

= Thor (film) =

Thor is a 2011 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name , produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Paramount Pictures . It is the fourth film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe . The film was directed by Kenneth Branagh , written by Ashley Edward Miller & Zack Stentz and Don Payne , and stars Chris Hemsworth , Natalie Portman , Tom Hiddleston , Stellan Skarsgård , Colm Feore , Ray Stevenson , Idris Elba , Kat Dennings , Rene Russo and Anthony Hopkins . The film tells the story of Thor , the crown prince of Asgard , who is exiled from his homeland to Earth . While there , he forms a relationship with Jane Foster , a scientist . However , Thor must stop his adopted brother Loki , who intends to become the new king of Asgard .

Sam Raimi first developed the concept of a film adaptation of Thor in 1991 , but soon abandoned the project , leaving it in " development hell " for several years . During this time , the rights were picked up by various film studios until Marvel Studios signed Mark Protosevich to develop the project in 2006 , and planned to finance it and release it through Paramount Pictures . Matthew Vaughn was originally assigned to direct the film for a tentative 2010 release . However , after Vaughn was released from his holding deal in 2008 , Branagh was approached and the film 's release was rescheduled into 2011 . The main characters were cast in 2009 , and principal photography took place in California and New Mexico from January to May 2010 . The film was converted to 3D in post @-@ production .

Thor premiered on April 17 , 2011 , in Sydney , Australia and was released on May 6 , 2011 , in the United States . The film was a financial success and received positive reviews from film critics . The DVD and Blu @-@ ray sets were released on September 13 , 2011 . A sequel , Thor : The Dark World , was released on November 8 , 2013 . A third film , Thor : Ragnarok is set to be released on November 3 , 2017 .

= = Plot = =

In 965 AD , Odin , king of Asgard , wages war against the Frost Giants of Jotunheim and their leader Laufey , to prevent them from conquering the nine realms , starting with Earth . The Asgardian warriors defeat the Frost Giants and seize the source of their power , the Casket of Ancient Winters .

In the present , Odin 's son Thor prepares to ascend to the throne of Asgard , but is interrupted when Frost Giants attempt to retrieve the Casket . Against Odin 's order , Thor travels to Jotunheim to confront Laufey , accompanied by his brother Loki , childhood friend Sif and the Warriors Three : Volstagg , Fandral , and Hogun . A battle ensues until Odin intervenes to save the Asgardians , destroying the fragile truce between the two races . For Thor 's arrogance , Odin strips his son of his godly power and exiles him to Earth as a mortal , accompanied by his hammer Mjolnir , now protected by an enchantment that allows only the worthy to wield it .

Thor lands in New Mexico , where astrophysicist Dr. Jane Foster , her assistant Darcy Lewis , and mentor Dr. Erik Selvig , find him . The local populace finds Mjolnir , which S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Phil Coulson soon commandeers before forcibly acquiring Jane 's data about the wormhole that delivered Thor to Earth . Thor , having discovered Mjolnir 's nearby location , seeks to retrieve it from the facility that S.H.I.E.L.D. quickly constructed but he finds himself unable to lift it , and is captured . With Selvig 's help , he is freed and resigns himself to exile on Earth as he develops a romance with Jane .

Loki discovers that he is actually Laufey 's son , adopted by Odin after the war ended . A weary Odin falls into the deep " Odinsleep " to recover his strength . Loki seizes the throne in Odin 's stead and offers Laufey the chance to kill Odin and retrieve the Casket . Sif and the Warriors Three , unhappy with Loki 's rule , attempt to return Thor from exile , convincing Heimdall , gatekeeper of the Bifröst ? the means of traveling between worlds ? to allow them passage to Earth . Aware of their plan , Loki sends the Destroyer , a seemingly indestructible automaton , to pursue them and kill Thor . The warriors find Thor , but the Destroyer attacks and defeats them , prompting Thor to offer himself instead . Struck by the Destroyer and near death , Thor 's sacrifice proves him worthy to

wield Mjolnir . The hammer returns to him , restoring his powers and enabling him to defeat the Destroyer . Kissing Jane goodbye and vowing to return , he and his fellow Asgardians leave to confront Loki .

