ever " . He admitted that originally they had ten actors riding the carousel , but it was ultimately scaled down to six , to " tie in to the [ film 's ] title " . Post @-@ production services were provided by Deluxe .

= = Soundtrack = =

Saw VI : Original Motion Picture Soundtrack includes music by the bands Every Time I Die , Chimaira , Suicide Silence , Nitzer Ebb , Mushroomhead , and Lacuna Coil , among others . The soundtrack includes 18 tracks separated by 3 parts , each with six songs and includes 3 bonus tracks . It was released on October 20 , 2009 through Trustkill Records . James Christopher Monger of Allmusic praised the use of hard rock and heavy metal music , something that had been missing since Saw IV . He said in his review that " It 's a fitting marriage , as hard rock and heavy metal are the sonic suitors to horror and torture porn films and video games " . He particularly liked the songs by Hatebreed ( " In Ashes They Shall Reap " ) , Converge ( " Dark Horse " ) , My My Misfire ( " The Sinatra " ) , and Kittie ( " Cut Throat " ) , calling the songs the " most ferocious moments this time

around " .

Track listing

= = Release = =

Saw VI was released on October 22 , 2009 in Australia and New Zealand , a day earlier than the Canada , United States , and United Kingdom release . Most of the film 's stars attended the Lionsgate annual " red carpet " event for the film at Grauman 's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood , California . The Motion Picture Association of America gave the film an R rating without much content having to be edited . In Spain , the film was rated with a Película X rating for extreme violence , and restricted screenings to only eight adult theaters in that region . Buena Vista , the film 's foreign distributor , appealed the decision . After producers cut several of the " most violent scenes " to obtain a " not under 18 " rating , it will be released in Spain on October 8 , 2010 .

= = Home media = =

The DVD and Blu @-@ ray Disc were released in three editions on January 26 , 2010 : an " R @-@ rated Theatrical Full Screen Edition " , an " Unrated Director 's Cut Widescreen Edition " , and an " Unrated Director 's cut Blu @-@ ray Disc " ? as well as a digital download . The release includes an additional scene after the credits roll , featurettes about Jigsaw , the traps , and the Halloween Horror Nights " Saw : Game Over " maze . Music videos by Memphis May Fire , Hatebreed , Mushroomhead , and Suicide Silence were included with all editions . The Director 's Cut included two commentary tracks , one with director Kevin Greutert and writers Patrick Melton and Marcus Dunstan , and the other featuring producer Mark Burg and executive producers Peter Block and Jason Constantine . During its initial release , all three editions came in a " 2 @-@ Movie Set " , which was bundled with the first film with the original bonus features from the initial release . The film is now sold by itself without the original Saw . According to The Numbers.com , which only counts DVD sales in the United States , Saw VI placed number three its first week on the DVD sales chart , selling 220 @,@ 107 units ( \$ 2 @,@ 766 @,@ 088 ) in the United States . In comparison , Saw V sold 515 @,@ 095 units ( \$ 11 @,@ 326 @,@ 939 ) its first week . In the first three weeks Saw VI sold 443 @,@ 710 units for \$ 7 @,@ 587 @,@ 396 .

= = Reception = =

= = Box office = =

Saw VI opened in 3 @,@ 036 theaters on 4 @,@ 000 screens and earned \$ 6 @.@ 9 million on its opening day , in second place behind Paranormal Activity which grossed \$ 7 @.@ 5 million that day during its second weekend of wide release . It grossed \$ 14 @.@ 1 million its opening weekend , which is the lowest of all the Saw films . It remained at number two behind Paranormal Activity which was playing on only 64 % as many screens as Saw VI , but made 67 % more money .

On Halloween weekend , it moved down to number six and made \$ 5 @.@ 2 million , a 63 % decrease in ticket sales from the previous weekend . By its third weekend it declined in sales by 61 % and was removed from 945 theaters . It fell into 11th place with \$ 2 million . By its fourth weekend , ticket sales declined by 78 % and the film was pulled from 1 @,@ 314 theaters ; it made \$ 449 @,@ 512 . On its fifth and final weekend it made \$ 91 @,@ 875 , an 80 % decrease , and it was pulled from an additional 599 theaters . It was being shown in 178 theaters by the end of its run . The film closed out of theaters on November 24 , 2009 , after only 35 days .

Saw VI began its international run in tenth place with \$ 4 @.@ 7 million on 946 screens in 11 markets . It opened in the United Kingdom in second place behind Up , grossing \$ 2 @.@ 6 million on 375 screens . In Australia , it opened at fourth place with earnings of \$ 846 @,@ 000 on 164 screens . In its second week it came in eighth place with \$ 4 @.@ 4 million on 1 @,@ 229 screens

in 20 markets for a total of \$ 11 @. @ 8 million . The film opened in third place in Russia with \$ 1 @. @ 1 million on 273 screens while it fell to fourth place in the United Kingdom with \$ 1 @. @ 5 million on 381 screens over the weekend for a total of \$ 6 @. @ 1 million . Saw VI was released in Spain on October 8 , 2010 and grossed \$ 1 @. @ 2 million on its opening weekend in 211 theaters . The film has come to gross \$ 27 @. @ 6 million in the United States and Canada , and \$ 40 @. @ 5 million in other markets , for a worldwide total of \$ 68 @. @ 2 million ; making it the lowest @-@ grossing film of the series .

