

= Daredevil (season 2) =

The second season of the American web television series Daredevil , which is based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name , follows Matt Murdock / Daredevil , a blind lawyer @-@ by @-@ day who fights crime at night , crossing paths with the deadly Frank Castle / Punisher along with the return of an old girlfriend ? Elektra Natchios . It is set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) , sharing continuity with the films and other television series of the franchise . The season is produced by Marvel Television in association with ABC Studios , with Doug Petrie and Marco Ramirez serving as showrunners , and series creator Drew Goddard acting as consultant .

Charlie Cox stars as Murdock , while Jon Bernthal and Élodie Yung are introduced as Castle and Natchios . Deborah Ann Woll , Elden Henson , Rosario Dawson , and Vincent D 'Onofrio also return from the first season , with Stephen Rider joining them . The season was ordered in April 2015 after the successful release of the first , with Petrie and Ramirez replacing the season one showrunner Steven S. DeKnight . Production on the season began in July 2015 and continued through December , with the season focusing on the nature of heroism through comparison of Murdock to Castle and Natchios , and showing how the latter two affect Murdock 's life .

The first two episodes of the season premiered in Paris on March 7 , 2016 , with the full season of 13 episodes released on Netflix on March 18 . Critics praised the introduction of Castle and Natchios , as well as Bernthal 's performance in particular , the season 's action , and storylines . However , many missed the presence of Vondie Curtis @-@ Hall 's Ben Urich from season one , and D 'Onofrio 's Wilson Fisk during the first half of season two . The series was renewed for a third season in July 2016 .

= = Episodes = =

= = Cast and characters = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

When asked about the future of the series following the first season , showrunner Steven S. DeKnight said that Daredevil " is one part of the bigger plan ? Jessica Jones , Luke Cage , Iron Fist , and then The Defenders . How that all fits together , and whether or not there will be a second season of this show ? or if it will fold into the others ? are questions nobody really has answers to yet . " In November 2014 , DeKnight said that there " probably will be more " seasons of Daredevil following the first . In January 2015 , Netflix COO Ted Sarandos stated the series was " eligible to go into multiple seasons for sure " and Netflix would look at " how well [they] are addressing both the Marvel fanbase but also the broader fanbase " to determine if additional seasons would be appropriate .

On April 21 , 2015 , Marvel and Netflix announced that the series had been renewed for a second season , with Doug Petrie and Marco Ramirez replacing DeKnight as showrunners as well as acting as executive producers ; both served as writers in the first season and worked closely with DeKnight and series creator Drew Goddard . The season introduces the Punisher , whom DeKnight and the writers had wanted to introduce in a post @-@ credits scene during the first season finale but were unable due to the way that Netflix begins the next episode during the credits of the current one . DeKnight felt that this " was the right decision . I think there ? s a better , more organic way to introduce him to the world . " Ramirez referred to the second season internally as " Daredevil vs. the Punisher " . In September 2015 , Goddard explained that he was still involved with the season as an executive producer , consulting with Petrie and Ramirez when asked to . The season consists of 13

hour @-@ long episodes .

= = = Writing = = =

Ramirez talked about how the second season would be different from the first , saying that the writers had spent the first season wondering " if there was a place for dark and gritty content in superheroes " and because of the positive fan reaction to that (" we got a loud answer of ' yes ' ") , approached the second season with the mindset , " you wanted grounded and wanted dark , here ? s Elektra and Punisher . You asked for it . " Petrie , talking about the potential use of flashbacks in the season , said that sometimes it is best to " peel back the layer of the onion through flashback , or two people in a room talking can have all the power in the world . That ? s something we get to pick and choose . "

