

= Thor : The Dark World =

Thor : The Dark World is a 2013 American superhero film featuring the Marvel Comics character Thor , produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures . It is the sequel to 2011 's Thor and the eighth film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe . The film was directed by Alan Taylor , with a screenplay by Christopher Yost and Christopher Markus & Stephen McFeely . It stars Chris Hemsworth , Natalie Portman , Tom Hiddleston , Anthony Hopkins , Stellan Skarsgård , Idris Elba , Christopher Eccleston , Adewale Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje , Kat Dennings , Ray Stevenson , Zachary Levi , Tadanobu Asano , Jaimie Alexander , and Rene Russo . In Thor : The Dark World , Thor teams up with Loki to save the Nine Realms from the Dark Elves led by the vengeful Malekith , who intends to plunge the universe into darkness .

Development of Thor : The Dark World began in April 2011 , when producer Kevin Feige announced plans for a sequel to follow the crossover film The Avengers . In July 2011 , Kenneth Branagh , the director of Thor , withdrew from the project . Brian Kirk and Patty Jenkins were considered to direct the film before Taylor was hired in January 2012 . The supporting cast filled out in August 2012 , with the hiring of Eccleston , Dennings , and Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje . Principal photography began in September 2012 in Surrey , England with filming continuing in Iceland and London , before wrapping up in December 2012 . Thor : The Dark World was converted to 3D in post @-@ production .

Thor : The Dark World premiered at the Odeon Leicester Square in London on October 22 , 2013 . It was released internationally on October 30 , 2013 , and on November 8 , 2013 , in the United States . The film received mixed reviews , but was a commercial success , grossing over \$ 644 million worldwide . A third film , Thor : Ragnarok , is set for release on November 3 , 2017 .

= = Plot = =

Eons ago , Bor , father of Odin , clashes with the Dark Elf Malekith , who seeks to unleash a weapon known as the Aether on the nine realms . After conquering Malekith 's forces , including enhanced warriors called the Kursed , on their home world of Svartalfheim , Bor safeguards the Aether within a stone column . Unbeknownst to Bor , Malekith , his lieutenant Algrim , and a handful of Dark Elves escape into suspended animation .

In present @-@ day Asgard , Loki stands imprisoned for his war crimes on Earth.¹ Meanwhile , Thor , alongside warriors Fandral , Volstagg , and Sif , repel marauders on Vanaheim , home of their comrade Hogun ; it is the final battle in a war to pacify the Nine Realms following the reconstruction of the Bifröst , the " Rainbow Bridge " between realms , which had been destroyed two years earlier.² The Asgardians soon learn that the Convergence , a rare alignment of the Nine Realms , is imminent ; as the event approaches , portals linking the worlds appear at random .

In London , astrophysicist Dr. Jane Foster and her intern Darcy Lewis travel to an abandoned factory where such portals have appeared , disrupting the laws of physics around them . Separating from the group , Jane is teleported to another world , where she is infected by the Aether . Heimdall alerts Thor that Jane has moved beyond his near all @-@ seeing vision , leading Thor to Earth . When Thor finds Jane , she inadvertently releases an unearthly force , and Thor returns with her to Asgard . Odin , recognizing the Aether , warns that the Aether will not only kill Jane , but that its return heralds a catastrophic prophecy .

Malekith , awakened by the Aether 's release , turns Algrim into a Kursed and attacks Asgard . During the battle , Malekith and Algrim search for Jane , sensing that she contains the Aether . Thor 's mother Frigga is killed protecting Jane , and Malekith and Algrim are forced to flee without Jane . Despite Odin 's orders not to leave Asgard , Thor reluctantly enlists the help of Loki , who knows of a secret portal to Svartalfheim , where they will use Jane to lure and confront Malekith , away from Asgard . In return , Thor promises Loki vengeance on Malekith for killing their mother . With Volstagg and Sif stalling Asgardian soldiers and Fandral assisting their escape , Thor , Loki , and Jane head to Svartalfheim .

There , Loki tricks Malekith into drawing the Aether out of Jane , but Thor 's attempt to destroy the

exposed substance fails . Malekith merges with the Aether and leaves in his ship as Loki is fatally wounded while killing Algrim . Thor , cradling Loki in his arms , promises to tell their father of his sacrifice . Afterwards , Thor and Jane discover another portal in a nearby cave and reunite in London with Darcy and Jane 's mentor Dr. Erik Selvig ? who was briefly institutionalized due to the mental trauma he suffered during Loki 's attack on Earth . They learn that Malekith plans to restore the Dark Elves to dominance by unleashing the Aether at the center of the Convergence in Greenwich . Thor battles Malekith through various portals and across multiple worlds until one portal separates them , leaving Malekith unopposed on Earth . Thor returns in time to help his mortal comrades use their scientific equipment to transport Malekith to Svartalfheim , where he is crushed by his own damaged ship .

