

= Daredevil ( season 1 ) =

The first season of the American web television series Daredevil , which is based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name , follows the early days of Matt Murdock / Daredevil , a lawyer @-@ by @-@ day who fights crime at night , juxtaposed with the rise of crime lord Wilson Fisk . It is set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe ( MCU ) , sharing continuity with the films and other television series of the franchise . The season was produced by Marvel Television in association with ABC Studios , DeKnight Prods. and Goddard Textiles , with Steven S. DeKnight serving as showrunner , and series creator Drew Goddard acting as consultant .

Charlie Cox stars as Murdock , while Vincent D 'Onofrio plays Fisk . The two are joined by principal cast members Deborah Ann Woll , Elden Henson , Toby Leonard Moore , Vondie Curtis @-@ Hall , Bob Gunton , Ayelet Zurer , and Rosario Dawson . Daredevil entered development in late 2013 , with Goddard initially hired in December 2013 . DeKnight replaced him as showrunner and Cox was hired to star in May 2014 . Filmed in New York City from July to December 2014 , the season focuses on the darker , more mature elements of the source material . Stephanie Maslansky designed the costumes for the season , with the final red suit for Daredevil designed by Ryan Meinerding and the costume artists at Marvel Studios . The season features links and references to other MCU projects , including future Netflix series .

The first two episodes of the season premiered in Los Angeles on April 2 , 2015 , with the full season of 13 episodes released on Netflix on April 10 to an estimated high viewership and critical acclaim . Critics praised the performances , particularly D 'Onofrio 's , and the darker tone and action sequences of the series compared to other properties set in the MCU . However , some of the pacing during the season and the final red Daredevil suit received criticism . The first season received two nominations for Creative Emmy Awards , for the visual effects from Shade VFX , and the sound editing . The series was renewed for a second season on April 21 , 2015 .

= = Episodes = =

= = Cast and characters = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

In October 2013 , Marvel and Disney announced that they would provide Netflix with live action series centered around Daredevil , Jessica Jones , Iron Fist , and Luke Cage , leading up to a miniseries based on the Defenders . Drew Goddard was hired to serve as executive producer and showrunner for Daredevil , however , in May 2014 it was announced that Goddard had stepped down as showrunner in order to focus on directing a feature film based on Marvel 's Sinister Six for Sony Pictures Entertainment . He was succeeded by Steven S. DeKnight . Goddard , who wrote the first two episodes , remained with the show as a consultant and executive producer . It was also revealed that the series would be titled Marvel 's Daredevil . The first season consists of 13 hour @-@ long episodes , and DeKnight , Goddard , Jeph Loeb , Jim Chory , Dan Buckley , Joe Quesada , Stan Lee , Alan Fine , Cindy Holland , Kris Henigman , Allie Goss , and Peter Friedlander serve as executive producers .

= = = Writing = = =

The season does not directly adapt any one storyline from the comics , with DeKnight feeling that it was more important to focus on " nailing the spirit of the comics " . He stated that Netflix 's support

of " the creatives " coupled with Marvel 's restrictions on their properties led to him pushing the source material as far as he could while remaining respectful of the characters and their history , and being surprised at " how willing everyone is to take a really fresh look and really push what we ? re doing . " Vincent D 'Onofrio compared telling a story on Netflix to more of a " 13 @-@ hour film " than a television series and noted that time can be taken to tell the story and " be much more specific " . Deborah Ann Woll explained that what she saw as one of the most important themes in the series was normal people having an impact in " seemingly insurmountable circumstances " , with the focus not being on Daredevil 's abilities or the characters ' qualifications , but on their willingness to help people .

Though the season was much more violent than previous MCU works , DeKnight felt that sexual violence would be " too far " , saying that " Daredevil wasn ? t asking for a lot of sexual situations , especially since Matt Murdock is not really in the position to get into a relationship , and it just didn ? t fit the story for that season . I think that ? ll change moving forward , but I never pushed any kind of sexual agenda on the show . I think once Daredevil was a hit and people were really responding positively , you can see the progression into more of an adult world in Jessica Jones .