= = = Critical response = = =

Saw VI was not screened in advance for critics . The film received mixed reviews from film critics , and garnered the second best critical reception out of the series , after Saw ( 2004 ) . Review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes reports that 36 % of 69 critics have given the film a positive review , with a rating average of 4 @. @ 2 out of 10 , and the critical consensus " It won 't earn the franchise many new fans , but Saw VI is a surprising step up for what has become an intricately grisly annual tradition . " Metacritic , which assigns a normalized score out of 100 to reviews from film critics , gives the film a rating score of 30 , based on 12 reviews . CinemaScore polls reported that the average grade moviegoers gave the film was a " C " on an A + to F scale .

Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly said that " Saw VI is the thinnest , draggiest , and most tediously preachy of the Saw films . It 's the first one that 's more or less consumed by backstory ? which is to say , it 's one of those hollow franchise placeholders in which far too many fragments from the previous sequels keep popping up in flashbacks . " He said , " If your goal is to do a quick study for a round of Saw Trivial Pursuit , then this may be the movie for you . If you 're looking to be jolted into fear or queasy laughter , skip this sequel and hope that the producers get their sick act together next time . " Rob Nelson of Variety wrote , " Squeezing another pint of blood from its torture @-@ porn corpus , Lionsgate slays again with Saw VI , a film so frighteningly familiar it could well be called ' Saw It Already ' . At least the requisite moralism is more playful than pious in this edition " , but added , " Presumably owing to director Kevin Greutert 's work as editor of all five previous Saw pics , the film 's juggling of chronology is the franchise 's best .... " Christopher Monfette of IGN Movies rated Saw VI three out of five and wrote that " while Saw VI certainly offers a redemption for the series and the promise of a coming power struggle for Jigsaw 's legacy , Saw VII will no doubt mark the time to either shake things up or watch this franchise get the ax " .

Frank Scheck of The Hollywood Reporter said , " If this is torture porn , it 's as if it was designed to be enjoyed by Michael Moore . " He closed his review saying , " As usual , what gives the film whatever interest it has -- beyond satisfying the rapacious appetites of gore aficionados -- is the moral element attached to the various Rube Goldberg @-@ style set pieces . Here , it 's exemplified by a well @-@ staged sequence in which a man must choose who lives or dies during a particularly lethal variation of musical chairs . " Roger Moore of Orlando Sentinel gave the film two out of five stars . He said the script " has a more lyrical bent , and a more satiric bite , than any of the other Saw sequels " and called the acting " perfunctory on most fronts " . Robert Abele of the Los Angeles Times gave the film a negative review , writing " But , really , do reformers and victims of callous health insurers really want a guy with a penchant for elaborately constructed death panels of his own to be their advocate ? Elsewhere , the usual critiques apply : terrible acting , zero suspense , laughable logic and the promise of another one next year . How can we get this policy canceled ? " Chris Hewitt of the St. Paul Pioneer Press gave the film a negative review . He was displeased that the film offered nothing new saying , " The first three Saw movies had some intriguing ideas and an unusual way of presenting them , but the three most recent films have barely bothered to come up with anything fresh . " Kim Newman of Empire gave the film three out of five , stating " Saw VI gets back to Saw basics in gripping , gruesome manner . "

Wesley Morris of The Boston Globe gave the film a two and half out of four stars saying , " Who knew that the franchise 's creators would eventually find a plot twist that made sense ? Who knew they 'd realize that Tobin Bell 's righteous killer had current @-@ events value ? Given our cable @-@ news climate , it 's not beyond imagining that John Kramer could have his own populist TV

show : ' Jigsaw 's Death Panel ' ? " . Blake French of AMC Filmcritic gave the film three and a half out of five , writing , " Director Kevin Greutert hasn 't helmed a lot of films in the past , but he did edit all of the previous Saws . As it turns out , his mastered craft lends well to directing . He spins a taut , tight , concise web of terror and surprise . The best entry in the series since Saw II . " Brad Miska of Bloody Disgusting gave the film seven out of ten and wrote " Saw VI is faithful to the franchise and the twist / finale are 100 % satisfying . Saw fans will walk out of the theater with their fists in the air with the feeling that they 've reclaimed their beloved franchise . " Marc Savlov of Austin Chronicle gave the film one and half out of five stars , saying " Enshrouding the whole gooey mess in the already blood @-@ spattered surgical garb of the ongoing health care debate is a crafty move on the screenwriters ' part , but once you get past that pseudo @-@ ironic touch , this Saw is no more or less disturbing than any other in the series " .