Thor returns to Asgard , where he declines Odin 's offer to take the throne and tells Odin of Loki 's sacrifice . As he leaves , Odin 's form transforms into Loki , who is alive and impersonating Odin .

In a mid @-@ credits scene , Volstagg and Sif visit the Collector and entrust the Aether to his care , commenting that with the Tesseract already in Asgard , having two Infinity Stones so close together would be dangerous . As they leave , the Collector remarks , " One down , five to go . " In a post @-@ credits scene , Jane and Thor reunite on Earth while somewhere in London a frost monster from Jotunheim , accidentally transported to Earth during the final battle , continues to run amok .

= = Cast = =

Chris Hemsworth as Thor :

The crown prince of Asgard , based on the Norse mythological deity of the same name . Hemsworth stated that the film addresses unresolved issues regarding Thor 's relationships from previous films , " For Thor and Jane , there are some unanswered questions now , since obviously he didn 't stop in and catch up with her in The Avengers . Thor might have some explaining to do in this one . And with Loki , we get down to the major bones of our conflict with everything that 's come from Thor to Avengers to now . " Hemsworth added , " Thor 's journey I think picks more so up from where we left the first one ? About to take on the throne ... and now coming to the realization of what responsibility comes with that . Also , Alan [Taylor] keeps talking about the dark side of that responsibility , and the secrets of being king or becoming sort of very political about what people need to know and what they want to know . " Hemsworth especially enjoyed the role of Thor in this film as he was able to , " ... break him down and find his human qualities and his vulnerable side . "

Natalie Portman as Jane Foster :

An astrophysicist and Thor 's love interest , who is brought from Earth to Asgard by Thor after she is infected with a mysterious energy . Producer Kevin Feige said , " [W] hile Thor was a fish out of water on Earth in the first two films (Thor and The Avengers) , this time Jane is very much a fish out of water in Asgard . " Portman added , " It was a whole different adventure this time . Because Jane is the fish out of water . I didn 't want to make it like Bill & Ted , or like a valley girl dumped into Shakespeareland . " Portman also said the film finds Jane at a different place in her life , " Jane has moved , so she 's now in London , not in Santa Fe anymore . Obviously she has gone through missing Thor and also being upset at him because he didn 't come knock on her door when he was on her planet . She 's definitely been getting over that and trying to move on . " Hemsworth 's wife Elsa Pataky stood in for Portman during the final kissing scene due to a scheduling conflict .

Tom Hiddleston as Loki :

Thor 's adoptive brother and nemesis , based on the deity of the same name , who forms an uneasy alliance with Thor against the Dark Elves . On where he wished to take the character in the film , Hiddleston said , " I 'd like to take [Loki] to his absolute rock bottom . I 'd like to see him yield , essentially , to his darkest instincts . Then , having hit rock bottom , maybe come back up . I think the fascination for me about playing Loki is that , in the history of the mythology and the comic books and the Scandinavian myths , is he 's constantly dancing on this fault line of the dark side and redemption . " Hiddleston recalled , " When I met Alan [Taylor] , he asked me how I thought I could do Loki again without repeating myself and I remembered talking with Kevin Feige when we were on the Avengers promotional tour . I said , ' OK , you 've seen Thor and Loki be antagonistic for two

films now . It would be amazing to see them fight side by side . I 've been the bad guy now twice , so I can 't be again , or otherwise I shouldn 't be in the film . So we have to find a new role for me to play . "

Anthony Hopkins as Odin :

The king of Asgard , father of Thor , and adoptive father of Loki , based on the deity of the same name , who disapproves of Jane Foster being in Asgard . Regarding Thor 's relationship with his father , Hemsworth said , " [T] he conflict between Thor and Odin was so great in the first one ... so , certainly they disagree as I think they always will at times but there 's a far greater respect from each other . So it becomes , I guess , a more mature conversation , but there 's more at stake this time , too . It 's not sort of just their individual egos , the whole universe is at stake . " As to his approach Hopkins said , " I just play Odin like a human being , with maybe a little more dimension . I grow a beard , look hopefully impressive and keep it as real as possible . "

Stellan Skarsgård as Erik Selvig :

Foster 's mentor and colleague . Skarsgård said , the film finds Selvig in a " disrupted mode " explaining , " Having a god in your head for a while creates some psychological problems " , referring to the character 's ordeal following The Avengers .