On including the Punisher specifically in the season , where he is introduced to the Marvel Cinematic Universe , Goddard felt television was the best fit for the character , as the writers are " able to do things on the small screen that fit that character better than if we had to water him down for the movies . " Goddard stated that the season 's approach to the characters and their actions would be to do what makes sense for the characters rather than " pushing the boundary " or looking to shock the audience , though he noted that this could still go in a more " adult ... darker , dirtier " way due to the freedom of Netflix and the presence of characters such as the Punisher . Petrie stated that the writers hoped to " stir the pot " and " get people to think " with the inclusion of the Punisher and his lethal methods , adding , " Taking lethal justice into your own hands in America in 2015 is tricky shit . We have not shied away from the rich complicated reality of Now . If you 've got a gun and you 're not the police you 're going to incite strong feelings . " Ramirez added that Castle was not referred to as " Punisher " in the writer 's room , similarly to Wilson Fisk not being called " Kingpin " for season one , as it allowed the writers to think " about [Castle] as a man with a vendetta , who made an oath to his dead family . The more specific it got , the less it became about issues outside of Hell ? s Kitchen or other things . " In the series , the moniker of " The Punisher " is given to Castle by the media due to his aggressive actions .

For the timing of introducing the new characters , the showrunners decided to introduce the Punisher immediately and hold back on Elektra briefly , with Ramirez explaining that " one of the pitfalls when we have this many great characters to play with is wanting to throw them at the wall " , but it was important to take the time to introduce the new characters properly to the audience , particularly to the people who weren 't already familiar with them . Elaborating on the aim to keep the story focused on Murdock , Petrie revealed that the writers would often come up with " amazing stuff " for the season , but then realize that they had forgotten about Murdock and had to " completely turn it over and look at how this affects Matt and filter it through that prism . " Ramirez added ,

It could easily become The Punisher story or the Elektra story that Matt cameos in , and not vice versa . So , we built it like a Matt story , in terms of what we wanted to put him through , where we wanted to get him , by the end of the season , and what we wanted to have him learn about himself , and we used an Elektra and Frank story throughout , to get him there ... we talked about when we watch shows in 13 episode stretches , how do we watch them ? What is an exciting structure that we would like to think about here ? Do we divide it right down the middle ? Do we do a three @-@ act structure ? ... If you were to sit and watch 13 episodes , you would absolutely feel a structure , much like in the comics . That ? s what we did this season .

Charlie Cox explained that with Wilson Fisk imprisoned following the first season , season two picks up with " the crime rate [having] plummeted . Things have returned to normal , if not better than normal " , which is when Punisher is introduced , who makes Matt Murdock " question everything . Matt has to reevaluate who is [sic] and what he does " . Jeph Loeb , head of Marvel Television , said that " if season one was really about Matt ? s decision to become a hero , then season two really became about what is it to be a hero . " By introducing the Punisher and Elektra , the writers were able to " push and pull " on Murdock , contrasting their three ideologies ? the Punisher seeing " justice in a very black @-@ and @-@ white kind of way " , and Elektra living " more in the gray " .

On Elektra in particular , Loeb said that she has a very clear , self @-@ motivated agenda , and she challenges Murdock 's own agenda and " quest for justice . Who are you doing this for ? Why are you doing this ? What ? s the end goal that you ? re trying to achieve ? "

= = = Casting = = =

Charlie Cox , Deborah Ann Woll , Elden Henson , Rosario Dawson , and Vincent D 'Onofrio return from the first season as Matt Murdock / Daredevil , Karen Page , Franklin " Foggy " Nelson , Claire Temple , and Wilson Fisk / Kingpin , respectively . In June 2015 , Jon Bernthal was cast as Frank Castle / Punisher , and Élodie Yung was cast as Elektra a month later . In September , Stephen Rider joined the cast as Blake Tower .

Also returning from season one are Royce Johnson as Brett Mahoney , Susan Varon as Josie , Geoffrey Cantor as Mitchell Ellison , Scott Glenn as Stick , Peter Shinkoda as Nobu Yoshioka , Rob Morgan as Turk Barrett , Matt Gerald as Melvin Potter , Peter McRobbie as Lantom , Amy Rutberg as Marci Stahl , Kevin Nagle as Roscoe Sweeney , Wai Ching Ho as Gao , and Suzanne H. Smart as Shirley Benson . Ron Nakahara , John Pirkis , and Marilyn Torres have recurring roles as Hirochi , Stan Gibson , and Louisa Delgado , respectively , while Michelle Hurd and Carrie @-@ Anne Moss reprise their Jessica Jones roles of Samantha Reyes and Jeri Hogarth .