In Asgard , Loki betrays and kills Laufey , revealing his true plan to use Laufey 's attempt on Odin 's life as an excuse to destroy Jotunheim with the Bifröst Bridge , thus proving himself worthy to his adoptive father . Thor arrives and fights Loki before destroying the Bifröst Bridge to stop Loki 's plan , stranding himself in Asgard . Odin awakens and prevents the brothers from falling into the abyss created in the wake of the bridge 's destruction , but Loki allows himself to fall when Odin rejects his pleas for approval . Thor makes amends with Odin , admitting he is not ready to be king ; while on Earth , Jane and her team search for a way to open a portal to Asgard .

In a post @-@ credits scene , Selvig has been taken to a S.H.I.E.L.D. facility , where Nick Fury opens a briefcase and asks him to study a mysterious cube @-@ shaped object , which Fury says may hold untold power . An invisible Loki prompts Selvig to agree , and he does .

= = Cast = =

Chris Hemsworth as Thor :

The crown prince of Asgard , based on the Norse mythological deity of the same name . Director Kenneth Branagh and Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige chose Hemsworth after a back @-@ and @-@ forth process in which the 27 @-@ year @-@ old actor was initially dropped from consideration and then given a second chance to read for the part . Hemsworth stated that he gained 20 pounds for the role by eating non @-@ stop and revealed that " It wasn 't until Thor that I started lifting weights , it was all pretty new to me . " Regarding his take of the character , Hemsworth said , " We just kept trying to humanize it all , and keep it very real . Look into all the research about the comic books that we could , but also bring it back to ' Who is this guy as a person , and what 's his relationship with people in the individual scenes ? ' " About approaching Thor 's fighting style , he remarked , " First , we looked at the comic books and the posturing , the way [Thor] moves and fights , and a lot of his power seems to be drawn up through the ground . We talked about boxers , you know , Mike Tyson , very low to the ground and big open chest and big shoulder swings and very sort of brutal but graceful at the same time , and then as we shot stuff things became easier . "

Natalie Portman as Jane Foster :

A scientist and Thor 's love interest . Marvel Studios stated in an announcement that the character was updated from the comics ' initial portrayal for the feature adaptation . When asked why she took the role , Portman replied , " I just thought it sounded like a weird idea because Kenneth Branagh 's directing it , so I was just like , ' Kenneth Branagh doing Thor is super @-@ weird , I 've gotta do it . ' " Portman stated that she really wanted to do a big effects film that emphasized character , and getting to do it with Branagh was a new way of approaching it , relative to Star Wars . Regarding her preparation for the role Portman remarked , " I signed on to do it before there was a script . And Ken , who 's amazing , who is so incredible , was like , ' You can really help create this character ' . I got to read all of these biographies of female scientists like Rosalind Franklin who actually discovered the DNA double helix but didn 't get the credit for it . The struggles they had and the way that they thought ? I was like , ' What a great opportunity , in a very big movie that is going to be seen by a lot of people , to have a woman as a scientist ' . She 's a very serious scientist . Because in the comic she 's a nurse and now they made her an astrophysicist . Really , I know it sounds silly , but it is those little things that makes girls think it 's possible . It doesn 't give them a [role] model of ' Oh , I just have to dress cute in movies ' " .

Tom Hiddleston as Loki :

Thor 's adoptive brother and nemesis based on the deity of the same name . Hiddleston was chosen after previously working with Branagh on Ivanov and Wallander . Initially Hiddleston auditioned to play Thor but Branagh decided his talent would be better harnessed playing Loki . Hiddleston stated that " Loki 's like a comic book version of Edmund in King Lear , but nastier . " Hiddleston stated that he had to keep a strict diet before the start of filming because " Ken [Branagh

] wants Loki to have a lean and hungry look , like Cassius in Julius Caesar . Physically , he can 't be posing as Thor " . Hiddleston looked at Peter O 'Toole as inspiration for Loki as well explaining , " Interestingly enough , [Kenneth Branagh] said to look at Peter O 'Toole in two specific films , The Lion in Winter and Lawrence of Arabia . What 's interesting about ... his performance [as King Henry] is you see how damaged he is . There 's a rawness [to his performance] ; it 's almost as if he 's living with a layer of skin peeled away . He 's grandiose and teary and , in a moment , by turns hilarious and then terrifying . What we wanted was that emotional volatility . It 's a different acting style , it 's not quite the same thing , but it 's fascinating to go back and watch an actor as great as O 'Toole head for those great high hills " .