Idris Elba as Heimdall :

The all @-@ seeing , all @-@ hearing Asgardian sentry of the Bifröst Bridge , based on the mythological deity of the same name . Elba said he has a larger role in the sequel , " In the new film we 're going to get to know Heimdall the Asgardian a bit better , and we 're going to get to know Asgard a bit better . I can 't say too much , but the expansion of Thor in his world is going to be huge . My part was very small and functional in the first film " .

Christopher Eccleston as Malekith :

The ruler of the Dark Elves of Svartalfheim . About Malekith 's motivation , Eccleston said , " There is a kind of tragic quality to his quest . Because he 's lost his wife , he 's lost his children . He 's lost everything . And he returns for revenge . And the agent for his revenge is the Aether . If he gets hold of that , he is omnipotent . " Eccleston continued , " What I thought about a great deal was revenge ? there 's huge amounts of revenge . One quote is : ' When you seek revenge , be sure to dig two graves . ' I did a film called Revengers Tragedy where I played a guy called Vindici ? from the word ' vindictive ' ? and he is the distillation of revenge . So , in a way , that was what I had to think of : how revenge can make you absolutely monomaniacal ? though you 're still trying to make it recognizably motive @-@ led . It 's just the personification of movie evil . " However Taylor stated that a lot of scenes involving Malekith 's backstory had to be cut from the film to make it more efficient . Eccleston revealed that he speaks an invented language for the film explaining , " The Elvish language is definitely based on European languages . I think there 's probably some Finnish in there . It does have its logic and its rhythms . It also has many syllables and it 's very difficult to do while remaining naturalistic . It 's been a particular challenge for us but hopefully it gives the film some complexity and variety . " Eccleston also said the role required six hours of make @-@ up and 45 minutes in wardrobe .

Adewale Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje as Algrim / Kurse :

A Dark Elf , and Malekith 's trusted and loyal lieutenant , who is transformed into a monstrous creature in order to destroy Thor . Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje described Kurse as " an amalgamation of a bull and a lava @-@ like creature . He has very animalistic tendencies but with this insatiable and unstoppable power . As an actor , that 's one of the hardest things to embody . You have to realize you are probably the most powerful thing you could imagine . And you have to be that . You can 't pretend , so that when you face Thor , it 's real . " Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje stated the role required three hours of make @-@ up a day and had to put on heavy duty prosthetics explaining , " The outfit weighed about 40 pounds . I 'm sure there will be a certain amount of CGI but a good 80 % was me in that suit . " About the character Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje said , " I suppose Algrim and Kurse would be the quintessential baddies , but in reality they are what I perceive as the scorn and the victims of the story . They are the elves who have basically lost their planet and their race to another race , the Asgardians . Here is a man / alien who places a noble objective beyond his own life and I think there is something extremely inspiring about that because he looks at the bigger picture and

sees himself as a means to that end . " Akinuoye @-@ Agbaje added , " I worked with director Alan Taylor in trying to maintain Algrim 's humanity all the way throughout Kurse 's transformation , so that even when you see Kurse the beast , you can still relate to him as being Algrim inside . And symbolically we did that by keeping the same piercing blue eyes throughout . "

Kat Dennings as Darcy Lewis :

A political science major who is interning for Foster . Her role in the film was expanded from the comic relief sidekick role she played in the first Thor film . Dennings said her character is " really bad at real science in this first movie . In the second movie , she 's more interested , but she still doesn 't know anything about it . She loves Jane , she really wants Jane and Thor to be together . It 's almost like her own little soap opera that she watches . "

Ray Stevenson as Volstagg :

A member of the Warriors Three ; a group of three Asgardian adventurers who are among Thor 's closest comrades , known for both his hearty appetite and wide girth . About the character Stevenson said , " He 's got a heart the size of a planet that he wears on his sleeve , so he 's like a big kid . " Regarding Volstagg 's role in this film , Stevenson said , " Volstagg is struggling , he has a brood , they [the Warriors Three] are fighting for hearth and home as much as for the idea of Asgard itself . That 's where he has trouble . " Explaining , " He 's all too aware of how potentially threatening this new enemy is on both the home front and the battlefield . "

Zachary Levi as Fandral :

A member of the Warriors Three , characterized as an irrepressible swashbuckler and romantic . Levi replaced Joshua Dallas in the role due to his commitment on Once Upon a Time . Levi had been up for the role in the first film , but bowed out due to his commitment on Chuck . Levi compared the character to Flynn Rider , the character he played in the animated feature , Tangled , " Fandral is a little similar to Rider in some ways ... He 's like this Lothario . He 's like Errol Flynn . He loves ladies , as do I " . Regarding the dynamic of the Warriors Three , Levi said , " The Warriors Three are here to support Thor . We are his confidants , his best friends . We 've all grown up together in a lot of ways and fought many a battle together , escaped death . To me it 's the way best friends ought to be ? they 're there when you need to talk and they 're there if you don 't want to talk , and they 're there if you need to escape from your father 's place in a flying skiff ! "

Tadanobu Asano as Hogun :

A member of the Warriors Three , a native of Vanaheim primarily identified by his grim demeanor .