= = = Design = = =

Joshua Shaw designed costumes for characters in the season . Petrie stated that more layers were added to the series ' atmosphere to keep the season dark but provide more clarity to the viewer , an issue that occurred in the first season . Petrie also talked about the costumes for characters such as Elektra , noting that they had to not only look at the comics and " what looks cool " , but also " what would you really fight in ? What would protect you ? ... will people be wearing kick ass costumes in this show ? At some point , everybody does . We promise . But , that said , we want to make them feel as organic and grounded as possible .

Lorraine Calvert joined the series as costume designer for the season . On adapting Elektra 's costume for the season , which in the comics usually consists of impractically " strappy " red cloth , Calvert decided to make it utilitarian and appealing , while still being faithful to the comics . Originally starting out opposite of the eventual sleek design for both her fighting and daytime attire , Calvert said , " Ideas were tossed around about how she was possibly bohemian , [because] she was a free spirit who traveled all over the world with as much money as she possibly could . ? This eventually led to the final , sleeker design , because Elektra " really needs a very simple , elegant line because too much cloth is overwhelming . " The costume consisted of " black moto pants , a one @-@ piece zippered body suit , a sleeveless vest , and red cloth to provide the highlights and the hood covering Elektra ? s face . " The shade of the red used for Elektra throughout the season was chosen so it would not clash with the red in Daredevil 's costume , as well as to match the darker tone of the series . Daredevil 's costume was also upgraded in the season , with Calvert calling it " a much more fluid suit and much more tactical in a way . ? The costume department " streamlined " the suit to make it simpler , using less material on the gauntlets and boots .

= = = Filming = = =

Production on the season began in July 2015 in East Harlem , with the working title Ringside , and a nine @-@ day @-@ per @-@ episode schedule . Filming ended in December 2015 . Martin Ahlgren joined the series as director of photography for the season , deciding to " go in a slightly different direction " than the first season , but retaining " the yellowish street light color that gave season one a very distinct style " . Ahlgren filmed season two in 4K resolution on RED Dragon cameras , and tried to use in @-@ shot lighting such as lamps and car headlights , as well as " 4 x 4 Light Blankets ? flexible sheets of LED that was small enough to fit into tight locations and light enough that it could be taped to a wall , yet outputs a very nice soft light that can be adjusted from

daylight to tungsten color " .

Ahlgren highlighted the car chase at the beginning of " Guilty as Sin " as a challenge , noting the many ninjas chasing the car , and the one that " jumps up on the car and travels on the roof for a block " , with all the stunts filmed on location . An Ultimate Arm , " a motorized crane mounted on a Porsche Cayenne " , was used for the sequence , a break from the series ' usual handheld and steadicam operations . The chase was shot over two nights in Greenpoint , Brooklyn , with the interior of the car then filmed on a green screen stage , a rarity for the series , " to give the actors a better environment to act in " .

On the season 's fight sequences and choreography , Bernthal said , " The fights are all character @-@ driven and the fights tell a story . " Cox added that " there is absolutely an attempt to make sure every punch or kick that is thrown is like a line of dialogue ; there is motive behind it , there is reason behind it , it means something . " Cox 's stunt double , Chris Brewster , explained how the series ' fight choreography has evolved , with the first season having shown Murdock just starting out as a vigilante ? " he fought with all heart and soul , but wasn 't a polished fighter he was more raw and gritty " ? while the second season sees the character having learned from previous mistakes ? " his style is more defined and thought out now , but he will always fight with the Daredevil flair " . As for the fighting styles of Punisher and Elektra , Brewster said that because of the Punisher 's military background he uses a lot of weapons , and his " hand to hand style is more of a close quarter combat nature " , while Elektra was trained by Stick and the Hand , so she has similar movement to Daredevil who was also trained by Stick . " However , " Brewster continued , " The Hand are trained assassins who are all about stealth takeouts and quick kills . Her style shows elements of " that as well . The season uses multiple different martial art styles , including kali , Chinese kung fu , wing chun , kenjutsu , and boxing .

