

= Inside Man =

Inside Man is a 2006 American crime thriller film directed by Spike Lee , written by Russell Gewirtz . The film centers on an elaborate bank heist on Wall Street over a 24 @-@ hour period . It stars Denzel Washington as Detective Keith Frazier , the NYPD 's hostage negotiator ; Clive Owen as Dalton Russell , the mastermind who orchestrates the heist , and Jodie Foster as Madeleine White , a Manhattan power broker who becomes involved at the request of the bank 's founder , Arthur Case (Christopher Plummer) , to keep something in his own personal safe deposit box protected from the robbers . Inside Man marks the fourth (and currently last) film collaboration between Washington and Lee .

Gewirtz spent five years developing the film 's premise before working on his first original screenplay . After he completed the script in 2002 , Imagine Entertainment purchased it to be made by Universal Studios , with Imagine co @-@ founder Ron Howard attached to direct . After Howard stepped down , his Imagine partner Brian Grazer began looking for a new director to helm the project . Grazer hired Lee to do so . Principal photography for Inside Man began in June 2005 and concluded in August of that year ; filming took place on location in New York City . The film premiered in New York on March 20 , 2006 before being released in North America on March 24 , 2006 . Upon release , Inside Man received a generally positive critical response and was a commercial success , grossing over \$ 184 million worldwide .

= = Plot = =

Dalton Russell (Clive Owen) , seated in what appears to be a jail cell , opens the film with a prologue about having carried out the " perfect robbery " . A team of masked robbers , dressed as painters who call each other by variants of the name " Steve " , seize control of a Manhattan bank and take the employees and patrons hostage . They divide the hostages into groups and hold them in different rooms . Additionally , they take all of the hostages ' clothes and dress everyone in jumpsuits and masks identical to those of the robbers . This way , the robbers and hostages will be indistinguishable to the police . Police surround the bank and detectives Keith Frazier (Denzel Washington) and Bill Mitchell (Chiwetel Ejiofor) take charge of the negotiations . Russell , the leader of the robbers , demands food . The police supply pizzas whose boxes include listening devices ; these pick up a language which the police finally identify as Albanian . However , they discover that the conversations are just old propaganda recordings of the deceased Albanian communist dictator Enver Hoxha ; it becomes clear that the robbers anticipated surveillance .

After being informed of the robbery , Arthur Case (Christopher Plummer) , the chairman of the board of directors and founder of the bank , hires " fixer " Madeleine White (Jodie Foster) to try to protect the contents of his safe deposit box within the bank . White , with assistance from the Mayor of New York City , arranges a conversation with Russell , who allows her to enter the bank and inspect the contents of the box , which include documents from Nazi Germany . Russell implies that Case started his bank with money that he received from the Nazis for unspecified services , resulting in the deaths of many Jewish people during World War II . White tells Russell that Case will pay him a substantial sum to destroy the contents of the box . She claims she can arrange a minimal jail sentence as Russell and his team have not yet stolen anything or hurt or killed anyone ; Russell declines her offers .

Frazier demands to inspect the hostages before allowing the robbers to leave and Russell takes him on a tour of the bank . As he is being shown out , Frazier attacks Russell , but is restrained by another robber . Alone with Russell shortly afterward , the other robber , who turns out to be one of the hostages " interviewed " by Frazier , begins to panic and ask what would have happened had Frazier managed to remove Russell 's mask . Russell appears lost in thought . Frazier later explains to Mitchell that his actions were intended to provoke Russell to establish whether he was capable of killing and concludes he is not . The robbers counter this theory by shooting a hostage in the head .

The execution prompts the ESU team into action . They plan to storm the bank and use rubber bullets to knock out the occupants . However , Frazier discovers that the robbers have planted a

listening device on the police ; aware of the police plans , the robbers detonate smoke grenades and release all the hostages . The police detain everyone , knowing that some of the hostages are members of the gang , but can 't distinguish between the two . They interrogate the hostages harshly , questioning their honesty and trying to glean useful information , to no avail . A search of the bank reveals that the robbers ' weapons are plastic replicas . They find props for faking the hostage 's execution ; the blood was red paint . Curiously , no money or valuables appear to have been taken .

With no way to identify the suspects and unsure if a crime has been committed , Frazier 's superior , on orders from the mayor , tells him to drop the case , but Frazier continues . He searches the bank 's records and finds that one of the safe deposit boxes does not appear on the records and obtains a search warrant to open it . He is confronted by White , who informs him of Case 's Nazi dealings . She tries to persuade Frazier to drop his investigation , but he refuses , playing a recorded , incriminating conversation that she earlier had with him . White confronts Case , who admits to his actions and reveals that the box contained , aside from incriminating paperwork , diamonds and a ring which had belonged to a French Jewish banker and his family who were sent to concentration camps . White is repulsed by Case but accepts his payment for her mission , although it was one of her few failures . She tells him that the robber took the incriminating paperwork so that , if he returns with a blackmail demand , Case will have to pay him off .