Stellan Skarsgård as Erik Selvig :

A scientist doing research in New Mexico who encounters Thor . Skarsgård stated that he was not initially familiar with the comic book version of Thor . As to why he took the part , Skarsgård remarked , " I chose Thor because of [director] Kenneth Branagh . The script was nice and we got to rehearse and talk to the writers and do some collaborating in the process to make it fit us . So I had a very happy time on it . What I always try to do is immediately do something I just haven 't done so I get variation in my life . I 've made about 90 films and if I did the same thing over and over again I would be bored by now . I try to pick different films , I go and do those big ones and having done that I can usually afford to go and do some really small obscure films and experiment a little " .

Colm Feore as Laufey :

King of the Frost Giants and Loki 's biological father , based on the mythological being of the same name , who in myth was actually Loki 's mother . Feore stated it took five hours for his makeup to be applied . About his character Feore remarked , " I am the King of Frost Giants . And if you 've seen any of the Frost Giants , you know that I am , of course , the Napoleon of Frost Giants . We 've got some massive , fabulous guys who dwarf me and come in at around eight @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half feet , nine feet . But , no . Can 't you tell by the commanding presence ? I am the boss " . He said the Shakespearean training he shared with Hopkins and director Branagh helped keep production moving briskly , saying that " during the breaks , Tony , myself and Ken would be talking in Shakespearean shorthand about what the characters were doing , what we thought they may be like , and how we could focus our attention more intelligently . These were discussions that took no more than a few minutes between takes , but they allowed Ken , Tony and [me] to understand each other instantly without Ken taking an hour away to explain to the actors exactly what was going on . So that was enormously helpful . "

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 . Stevenson previously worked with Kenneth Branagh in the 1998 film The Theory of Flight , and with Marvel Studios as the titular character in Punisher : War Zone . Stevenson wore a fat suit for the role , stating , " I 've tried the suit on , and what they 've done is kind of sex him up : he 's sort of slimmer but rounder . " . Stevenson said , " He 's got every bit of that Falstaffian verve and vigor , and a bit of a beer gut to suggest that enormous appetite , but he 's not the sort of Weeble @-@ shaped figure he is in the comics . He 's Falstaff with muscles . I 've got this amazing foam @-@ injected undersuit that flexes with me . "

Idris Elba as Heimdall :

The all @-@ seeing , all @-@ hearing Asgardian sentry of the bifrost bridge , based on the mythological deity of the same name . Elba said Branagh 's involvement was a major incentive to take the role : " [Branagh] called me up personally and said , ' I know this isn 't a big role , but I would really love to see you play it . ' It 's Kenneth Branagh . I was like , ' Definitely ' " . About the role Elba remarked , " I did green screen for the first time ! I wouldn 't like to do a whole movie of green screen , though . You kind of forget the plot a little ? like being in a Broadway play and doing it over and over and forgetting your line halfway through " . Elba stated he has made a four @-@ picture commitment with Marvel Studios . Elba 's casting prompted a proposed boycott by the Council of Conservative Citizens and a debate amongst comic book fans , some insisting it was wrong for a black man to play a Nordic god . In response Elba called the debate " ridiculous " .

Kat Dennings as Darcy Lewis :

A political science major who is Jane Foster 's intern . Dennings described her character as Foster 's " little helper gnome " . Dennings stated that her role was expanded during the rehearsal process . Dennings explained , " She 's kind of like a cute , clueless , little puppy or maybe a hamster . There wasn 't much on the page for the Darcy role to begin with and I didn 't even see a script before I took the job so I didn 't really know who Darcy was at first . But she really evolved ? she 's so much fun now even . She 's very Scooby @-@ Doo if that makes sense . She 's always three steps behind and reacting to what 's happening with these great expressions ... She gets things wrong and doesn 't care . "

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 stated in March 2011 interview that she has signed on for possible sequels , joking that , " Eventually they 'll kick me out , so who knows how many I 'll do " .

Anthony Hopkins as Odin :

The ruler of Asgard , father of Thor , and adoptive father of Loki , based on the mythological deity of the same name . In an interview Hopkins stated he knew nothing of the comic . About the film he said , " It 's a superhero movie , but with a bit of Shakespeare thrown in " . Hopkins stated , " I 'm very interested in that relationship between fathers and sons " , and that , " My father 's relationship with me was cold . He was a hot @-@ blood character but to me , cold . When I was young , he expressed his disappointment because I was bad in school and all of that . He didn 't mean any harm , but I felt I could never meet up to his expectations . " Hopkins expressed that he found a personal resonance in the Odin role , saying , " He 's a stern man . He 's a man with purpose . I play the god who banishes his son from the kingdom of Asgard because he screwed up . He 's a hot @-@ headed , temperamental young man ... probably a chip off of the old block but I decide he 's not really ready to rule the future kingdom , so I banish him . I 'm harsh and my wife complains and I say , ' That is why I 'm king . ' He 's ruthless , take @-@ it @-@ or @-@ leave @-@ it . Women are much more forgiving ; men are not so forgiving . I know in my life , my karma is , ' If you don 't like it , tough , move on . ' And I move on . I 'm a little like Odin myself " . In May 2016 , Mel Gibson stated he was offered the role but turned it down .