The one @-@ take fight in " New York 's Finest " in which Daredevil fights gang members down a staircase was described by Cox as " kind of like an homage " to the first season 's well received one @-@ take hallway fight scene , and " almost like that scene on crack " . Silvera noted that it is a metaphorical " descent into Hell " rather than a " test of will " like the first season 's scene . The stunt team had three days to prepare the fight , and the final sequence was filmed in a day and a half . Unlike the first season 's scene , which was shot on a set and used a camera mounted on a ceiling track , the stairwell sequence was filmed on location , and required the camera to be passed around multiple people to get the final shot . The season includes another homage to the hallway scene in " Seven Minutes in Heaven " , where the Punisher has his own hallway fight . Silvera noted that this " full @-@ blown " , murdering Punisher was " a strong contrast to Daredevil " . For all the season 's fights , the stunt team filmed a previsualization version using stunt doubles , with the actors , such as Cox , then shown this in sections on the day of filming , and allowed to make adjustments where necessary . Though the actors completed the majority of the fights , doubles were used for flips and major stunts .

= = = Visual effects = = =

Shade VFX returns from the first season to work on the visual effects for the series .

= = = Music = = =

By September 2015 , John Paesano had begun composing music for the season . He felt that the season 's new showrunners " were true to what we were trying to do in season one . There were just elements in season two that we had to acknowledge " such as the Punisher and Elektra . He jokingly said that " it ? s not like we all of the sudden went into John Williams territory , you know ? It ? s definitely still dark , still gritty ... but it definitely jumps up a couple levels . " When approaching the characters of Punisher and Elektra , with whom Paesano was familiar from the comics and previous adaptations , he " took all those preconceived notions I had with a grain of salt " and waited to see what the season 's interpretation of the characters would be . Paesano worked closely with the series ' sound design team , spotting episodes with them to coordinate where " we were going to

hit what " and " maintain that definable aspect of New York " and its sound . A soundtrack album for the season was released digitally on July 15 , 2016 .

All music composed by John Paesano , unless otherwise noted .

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

On references to the larger MCU , Ramirez said " those little Easter eggs that come along the way are fun " , but there were times when the writers did not take opportunities to reference the rest of the universe because they felt like distractions from the series ' narrative and characters . Petrie stated that the writers wanted to " keep it in Hell 's Kitchen " and focus on issues such as " the air conditioner doesn ' t work at Nelson and Murdock . That ' s really what we ' re interested in . " He explained that the real life New York City " has a larger than life presence " with celebrities that live there ? " If you see Derek Jeter walking down the street , that ' s great , but then you turn the corner and you get into an argument with the guy who overcharged you for a pretzel . We want our guys to be real New Yorkers . " The season features the motorcycle gang Dogs of Hell , who were first introduced through their Nevada chapter in the Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. episode " Yes Men " , and Roxxon Energy Corporation , a company featured throughout the MCU . It also mentions the vigilantes Jessica Jones and Luke Cage , the death of Oscar Clemons , and the law firm Hogarth , Chao , and Benowitz , which are all references to the first season of Jessica Jones .

= = Release = =

The second season of Daredevil was released on March 18 , 2016 on the streaming service Netflix , in all territories where it is available , in Ultra HD 4K . Preparing for the release , Netflix created eight different images to use as cover art for the season on its site . The images were randomly distributed among select subscribers , with Netflix tracking to see which one was the best @-@ performing to eventually use for all subscribers . Netflix also debuted a countdown timer to a percentage of its users worldwide , allowing them to see how long it was until the season would debut .