Jaimie Alexander as Sif :

An Asgardian warrior , Thor 's childhood friend and Jane Foster 's romantic rival , based on the deity of the same name . Alexander said there is more character development for Sif and the film explores the Sif @-@ Thor relationship . Alexander elaborated , " I really tried to bring a little bit more vulnerability in this film . Sif is very much in love with Thor and very much cares about his well @-@ being . So she kicks a lot of butt in this movie but she also opens her heart a lot . " Alexander suffered a severe back injury while on the set . About the injury , she said , " It was raining , it was dark outside , it was like 5 in the morning ? and I went down a metal staircase and slipped and slipped a disc in my thoracic spine and chipped 11 of my vertebrae . I knocked my left shoulder out of place and tore my rhomboid on my right side ... It took me out of filming for a month " .

Rene Russo as Frigga :

The wife of Odin , queen of Asgard , mother of Thor and adoptive mother of Loki , based on the mythological deity of the same name . Russo said that her role was expanded and explores Frigga 's relationship with Loki , " You know , they cut me [down] in the first film . Kenneth Branagh sent me a nice note , because he understood , he 's an actor . You move on , what are you going to do ? But I think they 're going to need a good mom in the next film . Loki needs his mom . I have a lot of compassion for [Loki] . But we might have to have a conversation about what he just did " .

Additionally , Alice Krige portrays Eir , an Asgardian physician . Chris O 'Dowd was cast as Richard , a suitor of Jane Foster 's . Benicio del Toro , who plays the Collector in Marvel Studios ' Guardians of the Galaxy , appears in a mid @-@ credits scene with Ophelia Lovibond , who plays his aide Carina . Jonathan Howard plays Ian Boothby , Darcy 's intern . Tony Curran plays Bor , Odin 's father , based on the deity of the same name . Clive Russell plays Tyr , based on the deity of the

same name . Richard Brake portrays a captain in the Einherjar . Chris Evans makes an uncredited cameo appearance as Loki masquerading as Captain America , while Thor co @-@ creator Stan Lee makes a cameo appearance as a patient in a mental ward .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

In April 2011 before the release of Thor (2011) , Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige stated that following The Avengers (2012) , " Thor will go off into a new adventure . " Kenneth Branagh , director of Thor , responded to his comments , saying , " It is kind of news to me . Here 's what I would say to that : It 's that I 'm thrilled they 're that confident . I shall wait for the audience to tell us whether there should be a second one , and then if that 's a nice conversation to be had [among] all of us , that 'd be thrilling . But I 've got too much Irish superstitious blood in me to assume that Thor 2 will happen . But if Marvel says so , then I guess it must be true " . Feige later explained that Marvel Studios would gauge how well Thor did at the box office before announcing sequels , but stated , " Don Payne is working on story ideas for a part two . We 've got various options with Ken [Branagh] to discuss coming back , but right now the focus is on the first one . Don is , slowly but surely , thinking about where to take the character next should we be so lucky " .

In June 2011 , Walt Disney Studios set a July 26 , 2013 , release date for the Thor sequel with Chris Hemsworth reprising his role as the title hero . It was also reported that Branagh would not be returning as director but would likely be involved in a producing capacity . The Los Angeles Times cited the long commitment necessary for a special effects @-@ heavy epic and the pressure to start the script process right away as reasons for Branagh 's departure , although he was initially enthused by the chance to direct the sequel . Branagh noted , " It was a long time [making the first film] and they were way too quick for me to get straight back into another , [but] it was a pleasurable experience and a film I 'm very proud of . " The following day , Marvel formally hired Payne , one of the credited writers of the first film , to script the sequel . In August , Brian Kirk entered early negotiations to direct the Thor sequel . The film would have marked Kirk 's first time directing a big @-@ budget motion picture , after having directed television series for HBO , Showtime and the BBC , including Game of Thrones .

In September 2011 , Tom Hiddleston confirmed he would return in the sequel , speculating that in the film , " [Loki will] have to take responsibility for what he 's done " . Patty Jenkins , the director of Monster and the pilot episode of AMC 's The Killing , entered early negotiations with Marvel Studios and Disney to direct the film , after Kirk had passed due to contractual sticking points that arose during negotiations . Later in the month , Feige stated the sequel would " take Thor literally to other worlds " and would " primarily be the journey of that character , of he and Jane Foster and how the new dynamic with his father is working out , as well as what are the broader stakes for The Nine Worlds " . On October 13 , 2011 , Marvel confirmed that Jenkins would direct the sequel and Natalie Portman would return to star . Disney also moved the release date for the film to November 15 , 2013 .