Speaking about the way the season reveals the name Daredevil , DeKnight explained that several options had been brought up , such as " one of the versions in the comics where when he was a kid people used to taunt him with the name Daredevil " , which did not fit in the world of the series , or having Ben Urich give the character the name , but the timing for that did not work due to Urich 's death before the final Daredevil suit was introduced . It was decided that instead of having the name Daredevil said onscreen , it would be easier to introduce it through the media as a newspaper headline . On why this was not done for Wilson Fisk as Kingpin , DeKnight stated that he felt it would " get a little bit silly .... [ if ] we went , ' Oh they called him Daredevil ! Oh they called him Kingpin ! ' , " and was unable to come up with another natural way for the name Kingpin to come up , so it was decided to leave that for a later time .

= = = Casting = = =

The main cast for the season includes Charlie Cox as Matt Murdock / Daredevil , Deborah Ann Woll as Karen Page , Elden Henson as Franklin " Foggy " Nelson , Toby Leonard Moore as James Wesley , Vondie Curtis @-@ Hall as Ben Urich , Bob Gunton as Leland Owlsley , Ayelet Zurer as Vanessa Marianna , Rosario Dawson as Claire Temple , Vincent D 'Onofrio as Wilson Fisk .

In July 2014 , Peter Shinkoda was reported to have a recurring role in the season , portraying Hashiro . In March 2015 , this character was revealed to actually be Nobu Yoshioka , while recurring opponents for Daredevil ? Madame Gao , Vladimir Ranskahov , and Turk Barrett ? were also announced , portrayed by Wai Ching Ho , Nikolai Nikolaeff , and Rob Morgan . Additionally , the following also recur throughout the season : Geoffrey Cantor as Mitchell Ellison ; Judith Delgado as Elena Cardenas ; Daryl Edwards as Carl Hoffman ; Royce Johnson as Brett Mahoney ; Adriane Lenox as Doris Urich ; Peter McRobbie as Father Lantom ; Amy Rutberg as Marci Stahl ; Chris Tardio as Christian Blake ; Susan Varon as Josie ; and Tom Walker as Francis .

= = = Design = = =

Costume designer Stephanie Maslansky read the first two episodes ' scripts and some outlines of future scripts , and developed a " solid understanding " of the character arcs and overall story to begin the advanced planning needed for costume design . She also asked questions to prepare for character 's stunt requirements and the building or retro @-@ fitting of more complex costumes .

Murdock begins the season wearing a black costume ( called the " vigilante outfit " by production ) , inspired by the one worn by the character in Frank Miller 's The Man Without Fear , rather than the more traditional red , horned suit . This was done to highlight the formation of Matt Murdock as Daredevil , with the costume evolving over time as the character develops . Marvel Comics ' Chief Creative Officer Quesada conceptualized the look based on DeKnight 's specifications . On the design process , DeKnight revealed that " we tried practically everything , design @-@ wise . We

experimented with a lot of different head pieces . One version was a ski mask with the eyes sewn shut . We tried everything until we found something that just felt right . " DeKnight and Quesada explained that the idea was for Murdock to start out with a homemade outfit that fits more in the " real @-@ world " of the series , and to then evolve it into the classic Daredevil suit . Maslansky noted that they wanted the outfit to " look like something that Matt Murdock could put together himself , that he could either order off the Internet or shop around town .... we wound up with pretty practical choices for him . His shirts are compression shirts and his pants wound up being from an army / navy store . " Concerning the black mask , Maslansky noted that a balance between aesthetic and safety was required , and that it was made of layers of cotton mesh that " really conform to his head " but also allowed Cox to see through the mask .