Russell reappears in the same location in which he gave his opening monologue . He is revealed to have been hiding in a small room behind a fake wall the robbers had constructed inside the bank 's supply room . The construction of the hiding area was the real reason for their delaying tactics . Russell emerges a week after the robbery with the contents of Case 's safe deposit box , including incriminating documents and several bags of diamonds . On his way out , he bumps into Frazier , who does not recognize him . Russell goes to a car where his four associates are waiting , and they drive off .

When Frazier opens the safe deposit box , he finds a large ring with a note from Russell telling him to " follow the ring " . Frazier confronts Case and next goes to see White , who is in a restaurant with some VIPs , including the mayor . Frazier gives her the contact information for the Office of War Crimes Issues at the U.S. State Department . On returning home to his girlfriend , Frazier finds a loose , small but valuable diamond in his pocket . He realizes it must have been slipped to him by Russell in the bank after he intentionally bumped into Frazier .

= = Cast = =

Denzel Washington as Detective Keith Frazier :

A New York City police detective with a scandal attached to his name who is desperate to make Detective First Grade . He is assigned to negotiate with the ringleader of a Manhattan bank heist . Inside Man marks Washington 's fourth collaboration with director Spike Lee . After being approached by Lee to star in the film , he was given the opportunity to play Frazier or Dalton Russell , but turned down the latter , citing concerns over the character 's disguise . Washington cited his Broadway performance as Brutus in Julius Caesar as inspiration : " I think it actually helped me prepare for Frazier ? Russell [Gewirtz] ? s script is heavy with great dialogue . My character does a lot of talking ! I kind of thought of Frazier as Brutus goes to Brooklyn . For me , there is a certain rhythm and cadence of New Yorkers , and this gave me the opportunity to play a New York kind of guy who ? s going through a lot while dealing with this smart and challenging adversary . "

Clive Owen as Dalton Russell :

The ringleader of the elaborate bank heist . Russell first appears at the beginning of the film , breaking the fourth wall and narrating in medias res of how he will commit the perfect bank robbery . Owen nearly turned down the role ; like Washington , he expressed concerns over the character 's disguise of a hood , mask and sunglasses : " To play whole scenes where you ? re masked , you 've got on sunglasses and you ? re wearing a hood is very weird , because a lot of acting is often through intent , and intent is shown through the eyes . To suddenly have that taken away and have this big barrier there was very disarming . " Owen , however , accepted the role after further

discussing the part with Lee . The script was also revised to include scenes in which Owen 's face could be shown .

Jodie Foster as Madeleine White :

A Manhattan power broker who is hired to act as a " fixer " in response to the bank heist . Foster saw Inside Man as an opportunity to collaborate with Lee : " Spike is somebody who always fascinated me , and I 've loved his movies . I 've always wanted to be involved in something he 's making . Basically , I never thought I would because it didn 't seem like his stories or subject matter were ever going to include me . So , I 'm just as excited as I can be . " She described her character as a woman with " a relaxed kind of witty quality to her . All the while being very strong , not having to raise her voice very much , not having to yell at anybody ? she 's got authority . There 's seductiveness , a charm , if you will , to her ability to get into people 's psyches that 's been immensely fun to play . It all went way too fast for me . "

Christopher Plummer as Arthur Case :

The chairman of the board of directors and founder of the fictional Manhattan Trust bank . In response to the bank heist , Case hires White to prevent a possible career @-@ ending situation . Inside Man is Plummer 's second collaboration with Lee and Washington , following 1992 's Malcolm X. He described Case as a " wonderful , rich head of all sorts of organizations ? I suppose a kind of ' Enron creature ' ? who runs banks and other world businesses . He has tentacles everywhere , and he 's a real son @-@ of @-@ a @-@ bitch who 's trying to keep a secret in the process . "

Willem Dafoe as Captain John Darius :

A veteran captain of the NYPD Emergency Services Unit . Dafoe saw the film as opportunity to work in New York City and collaborate with Lee . He felt that the film was " about the city ; it ? s about authority ; it ? s about the mentality of crime ; and it ? s about power ? and payback . "

Chiwetel Ejiofor as Detective Bill Mitchell :

A New York City police detective and Frazier 's partner . Inside Man is Ejiofor 's second film with Lee , after She Hate Me (2004) . He first learned of the film after meeting with Lee : " He said he wanted me to read the script and see if I wanted to be involved . Spike asks so many people to come back and work with him in different capacities and as different types of characters . "

Appearing as Russell 's accomplices are :

Carlos Andrés Gómez as Steve (as Kenneth Damerjian)

Kim Director as Stevie (Valerie Keepsake)

James Ransone as Steve @-@ O (Darius Peltz)

Bernie Rachelle as Chaim , an older Jewish man who works as a professor at Columbia 's Law School , who teaches courses on genocide , slave labor , and war reparation claims , who is part of the plot but was not one of the " Steves " , given his age and physique .