= = = Pre @-@ production = = =

In December 2011 , Jenkins exited the project , citing " creative differences " . She stated , " I have had a great time working at Marvel . We parted on very good terms , and I look forward to working with them again . " Three days later , The Hollywood Reporter reported that Marvel was looking at Alan Taylor and Daniel Minahan as prospective directors to replace Jenkins . THR also reported that Marvel was in the midst of hiring a writer to rewrite Don Payne 's script and the shortlist of possible writers consists of John Collee , Robert Rodat , and Roger Avary . At the end of the month , Alan Taylor , best known for directing episodes of the HBO fantasy series Game of Thrones , was chosen to direct the sequel . Feige mentioned Taylor 's work on the series Mad Men , Boardwalk Empire

and Game of Thrones as reasons for his hiring , saying " With Alan 's direction we got a few more layers of patina , of texture , of reality into our golden realm . "

By January 10 , Marvel Studios had commissioned screenwriter Robert Rodat to rewrite the sequel and Hiddleston stated that filming was expected to begin in London in the summer of 2012 . Hemsworth later confirmed that filming was scheduled to begin in August . Hemsworth also revealed that the film would have a more Viking @-@ influenced feel , elaborating " I think the science fiction element to Thor ? the danger is it falls a little bit into the world of it 's ' tough to throw a light to . ' I think of big waterfalls and mountains and a Viking influence , where the Norse mythology kind of grew from . Having that in Asgard is going to make it all the more special and that 's what Alan [Taylor] wants to bring to it . " Feige said " while the relationship between Loki and Thor certainly has changed [after the events of the movie The Avengers] and has progressed , a lot of Thor 2 is picking up where it left off in terms of Jane , who you just saw for a moment on a computer monitor , and also what 's been going on in the nine realms without the Asgardians being able to use the Bifrost . " Feige also said that while Loki has a part , " there will be a different villain , another big villain " .

In May 2012 , Mads Mikkelsen began talks to play one of the villains in the film and Anthony Hopkins , who played Odin in the first film , committed to returning in the sequel . At the end of the month , Disney moved up the release date for the film a week ahead of the previous date to November 8 , 2013 .

By June 2012 , much of the first film 's supporting cast was confirmed to return , including Idris Elba , Jaimie Alexander , Ray Stevenson and Stellan Skarsgård . Also in June , Joshua Dallas announced that he would not be reprising the role of Fandral . Dallas had initially intended to return , but had to bow out due to his commitment on the television show , Once Upon a Time , and Zachary Levi was cast in his place . Levi was originally up for the role in the first film but scheduling conflicts with Chuck forced him to drop out .

In July 2012 , Mikkelsen stated he would not be appearing in the sequel due to prior commitments , " That 's not happening unfortunately . I had a meeting with [the filmmakers] , but it was a bit too late and then Hannibal came in ... It 's just not happening " . At the 2012 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , it was announced that the film would be titled Thor : The Dark World . At the end of the month , residents near Bourne Wood in Surrey , England were notified that a film going by the working title , Thursday Mourning would be filming in the area .

In August of that year , Christopher Eccleston entered final negotiations to play Malekith the Accursed , and the film was scheduled to shoot in Iceland , where Taylor shot parts of Game of Thrones . By August 22 , Kat Dennings was hired to reprise her role as Darcy Lewis and Adewale Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje was cast as Algrim . At the end of the month , film crews for Thursday Mourning began set construction at Stonehenge near Amesbury , England .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography began on September 10 , 2012 , in Bourne Wood , Surrey , England . A few weeks later , Clive Russell was cast as Tyr , and Richard Brake was cast as an Einherjar captain . At the end of the month , Jaimie Alexander was injured on the London film set , after she slipped while walking in the rain . On October 12 , 2012 , production moved to Iceland with filming taking place in Dómadalur , Skógafoss , Fjaðrárgljúfur and Skeiðarársandur . Iceland Review described the shoot as being among the most extensive film projects to have ever taken place in Iceland . Three days later , Disney announced that the film would be released in 3D . In late October , filming commenced at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich , London . Filming also took place at Shepperton Studios and Longcross Studios in Surrey between October and December 2012 . Other filming locations included Wembley , Borough Market , Hayes and Stonehenge . Alexander tweeted that principal photography wrapped on December 14 , 2012 . Disney spent \$ 237 @.@ 6 million on Thor : The Dark World but \$ 37 million of this was offset by payments from the UK tax authority .