On the red suit , Maslansky said , " We wanted something that looked militaristic and functional , but also dramatic and sexy " adding that it was " tricky " making it practical . To begin the process of creating the suit , Quesada contacted Ryan Meinerding and the costume artists and design team at Marvel Studios , who all contributed design ideas , with one of Meinerding 's ultimately being picked . Quesada , who previously worked as an artist on Daredevil comics , gave several suggestions , including the incorporation of some of how New York was created into the suit , which led to the use of rivets and " architectural " shapes . The suit is intended to look like a Kevlar vest , and the black sections are an homage to comic panels where the artists highlighted certain areas with red , with " deeper portions " in shadow . On the mask , Meinerding noted the difficulty in designing the entire top half of a face that is intended to match the bottom half of an actor 's face , " because half of his face has to be covered and has its own expression and the actor ? s face is going to be doing something else " . For the billy clubs used by Daredevil in the series , which were designed by Andy Park , discussions were had about having them holstered on the right leg , given that both Cox and his stunt double Chris Brewster are right handed , but it was ultimately decided to have the holster on the left hand side as it is in the " classic profile " of the comics . DeKnight explained that Murdock 's Daredevil suit does not have the " DD " emblem on the chest as seen in the comics , because Murdock receives his moniker only after the suit is introduced . He also felt that the emblem was " one of the more problematic emblems in superhero @-@ dom " , and that Daredevil 's suit in the comics was " very difficult to translate to screen , especially in this world that is grounded and gritty " .

Many of the male characters in the series are often seen wearing suits , which Maslansky was comfortable with after working as the costume designer on White Collar . Murdock 's suits are differentiated more by texture than color , with a limited palette , given that the character cannot see what color his clothing is . Cox 's size changed throughout the series as he continued to work out . For Murdock 's sunglasses , Maslansky worked with series prop master Michael Jortner to make something that fit into the modern world , but paid homage to " what was familiar to fans " . Close to 100 different versions of the prop were created for Cox to try . For the women of the series , Maslansky looked to their backstories in the show , with Page having dreams and fantasies of a life in New York along the lines of Katharine Hepburn and Lauren Bacall , and dressing according to those thoughts ( " retro , slim skirts , tighter fitting tops and slim dresses " ) , while Marianna coming into the series as a mysterious yet glamorous femme fatale , dressing in high @-@ end , couture clothing ; " she needed to appeal to [ Fisk ] . He wouldn ? t go for just any chick in a pair of old jeans and a t @-@ shirt . "

== = Filming == =

In February 2014 , Marvel announced that Daredevil would be filmed in New York City . In April 2014 , Quesada reiterated this , stating that the show would be filming in areas of Brooklyn and Long Island City that still look like the old Hell ? s Kitchen , in addition to sound stage work . Loeb said that Daredevil would begin filming in July 2014 , and DeKnight confirmed that filming had started that month . In October 2014 , filming took place in the Williamsburg and Greenpoint neighborhoods in Brooklyn . Production concluded on December 21 , 2014 . It filmed under the working title Bluff , on a \$ 56 million budget . The production received \$ 14 @. @ 3 million under the

New York Film & TV Tax Credit Program .

" Cut Man " ends with a long action sequence filmed in a single take . DeKnight called it the " most complicated action scene " in the series , due to the technical difficulty in filming it , and credited Goddard , episodic director Phil Abraham , stunt coordinator Philip J Silvera , and series cinematographer Matt Lloyd with realizing it . He also named The Raid films as inspiration for the sequence . There were only a few days to plan and set up the fight , as opposed to a film which would allow " at least a couple of weeks " , and it took 7 or 8 takes to get the shot right . Silvera explained that the scene was always scripted to be a one @-@ shot , and that he had intended to work around it with wipes , but Abraham challenged the team to do it all for real , which allowed the fight to feel more grounded by having them " slow down the fight , and just have this raw , animalistic feeling happening . " The final shot does include some ' Texas Switches ' between actors and stunt doubles , but was ultimately filmed with no cuts .