= = = Marketing = = =

Footage from the season was shown at New York Comic Con in October 2015 , and at Comic Con Experience that December . On February 15 , 2016 , the first part of the season trailer was released focusing on the Punisher , while the second part focusing on Elektra was released 10 days later , on February 25 . Scott Mendelson of Forbes felt the first part is " clearly going for a vibe similar to that first full @-@ length Dark Knight teaser back in December of 2007 , with Castle being framed as a natural byproduct of / reaction to Daredevil ' s own vigilantism " . He also appreciated that it appeared Castle would be presented as a villain , as the previous film adaptations of the character always had Castle " still a hero at the end . " Mendelson 's one drawback to the trailer was when Castle starts " monologue @-@ ing " in the last third , feeling Bernthal " casts such an imposing and grim shadow as a near @-@ silent angel of death that the [haunting and mythological] mood is almost broken " . Joanna Robinson at Vanity Fair felt that the premise of the trailer , with Daredevil facing the Punisher , is " right in line with the big superhero trend this spring " , comparing it to Captain America : Civil War and Batman v Superman : Dawn of Justice , which feature Captain America fighting Iron Man and Batman fighting Superman , respectively . Robinson wondered if , like those films , the season also has a separate , " bigger bad waiting in the wings to unite our vigilantes " that the trailer is hiding .

On March 7 , 2016 , the first two episodes of the season premiered in Paris , with a premiere in New York City on March 10 . Also in early March , billboards were erected in Toronto featuring character posters for Daredevil , Punisher and Elektra . The series ' Twitter account encouraged users to vote for which character was their favorite , with the other two receiving blood and bruises added to their billboards .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported a 74 % approval rating with an average rating of 7 @. @ 1 / 10 based on 31 reviews . The website 's critical consensus reads , " Bolstered by some impressive action , Daredevil keeps its footing in season two , even if the additions of Punisher and Elektra can 't quite fill the void left by Wilson Fisk . " Metacritic , which uses a weighted average , assigned a score of 68 out of 100 , based on 12 critics , indicating " generally favorable reviews " .

Reviewing the first seven episodes , Brian Lowry of Variety said , the season begins " on an uneven note " , comparing some of the early moments to the works of Sam Peckinpah , " complete with slow @- @ motion bullets and blood sprays . Stick with it , though , and the show blossoms , featuring a few terrific action sequences while introducing into this grim world seminal characters the Punisher and Elektra . " Kevin Fitzpatrick of Screen Crush felt the first seven episodes of the season seemed " to have learned the best of both " from season one and Jessica Jones , " placing its most compelling imagery front and center straightaway , but still taking time to pick apart the characters beneath them , rather than shout platitudes about saving the city . " He also praised the castings of Bernthal and Yung as Punisher and Elektra , respectively , and enjoyed " the improved spotlight " for Foggy and Karen , given the reduction of Dawson saying , " So many superhero series struggle to draw its supporting characters as compellingly as the action , and Daredevil 's particular blend of set piece and legal thriller feels inescapably original . " However , Fitzpatrick did note the series lacked the presence Vondie Curtis @- @ Hall brought as Ben Urich in the first season . He concluded that the season 's progression " feels much cleaner " than the first 's , " moving almost in acts more than back and forth victories ... Even the aim feels that much more cohesive , to start in a place of Matt , Foggy and Karen all confident in their new roles , but wrestling with the consequence of their choice to always help the helpless . " Merrill Barr of Forbes said , " Daredevil season two is very much the same excellent show Daredevil season one was ... but in the places it isn 't , it 's also very much improved " . Barr praised Bernthal as the Punisher , and noted the reduction in the amount of " thick blacks " in the cinematography that the first season was criticized for .

Collider.com 's Chris Cabin also praised the first seven episodes of the season , giving it four stars , and saying that the series " finds overwhelmingly sincere and effective traces of humanity in a genre that has been hard @- @ pressed to feel overtly pre @- @ conceived in its political , societal , and philosophical ideas . " He said Daredevil , like Jessica Jones , " feels like a show that is constantly evolving , and consistently searching for challenges . " Cabin also felt that " the show 's use of sound and image to infer or suggest as much as any line of dialogue ... continues to set this series apart from its half @- @ measured kin . " He added that the season " goes to great lengths to make the stakes of " the moral and ethical issues , as seen by pitting Daredevil 's methods against the Punisher , " intensely involving and thrilling , " while also praising the action sequences of the season and the " streamlined focus on character in the writing " , claiming that " none of the [MCU] films have even an iota of the seductive intimacy and heart of this show . " Dennis Perkins writing for The A.V. Club awarded the season a " B + " , missing David Onofrio 's " towering menace as Wilson Fisk " , but feeling that Bernthal and Yung " make Castle and Elektra an effective season @- @ long two @- @ pronged assault on Matt Murdock 's heroic identity , which gives Daredevil 's supporting characters a clearer purpose as well . " IGN reviewer Matt Fowler , after reviewing all the episodes of season two individually , gave the season a 9 @. @ 3 out of 10 , saying that it " excelled at both action and story while giving us a more complex and layered season than the first Gone was a notable ' main villain ' , but instead we were given fantastic performances by not only the main cast but by newcomers Jon Bernthal and Elodie Yung . "