Kramer Morgenthau , who worked with Taylor on Game of Thrones , was brought in as the director of photography . Morgenthau said , " We wanted a grittier , boots @-@ on @-@ the @-@ ground

feeling , inspired by what Alan and I had done on Game of Thrones . We wanted the realms to feel grounded , like a real place , while at the same time respecting the magical ' planet of the Gods ' feeling and theme . " Thor : The Dark World was Morgenthau 's first time shooting a feature film digitally . For the film , Morgenthau chose the Arri Alexa Plus , although he tested with the Sony F65 but found the Alexa to be more pleasing . In addition to the Alexa , Red Epic and Canon EOS 5D Mark II cameras were used for second unit filming . With the Alexa , Morgenthau used Panavision anamorphic lenses . Morgenthau said , " The lenses brought some of the magic and mystery of photochemical back to digital , that big @-@ movie look . " Morgenthau also stated that Thor : The Dark World was easily the most technically complex project that he has worked but said , " It 's all the same concept and the same principles as in a smaller film . You just scale it up . You do a lot more prep . We had three months of prep and loads of time to pre @-@ rig stages . Part of it is having a really good crew ? it 's definitely not a one @-@ man show . "

= = = Post @-@ production = = =

In July 2013 , Dennings told reporters that the film was about to head into reshoots . In August , Taylor said he shot extra scenes with Hiddleston and was about to shoot more with Hopkins . Taylor explained that it was all a part of the " Marvel process " saying , " We 're doing full scenes , scenes that were not in the movie before . We 're adding scenes , creating scenes , writing scenes for the first time . The one [involving Loki] was a fun connective scene ... We realised how well Loki was working in the movie , and we wanted to do more with him . So it was that kind of thing , it was like , ' Oh , we could do this , we could jam this in here ' because he 's such a wonderful guy to watch do his stuff . " Also in August , IMAX Corporation and Marvel Entertainment announced that the film would be digitally re @-@ mastered into the IMAX 3D format and released into IMAX 3D theatres internationally beginning October 30 , 2013 .

Taylor said Marvel 's The Avengers writer / director Joss Whedon rewrote several scenes in the film explaining , " Joss came in to save our lives a couple of times . We had a major scene that was not working on the page at all in London , and he basically got airlifted in , like a SWAT team or something . He came down , rewrote the scene , and before he got back to his plane I sort of grabbed him and said , ' And this scene and this scene ? ' And he rewrote two other scenes that I thought had problems . " In October 2013 , Tony Curran tweeted that he would be portraying Odin 's father , Bor , in a flashback sequence . In November 2013 , Feige stated that the film was intended to be the conclusion of the " Loki trilogy " , which examined the relationship of Thor and Loki throughout Thor , The Avengers and this film . The film 's mid @-@ credits scene was directed by James Gunn , the director of Marvel Studios ' Guardians of the Galaxy .

The film 's visual effects were completed by seven special effects studios , including Double Negative and Luma Pictures . Blur Studio was the lead studio behind the film 's prologue sequence taking place 5 @,@ 000 years before the start of the film , on the Dark Elves homeworld of Svartalfheim . The sequence consisted mostly of computer graphics with live @-@ action shots interwoven throughout . The use of CG allowed for greater freedom of movement by the characters as the live @-@ action costumes were too constrictive .

Taylor wanted Asgard in this film to have a more natural look than its predecessor . To achieve this , crews filmed the coast of Norway with an Arri Alexa camera for three days in a helicopter , capturing six hours of footage . Double Negative then embedded their CG rendering of Asgard on shots of the natural landscape . Double Negative visual effects supervisor Alex Wuttke said , " The benefit of that is that you have some real world terrain to work with ? so you have buildings that have to convey natural features . Then from there we went in there populating the terrain with different buildings . " For scenes taking place on Svartalfheim , production filmed in Iceland with Double Negative adding ruins , mountains , Dark Elf ships , and skies .

For the shot of the levitating truck , which was used in the film to demonstrate the strange phenomena brought on by the coming of the alignment of the worlds , filmmakers attached a cement truck to a large hydraulic rig , which could be programmed to change speed and movement . In order to create Algrim 's transformation into Kurse , Double Negative morphed live action

performances of Adewale Akinnuoye @-@ Agbaje as both Algrim and Kurse . Double Negative then added in smoke and lava @-@ like effects .