Talking about the scene where Fisk beheads Anatoly Ranskahov with a car door in " In the Blood " , DeKnight noted that series like Spartacus and The Walking Dead would have shown the head being crushed , which he felt was " the right choice " for them , but for Daredevil " we did very much a Psycho thing , we saw the aftereffects of it , but you never saw the car door crushing his head .... Sound effects , absolutely . It ? s a very disturbing scene without crossing that line into a horror movie kind of deal . "

= = = Visual effects = = =

Visual effects for the series were completed by the New York studio Shade VFX ; Daredevil featured over 1000 visual effect shots . Executive visual effects supervisor Bryan Goswin explained that the company 's work included the creation of digital doubles when stunts were not safe for actors or stunt doubles , as well as blood @-@ hits and wounds , with " a lot of support to the idea of the violence and gore that happens in Daredevil " given to differentiate the series from other Marvel projects , and to try to set the series in a " more realistic and dark place , the real streets of New York . "

One shot created by Shade VFX is when the audience sees Matt Murdock 's " vision " ? the way that he " sees " using his other heightened senses . On why this was only used once in the season , DeKnight explained that it had in fact been budgeted to appear several more times , with the effect actually completed at least twice more for the season . It was removed for several reasons , including to avoid taking away the specialty of it , and to maintain the crime drama tone of the series . One instance where it would have been used again was in " Stick " , where the audience would have seen how Murdock saw Stick as he threw keys at him , and then when he is older and Stick throws fighting sticks at him and his senses are more refined . In that case , the effect was not finished on time . Another instance was in " The Ones We Leave Behind " when Murdock comes across a Chinese worker and realizes that he has been blinded . The final use of the effect was going to be in " Daredevil " when the camera pushes in on Page 's reaction Murdock telling her that they can work together . Here , the effect was hiding all of the nuances in her expression , so it was decided that it would be better to remove it .

= = = Music = = =

Composer John Paesano was brought on " a couple of weeks in to post @-@ production " , and scored an episode every four to five days . Paesano estimated that each episode has around 25 ? 30 minutes of music in it . In approaching the series ' score , Paesano looked to DeKnight , who " had a very clear vision of what he wanted ... music you could feel and not necessarily hear . " The result was a more minimalist score than typical " superhero " music , although the music starts to " change color " and move closer to that of the MCU when the classic red costume is introduced . Most of the score was produced electronically , though live elements , such as a cello , were used where possible . Rather than " keep the drive and the energy up " with drums , Paesano elected to use a low pulsing heartbeat that was inline with the series ' minimalist approach , and tied into the

fact that Daredevil can hear people's heartbeats in the show . A soundtrack album for the season was released on iTunes on April 27 , 2015 .

All music composed by John Paesano , unless otherwise noted .

== Marvel Cinematic Universe tie @-@ ins ==

In February 2015 , Emma Fleisher of Marvel Television stated that Daredevil takes place in the aftermath of The Avengers , but would not " explicitly [ be ] in that Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. world . We're in our own corner [ of the MCU ] . So the aliens came down and ruined the city , and this is the story of Hell 's Kitchen 's rebuild . " Connections to other MCU properties include the character of Carl " Crusher " Creel , who appears in Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. portrayed by Brian Patrick Wade , and is mentioned as having fought Jack Murdock in the latter 's final boxing match ; St. Agnes Orphanage , where both Matt Murdock and Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. ' s Skye are raised ; the insignia on Madame Gao 's heroin , which is a connection to the Iron Fist antagonist Steel Serpent ; and mentions of Roxxon Oil , a company featured throughout the MCU .

The final scene of " Stick " , featuring a conversation between Stick and Stone , was meant to hint at further ties between the series and other areas of the MCU in the same way as Marvel 's film post @-@ credits scenes , though it could not actually go after the episode 's credits due to the way that Netflix begins the next episode during the credits of the current one . There were discussions about having another such " coda " at the end of the season finale , one which would have featured Leland Owlsley attempting to escape New York , only to be killed by the Punisher in a surprise introduction . The scene would not have shown the actor 's face , but would have included the character 's iconic skull insignia . The idea was dropped , again because of Netflix 's playing system , and Owlsley was ultimately killed by Fisk in the episode , with the introduction of the Punisher saved for the series ' second season .