Tadanobu Asano as Hogun :

A member of the Warriors Three , primarily identified by his grim demeanor and as the only member who is not an Æsir . Ray Stevenson said of Asano 's character , " He doesn 't speak much but when he does , everybody shuts up . But also in the healing room where everyone licks their wounds , he 's the guy who just goes about his business " .

Josh Dallas as Fandral :

A member of the Warriors Three , characterized as an irrepressible swashbuckler and romantic . Stuart Townsend was initially cast after Zachary Levi was forced to vacate the role due to a scheduling conflict . However , days before filming began , Townsend was replaced by Dallas citing " creative differences " . Dallas said he believed that Fandral " would like to think of himself a philanderer . He would like to think of himself , I was saying , as the R. Kelly of Asgard . He 's a lover , not a fighter " . Dallas mentioned that Errol Flynn was an inspiration for the character stating , " He was a big inspiration for the character and for me . I watched a lot of his movies and kind of got that into my bones . I tried to bring out that little bit of Flynn @-@ ness in it . Flynn had a lot of that boyish charm that Fandral 's got " .

Jaimie Alexander as Sif :

A warrior and Thor 's childhood friend based on the mythological deity of the same name . Alexander was best known for her portrayal of Jessi XX on the ABC Family series Kyle XY . Alexander said that she was familiar with Marvel Comics before having taken the part , having grown up with four brothers . Alexander said the part required hours a day in the gym , though training is not unfamiliar to her , explaining she was one of few girls on her Colleyville , Texas , high @-@ school wrestling team . Alexander described her character as " one of the guys " and that , " She 's a very talented , skilled warrior and can stand on her own against any villain in the film " .

About her relationship with Thor she stated , " She is very loyal to Thor and cares a lot about protecting him and protecting Asgard " .

Clark Gregg reprises his role as S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Phil Coulson from Iron Man and Iron Man 2 . Adriana Barraza plays diner owner Isabella Alvarez and Maximiliano Hernández plays S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Jasper Sitwell . Actors Joseph Gatt , Joshua Cox and Douglas Tait portray Frost Giants . Stan Lee and J. Michael Straczynski have cameo appearances as pick @-@ up truck drivers . Samuel L. Jackson has an uncredited cameo as Nick Fury , director of S.H.I.E.L.D. Jeremy Renner has an uncredited cameo as Clint Barton . Dakota Goyo and Ted Allpress play Thor and Loki , respectively , as children .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Sam Raimi originally envisioned the idea for Thor after making Darkman (1990) ; he met Stan Lee and pitched the concept to 20th Century Fox , but they did not understand it . Thor was abandoned until April 1997 , when Marvel Studios was beginning to expand rapidly . The film gained momentum after the success of X @-@ Men (2000) . The plan was for Thor to be made for television . UPN was in talks for airing it ; excited by the prospect , they pushed for a script and approached Tyler Mane to play Thor . In May 2000 , Marvel Studios brought Artisan Entertainment to help finance it as a film , but by June 2004 the project still had yet to be patronised by a studio . Sony Pictures Entertainment finally purchased the film rights , and in December 2004 David S. Goyer was in negotiations to write and direct . In 2005 , though there were talks between Goyer and Marvel , it was revealed that Goyer was no longer interested , though at this point the film was still set to be distributed through Sony Pictures .

Mark Protosevich , a fan of the Thor comic book , agreed to write the script in April 2006 , and the project moved to Paramount Pictures , after it acquired the rights from Sony . That year the film was announced to be a Marvel Studios production . In December 2007 , Protosevich described his plans for it " to be like a superhero origin story , but not one about a human gaining super powers , but of a god realizing his true potential . It 's the story of an Old Testament god who becomes a New Testament god " . In August 2007 Marvel Studios signed Matthew Vaughn to direct the film . Vaughn then rewrote Protosevich 's script in order to bring down the budget to \$ 150 million , as Protosevich 's first draft would have cost \$ 300 million to produce . He intended to start filming in late 2008 and after the success of Iron Man , Marvel Studios announced that they intended to release Thor on June 4 , 2010 , with Iron Man 2 being used to introduce the character of Thor .