The film 's climatic battle sequence takes place through the nine worlds by the use of portals . Visual effects supervisor Jake Morrison said , " We ended up calling this ' time toffee ' , so as you punch through from one realm to another it 's almost like cling film or a slightly gelatinous membrane you have to pass through . It bends a little bit then rips and spits the person out . The other thing we wanted to do was to make sure it was quite fast from an editorial point of view . In the fight scenes there are times when Thor and Malekith are portaling all over the place , quite frankly . We made sure we always kept up the momentum and never stopped the fight . It was a way of making sure the audience weren 't conscious there was an effect going on . "

= = Music = =

In August 2012 , Patrick Doyle said that he had discussions with the director about potentially returning to score the film . By April 2013 , Carter Burwell had been hired to compose the score , but by the following month he left the film over creative differences . In June 2013 , Marvel hired Brian Tyler , who scored Iron Man 3 , to replace Burwell . Tyler said the previous film had an " attitude and [was] grounded in limitations " whereas the Thor film allowed for " all @-@ out regal themes that could be as epic as I could make them . " The composer described The Dark World as " science fiction meeting classic medieval war " , leading to a score that drew from works of both genres such as Star Wars and The Lord of the Rings . Azam Ali is a featured vocalist on the score . The soundtrack was released digitally on October 28 , 2013 .

= = Release = =

The world premiere of Thor : The Dark World took place on October 22 , 2013 , at the Odeon Leicester Square in London . The film was released theatrically in the UK eight days later , on October 30 . The film held its North American premiere at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood , and was released into U.S. theaters on November 7 , 2013 .

= = = Marketing = = =

In March 2013 , Marvel announced the release of a two @-@ issue comic book prelude by writers Craig Kyle and Christopher Yost and artist Scot Eaton in June 2013 . In April 2013 , Marvel released the first trailer for Thor : The Dark World . Forbes said , " This trailer fits nicely into that larger marketing push for Marvel 's brand . It puts all of the recognizable characters from the first film front and center , presents the action as a team event reminiscent of the Avengers , and once again Loki ? who was quite popular with audiences ? makes an appearance . " The Los Angeles Times said , " Evident throughout the trailer is director Alan Taylor 's influence ; the Game of Thrones director 's hand can be seen in the battle sequences , and Asgard ? a bright and shiny kingdom under Thor director Kenneth Branagh ? seems grittier in the sequel . " In July at the 2013 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , Hiddleston introduced footage from the film to audiences in character as Loki . Also in July , Gameloft announced that a mobile video game titled , Thor the Dark World : The Official Game , would be released in conjunction with the release of the film in November .

The theatrical poster for the film was released in early August 2013 . Kirsten Acuna of Business Insider criticized the poster for its lack of originality , noting its similarities to one of the posters of Iron Man 3 , both of which included the female lead clinging to the male lead , with both looking in opposite directions , antagonists prominently displayed in the background and supporting characters featured " on the side " . Additionally , Marvel released a second trailer for the film as part of YouTube 's Geek Week . Forbes said , " this 150 @-@ second trailer is basically just an extended version of last April 's 106 @-@ second teaser " and that " this trailer fails to showcase what 's new this time around ... making audiences question if they really don 't have much else to offer . " The Los Angeles Times said , that the trailer suggests " an ominous , epic scale for the sequel " and that

" the collaboration between Thor and Loki promises to be especially interesting . " Later in the month , producer Kevin Feige and cast members Tom Hiddleston , Natalie Portman and Anthony Hopkins presented additional footage at Disney 's D23 Expo .

Also in August 2013 , Disney announced plans to promote the film with an attraction at Disneyland . The attraction called Thor : Treasures of Asgard , located next to the Stark Industries exhibit inside Innoventions in Tomorrowland , opened on November 1 , 2013 and features displays of Asgardian relics and transports guests to Odin 's throne room , where they are greeted by Thor . The eighth episode of Marvel 's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. , titled " The Well " , takes place in the aftermath of the events of Thor : The Dark World . It first aired on November 19 , 2013 . Jaimie Alexander reprised her role as Sif in the Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. episode " Yes Men " , which aired on March 11 , 2014 .

== Home media ==

Thor : The Dark World was released by Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment for digital download on February 4 , 2014 , and on Blu @-@ ray Disc and DVD on February 25 , 2014 . The physical media release includes deleted scenes , extended scenes , a gag reel , audio commentary by the cast and crew , and a Marvel One @-@ Shot short film entitled All Hail the King , featuring Ben Kingsley reprising his role as Trevor Slattery from Iron Man 3 .

The film was also collected in a 13 @-@ disc box set , titled " Marvel Cinematic Universe : Phase Two Collection " , which includes all of the Phase Two films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe . It was released on December 8 , 2015 .

== Reception ==

== Box office ==

Thor : The Dark World earned \$ 206 @.@ 4 million in North America and \$ 438 @.@ 2 million in other markets for a worldwide total of \$ 644 @.@ 6 million . It surpassed the gross of its predecessor after just 19 days of its release . Deadline.com calculated the net profit of the film to be \$ 139 @.@ 4 million , when factoring together all expenses and revenues for the film .