Jack Shepherd of The Independent was slightly more critical of the early episodes of the season , saying the ideological battle between Murdock and Castle " is the crux of these first few episodes

and also highlights the main problem with Daredevil " pointing out that " there is no real bad guy here " and there " is only so many times you can watch an episode end with Daredevil and Punisher beating each other up before you start thinking there is a glitch in the Matrix . " He also agreed with Fitzpatrick regarding Curtis @-@ Hall 's presence as Ben Urich not being filled in the season . Despite this , Shepherd added that the season began to pick up by the fourth episode , with the introduction of Elektra , capping with episodes six and seven , which he called " by far the season 's best , laying the foundation for an exciting story ahead " , while also praising Cox , Henson , Woll , Bernthal and Yung for their performances . Daniel Fienberg , reviewing the first seven episodes for The Hollywood Reporter , expressed similar sentiments as Shepherd , feeling the episodes missed what Vincent D 'Onofrio brought as Wilson Fisk in the first season , or at least " the through @-@ line threat that he presented ... Fortunately , the [Punisher and Elektra] are vividly realized and the action is still visceral and brutal and maybe the big picture will emerge in the season 's second half . Because of the portrayals of those two characters , he felt " that there 's a challenge to remain wholly invested in plotlines that don 't involve them " . Despite being " right on the edge of desensitization " regarding the fight scenes , Fienberg still praised them , highlighting the different styles Elektra and the Punisher used " vary [ing] the dynamic enough " .

Entertainment Weekly 's Jeff Jensen award the season a " C " , calling it " a straight @-@ up disappointment . " Calling the early episodes with Daredevil 's face @-@ off with the Punisher " skimpy and sluggish from the get @-@ go " , Jensen also added that they were " a flatline of inert drama , with long scenes of windy exposition or dull skulking interrupted by the occasional well @-@ staged if ridiculously gory fight sequence . " Jensen added that " hope for improvement " came with the introduction of Elektra , and that the sixth episode should be a template for the rest of the season , which ultimately , he felt was " stiff and silly . " Daniel D 'Addario for Time was also disappointed with the season , saying , " it 's hard not to feel that one is being taken for a long , and not particularly enjoyable , ride ... Daredevil just wants to dole out fun doses of extreme gore on the path to an endpoint on a business plan . Any viewer committed to story is left searching in the dark . " Vulture 's Abraham Riesman joined the criticism , calling the seven episodes reviewed " a dour parade of one cliché after another , recycling themes , images , and rhetoric that audiences have seen countless times before . " Though he wouldn 't call it " bad " , he felt that with all the other superhero content released in the same year , " it feels woefully unnecessary . " However , he did praise Bernthal 's performance , saying it was " another excitingly sympathetic antagonist " after D 'Onofrio 's " standout performance " as Fisk in the first season , but was " nowhere near as fun " . In contrast to the first season of Jessica Jones , which Riseman called Marvel 's " first attempt to depict sex in any kind of realistic way " , he called the second season of Daredevil " astoundingly un @-@ sexy . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Got Your 6 , which " champions positive portrayals of military veterans in Hollywood " , deemed " Semper Fidelis " to be " 6 Certified " for " responsibly and accurately portray [ing] veterans via the character of Frank Castle , The Punisher , who insists that his legal representation not perpetuate veteran stereotypes of PTSD in order to defend his actions " .