= = = Pre @-@ production = = =

Vaughn was released when his holding deal expired in May 2008 , at which point Marvel set Protosevich to work on a new draft and began searching for a new director . Guillermo del Toro entered talks to direct the film . Del Toro was a fan of Jack Kirby 's work on the comics , and said that he loved the character of Loki , but wished to incorporate more of the original Norse mythology into the film , including a " really dingy Valhalla , [with] Vikings and mud " . However , del Toro ultimately turned down Thor to direct The Hobbit . By September 2008 D. J. Caruso had been discussing taking on the project , though he did not read the script . Later that month , it was revealed that Kenneth Branagh had entered into negotiations to direct , and in December 2008 , Branagh confirmed that he had been hired . He described it as " a human story right in the center of a big epic scenario . " Branagh stated that he hoped to begin filming in January 2010 and Marvel Studios set back the release date of the film from its scheduled July 16 , 2010 date to June 17 , 2011 , almost a full year later . They later moved the release date to May 20 , 2011 , to distance the film 's release from that of Captain America : The First Avenger , another Marvel Studios film that was scheduled to be released on July 22 , 2011 . In October 2008 , Daniel Craig was offered the

role , but ultimately turned it down , citing his commitments to the James Bond franchise .

In February 2009 , Samuel L. Jackson , who had briefly portrayed Nick Fury at the end of the film Iron Man , signed on to reprise the role in Thor as part of an unprecedented nine @-@ picture deal with Marvel Studios . However , in an April 2010 interview , Jackson stated that he would not be appearing in Thor . When asked why not Jackson explained , " I have no idea . I 'm not in charge of making those kinds of decisions . I thought I was ; they said I was in the trades , and I was like , ' Ooh ! I got a job ! ' I called my agent he said , ' Naw , you 're not in it . ' I was like , ' Well shit , they need to pay me if they 're gonna put my name in it . ' " Later in the month , Jackson revealed that he would be filming a scene for Thor to serve as " connective tissue " for The Avengers . Also in February , a casting call went out looking for actors with certain physical attributes to audition for the role of Thor .

In May 2009 , Chris Hemsworth was in negotiations to portray the title role after a back @-@ and @-@ forth process in which the 25 @-@ year @-@ old actor was refused early on , then given a second chance to read for the part . Hemsworth 's brother , Liam also auditioned for the role , but was passed on by Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige . The next day , Marvel announced that Tom Hiddleston , who had worked with Branagh before and had initially been considered to portray the lead role , had been cast as Loki . In June 2009 , Feige confirmed that both Hemsworth and Hiddleston had signed on . Feige mentioned that the film would take place on both modern day Earth and Asgard but Thor 's human host , Dr. Donald Blake , would not be included . In July 2009 , Marvel announced that Natalie Portman would portray Jane Foster . Jaimie Alexander and Colm Feore were reported to have joined the cast in September , with Alexander portraying Sif and Feore 's role unrevealed , though it was thought to be a villain . In an interview with Swedish news site Ystads Allehanda , Stellan Skarsgård stated that he had joined the cast , though he did not specify his role . By late October Anthony Hopkins had been cast as Odin in the film . The following month , Marvel announced that they had cast the Warriors Three ; Fandral was to be played by Stuart Townsend , Hogun was to be played by Tadanobu Asano and Volstagg was to be played by Ray Stevenson . Idris Elba was announced to have joined the cast , portraying Heimdall . Natalie Portman revealed that Kat Dennings would be involved in the project , portraying Darcy , a coworker of Portman 's Jane Foster .

In December 2009 , Rene Russo was cast as Frigga , Thor 's stepmother and Odin 's wife . Later that month , actors Joseph Gatt , Troy Brenna , and Joshua Cox had been cast in the film , though none of their roles were revealed . In January 2010 , Adriana Barraza had joined the film 's cast , in a supporting capacity . Only days before filming began , Stuart Townsend was replaced by Joshua Dallas as Fandral , citing " creative differences " . When Spider @-@ Man 4 's production stalled , Paramount and Marvel Entertainment pushed up the release of Thor by two weeks to the then vacated date of May 6 , 2011 .