== Release ==

The first season of Daredevil was released on April 10 , 2015 on the streaming service Netflix , in all territories where it is available , in Ultra HD 4K . On April 14 , 2015 , Daredevil was the first Netflix series to receive its Descriptive Video Service audio description track , " a narration track that describes what is happening on @-@ screen , including physical actions , facial expressions , costumes , settings and scene changes . " By April 16 , episodes for the series had been pirated by 2 @.@ 1 million individual users worldwide , according to Excipio , a piracy tracking firm , surpassed in that timeframe only by Game of Thrones . The biggest countries for piracy were Brazil ( 190 @,@ 274 torrent downloaders ) , India ( 149 @,@ 316 ) , the U.S. ( 144 @,@ 351 ) , the UK ( 119 @,@ 891 ) , France ( 105 @,@ 473 ) and Australia ( 101 @,@ 025 ) . Except for India , Netflix was available in each of those countries at the time .

== Marketing ==

At the October 2014 New York Comic Con , footage from the series was shown . In January 2015 , a motion film poster was released to coincide with the revealing of the streaming date for the first season . The following month , on February 4 , a teaser trailer was released . Merrill Barr of Forbes noted the dark tone of the trailer in a similar vein to DC Comics ' Arrow and different from Marvel 's ABC series , but questioned the timing of the trailer debut after Super Bowl XLIX , especially as the company did not air trailers during the event for Avengers : Age of Ultron or Ant @-@ Man and could have benefited from introducing " its latest and riskiest show " to general audiences through it . In March 2015 , an additional motion poster was released , which featured all major characters and Avengers Tower in the background of the poster , as well as the possible reveal of Murdock 's red suit in his reflection . In the lead up to the first season premiere , a street marketing campaign appeared across the world in 12 cities with various artists creating murals . On April 2 , 2015 , the series had its premiere at the Regal Premiere House at L.A. Live where the first two episodes were

previewed .

== Home media ==

The season will be available in Region 2 on October 3 , 2016 , on Blu-ray and DVD .

== Reception ==

== Audience viewership ==

As Netflix does not reveal subscriber viewership numbers for any of their original series , Luth Research compiled data for the season , based on a sample of 2 , 500 Netflix subscribers watching via computers , tablets or smartphones . ( Luth Research does not track Netflix viewing on televisions , whether Internet-connected sets or those linked to streaming media players or gaming consoles . ) According to Luth , an estimated 10 . 7 % of subscribers ( approximately 4 . 4 million ) watched at least one episode of Daredevil in its first 11 days on Netflix , with 2 . 3 % ( 940 , 000 ) watching on the first day . In a separate study , Netflix determined that the fifth episode of the season was the one to " hook " viewers , " to the point where they [ continued on to watch ] the entire first season . "

== Critical response ==

The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported a 98 % approval rating with an average rating of 8 / 10 based on 51 reviews . The website 's critical consensus reads , " With tight adherence to its source material 's history , high production quality , and a no-nonsense dramatic flair , Daredevil excels as an effective superhero origin story , a gritty procedural , and an exciting action adventure . " Metacritic , which uses a weighted average , assigned a score of 75 out of 100 , based on 22 critics , indicating " generally favorable reviews " .