=== North America ===

Thor : The Dark World made an estimated \$ 7 @.@ 1 million in Thursday night showings , more than double the midnight gross of its predecessor . On Friday , November 7 , 2013 , the film topped the box office with \$ 31 @.@ 9 million (including Thursday night earnings) , which is 25 % higher than the original film 's opening @-@ day gross . Through Sunday , the film remained at the No. 1 spot with \$ 85 @.@ 7 million , which is a 30 % increase over its predecessor 's opening weekend . This was the largest November opening for a film distributed by Disney , surpassing The Incredibles . Thor : The Dark World topped the box office in North America during its first two weekends , before being overtaken by The Hunger Games : Catching Fire in its third weekend .

=== Outside North America ===

On its midweek opening day of Wednesday , October 30 , 2013 , Thor : The Dark World earned \$ 8 @.@ 2 million from 33 territories , including the UK and France , where it opened higher than its predecessor . During its first three days , the film earned \$ 45 @.@ 2 million , and by the end of the weekend , after expanding into three more territories , it totaled \$ 109 @.@ 4 million over five days , finishing in first place in all 36 countries . Its largest openings were recorded in China (\$ 21 @.@ 0 million) , the UK , Ireland and Malta (\$ 13 @.@ 8 million) and France and the Maghreb region (\$ 9 @.@ 94 million) . It topped the box office outside North America on its first three weekends of release . In total earnings , its largest markets are China (\$ 55 @.@ 3 million) , Russia and the CIS

(\$ 35 @. @ 4 million) and the UK , Ireland and Malta (\$ 31 @. @ 4 million) .

= = = Critical response = = =

The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported a 67 % approval rating with an average rating of 6 @. @ 2 / 10 based on 245 reviews . The website 's consensus reads , " It may not be the finest film to come from the Marvel Universe , but Thor : The Dark World still offers plenty of the humor and high @-@ stakes action that fans have come to expect . " Metacritic , which uses a weighted average , assigned a score of 54 out of 100 based on 44 reviews , indicating " mixed or average reviews " . Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an " A- " average , based on a grading scale ranging from A + to F.

Ben Child of The Guardian said , " Thanks to Hiddleston and Hemsworth 's impressive collective charisma , Thor : The Dark World is far from a franchise killer . " Justin Chang of Variety wrote , " This robust , impersonal visual @-@ effects showpiece proves buoyant and unpretentious enough to offset its stew of otherwise derivative fantasy / action elements . " Alonso Duralde of The Wrap said , " Thor : The Dark World delivers the goods ? action , otherworldly grandiosity , romance , humor ? above and beyond its predecessor " . Simon Abrams , writing for RogerEbert.com said , " There 's just enough tension and humor in Thor : The Dark World to make the film 's otherwise listless proceedings worth watching , but only just . " Echoing other critics ' sentiments , Frank Lovece of Film Journal International wrote , " Is it wrong that the best relationship in Thor : The Dark World is between the titular Norse @-@ god superhero and his adoptive brother Loki ? To take nothing away from Oscar @-@ winner Natalie Portman , ... it 's the complicated love @-@ hate between Thor and the trickster god Loki that you can 't turn your eyes from . "

Conversely , Tim Robey of The Daily Telegraph said , " It feels entirely made by committee ? the definition of house style , without a personal stamp in sight . " Leslie Felperin of The Hollywood Reporter said , " Although director Alan Taylor manages to get things going properly for the final battle in London , the long stretches before that on Asgard and the other branches of Yggdrasil are a drag , like filler episodes of Game of Thrones but without the narrative complexity , mythical heft or all @-@ pervading sexiness . " Michael Phillips of the Los Angeles Times described Thor : The Dark World as having the " same old threats of galaxy annihilation spiced with fairly entertaining fish @-@ out @-@ of @-@ water jokes " . Jeannette Catsoulis of The New York Times said , " the battle scenes are as lacking in heat and coherence as the central love story " .

= = = Accolades = = =

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences placed Thor : The Dark World on its shortlist of potential nominees for the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects but ultimately did not nominate it for the award .

= = Sequel = =

Thor : Ragnarok is scheduled to be released on November 3 , 2017 , directed by Taika Waititi . Stephany Folsom will write the screenplay , with Kevin Feige again producing . Hemsworth , Hiddleston , Alexander , Hopkins and Elba will reprise their roles as Thor , Loki , Sif , Odin , and Heimdall , respectively , while Mark Ruffalo will appear as Bruce Banner / Hulk reprising his role from previous MCU films . Cate Blanchett , Tessa Thompson , Jeff Goldblum and Karl Urban join the cast as Hela , Valkyrie , Grandmaster , and Skurge , respectively .