The Science & Entertainment Exchange introduced Marvel Entertainment , Kenneth Branagh , " the screenwriter , and a few people on the design and production side of things " to three physicists (Sean Carroll , Kevin Hand , and Jim Hartle) , as well as physics student Kevin Hickerson , to provide a realistic science background for the Thor universe . The consultation resulted in a change in Jane Foster 's profession , from nurse to particle physicist , and the terminology (Einstein @-@ Rosen bridge) to describe the Bifrost Bridge .

= = = Filming = = =

In October 2008 , Marvel Studios signed a long @-@ term lease agreement with Raleigh Studios to photograph their next four films ? Iron Man 2 , Thor , Captain America : The First Avenger and The Avengers ? at Raleigh 's Manhattan Beach , California facility . Production Weekly reported that filming on Marvel 's Thor was scheduled to begin in Los Angeles mid @-@ January , then move to Santa Fe , New Mexico from March until late @-@ April . Principal photography began on January 11 , 2010 . A few days after filming began , it was reported that Clark Gregg had signed on to reprise his role from Iron Man and Iron Man 2 as Agent Coulson . In February , Paramount Pictures entered negotiations with Del Mar , California to use a 300 @-@ yard stretch of beach to film a

scene for Thor involving six horses running down the terrain . Paramount said this coastline was ideal because its gradual slope of sand down to the waterline creates excellent reflective opportunities on film . On March 15 , 2010 production of Thor moved to Galisteo , New Mexico , where an old @-@ fashioned Western film town was extensively modified for the shoot .

Branagh , a fan of the comic book since childhood , commented on the challenge of bridging Asgard and the modern world : " Inspired by the comic book world both pictorially and compositionally at once , we 've tried to find a way to make a virtue and a celebration of the distinction between the worlds that exist in the film but absolutely make them live in the same world . It 's about finding the framing style , the color palette , finding the texture and the amount of camera movement that helps celebrate and express the differences and the distinctions in those worlds . If it succeeds , it will mark this film as different The combination of the primitive and the sophisticated , the ancient and the modern , I think that potentially is the exciting fusion , the exciting tension in the film " .

By April , the prospect for filming parts of Thor in Del Mar , California had fallen through . Paramount Pictures sent a letter informing the city that it has instead chosen an undisclosed Northern California location to film a beachfront scene for the film . The letter cited cost concerns with moving production too far away from its headquarters .

= = = Post @-@ production = = =

The film ended principal photography on May 6 , 2010 and entered the " post @-@ production " phase . It was reported in February 2010 that France @-@ based BUF Compagnie would be the lead visual effects house working on the film . Digital Domain worked on the visual effects as well . Branagh stated that BUF , who developed the effects for the race through space was much inspired by Hubble photography and other images of deep space . Branagh stated he sent paintings from classic studies by J. M. W. Turner to Digital Domain when creating Jotunheim . Peter Butterworth , VFX supervisor and co @-@ founder of Fuel VFX , said the most challenging task was interpreting what the Bifröst would look like , " You can 't Google what these things look like ? they are totally imagined and within the heads of the stakeholders . So to extract that and interpret it for the big screen was an interesting challenge creatively . Technically , probably creating fluid simulations that could be art @-@ directed and used for both the Bifröst and Odin 's chamber shots . Part of the difficulty with solving these is that we had to ensure they would work in stereo . In the film , Odin enters what is known as the " Odinsleep " in his chamber to regenerate . Butterworth stated , " For Odin 's Chamber , we developed a dome and curtain of light rays that hover over Odin 's bed . This dome of light suggests harnessed power and energy that revitalizes him as he sleeps . We took a lot of reference from the natural world such as the corona of the sun and gave the sleep effect plenty of volume and space " .

The film was released in a 3 @-@ D version . In an interview with the Los Angeles Times , Kenneth Branagh stated that the 3 @-@ D process initially made him cringe but " We came to feel that in our case 3 @-@ D could be the very good friend of story and character for a different kind of experience " . Although 2 @-@ D was used for principal photography , producer Kevin Feige stated that the " special effects for the film were conceived and executed from the beginning in 3 @-@ D " .

In October 2010 , casting calls went out for bit players to appear in an undisclosed number of reshoots .