In reviews for the first five episodes of the series , Brian Lowry of Variety felt that " Compared to Marvel 's experience with Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. for ABC , operating in Netflix 's pay-TV world is clearly liberating " in terms of what can be done and shown . Matt Patches of Esquire added , " The show 's exterior recasts the high-fructose , splash-page aesthetic of Iron Man , Thor , Captain America with neo-noir attitude . Goddard and DeKnight drench Daredevil in shadows and blood . " He compared Daredevil to " a TV spinoff " of Christopher Nolan 's Batman films , and praised Cox and DeWolfe 's portrayals , while criticizing a subplot involving Nelson and Page and noting that the slow pacing of Daredevil , in which story may be stretched out more than needs be , could be a problem for binge-watchers . Victoria McNally of MTV felt the early episodes ' fight sequences were " filmed beautifully " and enjoyed that they featured little CGI , while also calling Henson " perfectly cast and endlessly amusing " as Nelson .

Eric Eisenberg of Cinema Blend also had positive thoughts on the initial episodes , saying , " It 's smart , entertaining , and has moments so shocking that you 'll have to repress screams . Suffice it to say , Marvel and Netflix have another big winner on their respective plates , " while also praising the acting . Speaking of the first two episodes , Mark Hughes of Forbes added additional praise , saying , " Quite simply , in Daredevil Marvel delivers one of the greatest live-action superhero origin stories ever made . It is in the same top-tier category of true superhero origin films along with Batman Begins , Iron Man , and Superman : The Movie . " Hughes stated that if the first two episodes were released in theaters with only minor tweaks , they " would've been hailed as one of Marvel 's best films to date . " Mike Hale at the New York Times was less positive about the series , calling it ordinary , but admitting having high expectations due to his love for the comics , and admiring the care and seriousness with which the series was made . He called the series pace " leisurely " , but " a pleasant change from the norm " , and called Cox 's performance " divided " , praising him as Murdock and criticizing him as Daredevil . Hale was positive about the cast overall ,

and ultimately surmised that after seeing the first five episodes , Daredevil is " eminently watchable " , but not the Daredevil he remembered from the comics .

After reviewing each of the individual episodes , IGN reviewer Matt Fowler gave the entire first season a score of 9 out of 10 , indicating an " Amazing " season , saying that though it may have " spun a few wheels " while building up to its endgame , the series was " a thrilling , ultra @-@ satisfying take on Daredevil 's material and lore . One that , like Favreau 's first Iron Man film , helped breathe new life and fandom into a somewhat B @-@ tier Marvel character . " He particularly praised D 'Onofrio 's performance , the " edgy " fight sequences , the fact that the hero himself got " beat on ? a lot " , and the unique dark take on the MCU . Liz Shannon Miller , reviewing the season for Indiewire , graded it a ' B + ' , and though feeling that it didn 't quite live up to DeKnight 's admitted influence , The Wire , praised the series , noting its characters and development , and the performances of the entire cast , especially those of D 'Onofrio , Curtis @-@ Hall , and Cox . She was positive of the level of violence the series depicted , and all of its " brutal " and " beautiful " fight sequences , as well as the way that the series explores the consequences of the films on average people , while committing to building its own universe within the already established MCU . Alan Sepinwall of HitFix also praised the cast and characters , particularly D 'Onofrio , and felt that series benefited from having a much narrower focus than the Marvel films or other series . He did wish that Murdock 's " world on fire " -sight was used more often , and felt that the classic Daredevil costume , which " may not translate well to live @-@ action " , could use " some tweaks " .

= = = Accolades = = =

Cox was honored at the American Foundation for the Blind 's 19th Annual Helen Keller Achievement Awards , for those " that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in improving quality of life for people with vision loss . " The series ' main title sequence , created initially for this season , won the Online Film & Television Association 's award for the Best New Titles Sequence , and was nominated for the Creative Arts Emmy Award for Outstanding Main Title Design , which went to Manhattan .

The season was included on multiple Best / Top TV Shows of 2015 lists , ranking on People 's ( 1st , along with Jessica Jones ) , Business Insider 's ( 3rd ) , TV Guide and Digital Spy 's ( 7th ) , and Slate Magazine 's ( 23rd ) . It also was included on Vanity Fair ' Best New TV Shows of 2015 list . Daredevil 's first season was the seventh trending television show search on Google for 2015 .