In March 2011 , scenes involving Adriana Barraza were removed from the theatrical cut of the film during the editing process . Kenneth Branagh sent a letter of apology explaining the reasons for the cut and desire to work with Barraza again in the future . In response Barraza stated , " It saddens me because the movie is great and because I was acting alongside some tremendous actors that I admire very much , but I understand the nature of films , and it 's not the first or last time that scenes will be cut " . Barraza appears in only one scene in the film 's theatrical cut . In that same month , Douglas Tait revealed that he performed for motion capture of the Frost Giants . On his hiring , Tait said " I am 6 ' 5 " and have a lean , athletic build , and they hired guys who were 6 ' 7 " and taller , and weighed over 250 pounds . When the film was being edited , they wanted to make them even

bigger and move faster . They auditioned people again and Kenneth Branagh chose me to perform the motion capture movements of the Frost Giants " .

In April 2011 , the IMAX Corporation , Paramount Pictures and Marvel Entertainment announced that they have finalized an agreement to release the film on digital IMAX 3D screens . The release marked the continuation of the partnership between the companies , which started on Iron Man 2 .

The post @-@ credits scene in which Skarsgård 's Erik Selvig comes face @-@ to @-@ face with Samuel L. Jackson 's Nick Fury was directed by Joss Whedon , who directed Marvel 's The Avengers (2012) .

= = Music = =

The film 's score was written by composer Patrick Doyle , a frequent collaborator of Branagh . Doyle described Thor as " the most commercially high profile film I have done since Frankenstein " , adding that the composing process had the challenge of trying to find a tone that fit the duality of Asgard and Earth . Thus Doyle and Branagh had frequent discussions on the musical direction , with the director suggesting a contemporary feel and having a balance between the music and " grand images [that] were not in any way hyperbolized " , and the composer in turn implementing " a strong sense of melody , which he responds to in my work " . As Doyle declared that his own Celtic background made him familiar with Norse mythology , an old Celtic folk song also provided the inspiration for Thor 's leitmotif . A soundtrack album was released by Buena Vista Records in April 2011 .

The film also features a song by the Foo Fighters , " Walk " , in both a scene where a powerless Thor shares some boilermakers with Selvig in a roadhouse , and the film 's closing credits . Marvel president Kevin Feige stated that " Walk " was a last minute addition , that the crew felt had " these eerie appropriate lyrics and themes " upon hearing it . Branagh in particular thought that " these lyrics about learning to walk again " were appropriate " of [a] movie about redemption , learning to be a hero . "

= = Release = =

The world premiere of Thor took place on April 17 , 2011 , at the Event Cinemas theatre in George Street , Sydney . The U.S. premiere took place on May 2 , 2011 , at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles , California . The event was hosted by Isaiah Mustafa and streamed live on Marvel 's official website . The film premiered on April 21 , 2011 , in Australia , and on May 6 , 2011 , in the United States .

= = Marketing = = =

In July 2010 Marvel Studios held a Thor panel at the 2010 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International during which Kenneth Branagh and Chris Hemsworth , Natalie Portman , Kat Dennings , Tom Hiddleston , and Clark Gregg discussed the film and showed some clips from it . A few days later , this footage was leaked on the internet . The first television advertisement was broadcast during Super Bowl XLV on the Fox network in the United States . The rate for advertising during the game was approximately \$ 3 million per 30 @-@ second spot . Marvel Studios and Acura launched a joint viral marketing promotion at the 2011 Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo . Other official promotional partners included Burger King , Dr. Pepper , 7 Eleven , and Visa . In May 2011 Marvel Entertainment 's President of Print , Animation and Digital , Dan Buckley , and Marvel Comics Editor @-@ In @-@ Chief , Axel Alonso , rang the NYSE closing bell in celebration of the theatrical release of Thor .

A post @-@ credits scene in the film Iron Man 2 showed Coulson reporting the discovery of a large hammer in the desert . Rick Marshall of MTV News believed it to be the weapon Mjölnir belonging to Thor , writing , " It continues the grand tradition of connecting the film to another property in development around the Marvel movie universe . " In the commentary track of Iron Man 2 ' home

media , Iron Man 2 's director , Jon Favreau , stated that " this is a scene from [the set of] Thor " .

Marvel Animation announced a 26 @-@ episode animated series in November 2008 , to air in late 2010 before the release of Marvel Studios ' film . The company released an animated direct @-@ to @-@ video film , Thor : Tales of Asgard , to coincide with the live @-@ action film .

A video game titled Thor : God of Thunder based on the film was developed by Sega using the voices and likenesses of actors Chris Hemsworth , Tom Hiddleston and Jaimie Alexander , and was released on May 3 , 2011 .

= = = Home media = = =

In July 2011 , Marvel Studios and Paramount Pictures announced the release of Thor on Blu @-@ ray 3D , Blu @-@ ray Disc and DVD . The discs were released on September 13 , 2011 in three editions : a single @-@ disc DVD , a 2 @-@ disc Blu @-@ ray @-@ DVD combo pack , and a 3 @-@ disc Blu @-@ ray / DVD / 3D combo pack . All sets come with deleted scenes and a " Road to The Avengers featurette . The 2 @-@ disc and 3 @-@ disc packs includes a digital copy , the first in a series of Marvel One @-@ Shots , The Consultant , and 7 behind @-@ the @-@ scenes featurettes .

Branagh said that the DVD includes at least 20 minutes of deleted scenes . Branagh stated the footage contains " things like the Asgardian parents , Odin and Frigga , played by the beautiful Rene Russo , there 's some beautiful scenes in there that I think people will enjoy . And certainly Thor and Loki interacting in different ways that just fill in a little bit of a back story , that was part of our rehearsal and research . " In its first week of release , Thor took the number one spot on Blu @-@ ray / DVD sales chart and topped Home Media Magazine 's rental chart for the week .

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

= = Reception = =

= = = Box office = = =

Thor earned \$ 181 @. @ 0 million in North America and \$ 268 @. @ 3 million in other territories for a worldwide total of \$ 449 @. @ 3 million . It was also the 15th highest @-@ grossing film of 2011 .

= = = = North America = = = =

The film opened in North America on May 6 , 2011 in 3 @, @ 955 theaters with \$ 25 @. @ 5 million (including \$ 3 @. @ 3 million from midnight screenings in about 1 @, @ 800 theaters) and went on to earn \$ 65 @. @ 7 million during its opening weekend taking the number one spot . \$ 6 @. @ 2 million of the gross came from 214 IMAX 3D theaters . 3D presentations at a then @-@ record 2 @, @ 737 locations accounted for 60 % of the gross . It became the tenth highest @-@ grossing film of 2011 in North America and the highest @-@ grossing comic @-@ book film from May ? August 2011 .

= = = = Outside North America = = = =

The film opened solely in Australia on April 21 , 2011 , generating \$ 5 @. @ 8 million and placing second behind Universal Pictures ' Fast Five . The film 's box office was just 1 % more than Iron Man opening in Australia in 2008 , Marvel 's most popular release at the time . The following week , Thor opened in 56 markets and took in \$ 89 @. @ 2 million through the weekend . In total earnings , its highest @-@ grossing countries after North America were the UK (\$ 22 @. @ 5 million) , Australia (\$ 20 @. @ 1 million) and Mexico (\$ 19 @. @ 5 million) .

== Critical response ==

The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported a 77 % approval rating with an average rating of 6 @. @ 7 / 10 based on 266 reviews . The website 's consensus reads , " A dazzling blockbuster that tempers its sweeping scope with wit , humor , and human drama , Thor is mighty Marvel entertainment . " Metacritic assigned a weighted average score of 57 / 100 based on reviews from 40 film critics , a mixed score on their scale .

Richard Kuipers of Variety stated , " Thor delivers the goods so long as butt is being kicked and family conflict is playing out in celestial dimensions , but is less thrilling during the Norse warrior god 's rather brief banishment on Earth " . Megan Lehmann of The Hollywood Reporter wrote , " The hammer @-@ hurling god of thunder kicks off this superhero summer with a bang " . In the Chicago Sun @-@ Times , Richard Roeper liked the film " Thanks in large part to a charming , funny and winning performance from Australian actor Chris Hemsworth in the title role , Thor is the most entertaining superhero debut since the original Spider @-@ Man " .

Conversely , Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times gave it a negative review stating , " Thor is a failure as a movie , but a success as marketing , an illustration of the ancient carnival tactic of telling the rubes anything to get them into the tent " . A.O. Scott of The New York Times also disliked the film , calling it " an example of the programmed triumph of commercial calculation over imagination " . Kenneth Turan of the Los Angeles Times had mixed feelings , describing the film as " an aesthetic stand @-@ off between predictable elements and unexpected ones " . Turan praised the performances of Hemsworth , Hopkins , and Elba , but found the special effects inconsistent and the Earth storyline derivative .

== Accolades ==

== Sequels ==

== Thor : The Dark World ==

A sequel , Thor : The Dark World , directed by Alan Taylor , was released on November 8 , 2013 . Hemsworth and Hiddleston reprise their roles as Thor and Loki , respectively , along with others from the first film . Christopher Eccleston joins the cast as the Dark Elf Maletkith .

== Thor : Ragnarok ==

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 .