Appearing as some of the more notable hostages are Ken Leung as Wing , who was distracted in the bank before the heist by the bosomy woman (played by Samantha Ivers) standing behind him and talking loudly on her phone ; Gerry Vichi as Howard Kurtz , an elderly hostage suffering chest pains who is quickly released by the robbers ; Waris Ahluwalia as Vikram Walia , a Sikh bank clerk whose turban is removed by the cops , which is a religious sacrilege for a Sikh male ; Peter Frechette as Peter Hammond , a bank employee whose attempt to hide his cell phone from Russell results in his getting beat ; Amir Ali Said as Brian Robinson , an 8 @-@ year @-@ old boy , who speaks with both Russell and Frazier and who plays a killing computer game ; Ed Onipede Blunt as Ray Robinson , Brian 's father ; and Marcia Jean Kurtz , who plays an older woman who initially refuses to strip and is forced to do so by Stevie . Kurtz 's character is named Miriam Douglas ; Kurtz played a hostage named Miriam in Dog Day Afternoon , a bank robbery film , which unlike Inside Man , contained significant violence . Lionel Pina , who also appeared in Dog Day Afternoon as a pizza delivery man , appears in Inside Man as a policeman who delivers pizzas at the bank 's front doors .

Other roles include Cassandra Freeman as Sylvia , Frazier 's girlfriend ; Peter Gerety as Captain Coughlin , Frazier and Mitchell 's superior ; Victor Colicchio as Sergeant Collins , the first officer to respond to the bank robbery ; Jason Manuel Olazabal as ESU Officer Hernandez ; Al Palagonia as Kevin , a sanitation worker who recognizes the language as Albanian , as he was formerly married

to an Albanian @-@ born woman ; Florina Petcu as Ilina , the Albanian woman in question who explains that they are hearing recordings of an Albanian president ; Peter Kybart as the Mayor of New York City ; Anthony Mangano as an ESU officer ; and Daryl Mitchell and Ashlie Atkinson as Mobile Command Officers .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Inside Man was Russell Gewirtz 's debut film as a screenwriter . A former lawyer , Gewirtz conceived the idea while vacationing in several countries . He worked for five years to develop the film 's premise . Inexperienced at screenwriting , Gewirtz studied a number of screenplays before working on his own , which he titled " The Inside Man " . His friend , Daniel M. Rosenberg , assisted in developing the script . After it was completed in 2002 , the screenplay was passed around several times . Rosenberg shopped the script to a number of Los Angeles agencies , until Universal Studios executives Scott Stuber and Donna Langley persuaded Gewirtz to take the script to Universal and Imagine Entertainment . Imagine purchased Gewirtz 's screenplay in 2002 , and the project began development at Universal , who retitled the film Inside Man .

Imagine co @-@ founder Ron Howard was attached to direct the film , but turned it down after being asked by Russell Crowe to helm Cinderella Man (2004) . Howard 's Imagine partner Brian Grazer began looking for a new director . After Howard stepped down , Menno Meyjes contributed to Gewirtz 's screenplay , and Terry George incorporated the Nazi Germany and diamond ring elements to the script . Meyjes was in negotiations to direct the film , but after he declined , Grazer thought this project was a chance to work with Spike Lee , who had already learned of Gewirtz 's script . Lee said of the screenplay , " I liked the script and really wanted to do it . ' Dog Day Afternoon , ' directed by Sidney Lumet , is one of my favorite films , and this story was a contemporary take on that kind of a movie . "

After being cast , Denzel Washington and Chiwetel Ejiofor worked together on studying their lines and understanding their characters . Lee helped prepare his actors by screening a number of heist films including Dog Day Afternoon (1975) and Serpico (1973) . Washington , Ejiofor , Willem Dafoe and other actors met and worked with members of the New York City Police Department , who shared their experiences and stories involving civilians and hostage situations .

= = = Filming = = =

= = = = Principal photography = = = =

Principal photography for Inside Man took place on location in New York City ; filming began in June 2005 and concluded in August after 43 days . Universal Pictures provided a budget of \$ 45 million . By filming in New York , the production was eligible for the city 's " Made in NY " incentives program . Interior sets were created at the New York @-@ based Steiner Studios , and Inside Man was the second film (after 2005 's The Producers) to be shot inside the 15 @-@ acre facility .

Location scouting revealed a former Wall Street bank that had been closed down and repurposed as a cigar bar . The building stood in for the fictional Manhattan Trust Bank branch , where the bank heist occurs . " Without a bank , we didn 't have a movie , " Lee explained . " But everything ended up going very smoothly . We shot in the heart of Wall Street in a bank that had been closed down . It was like having a back lot in the middle of Wall Street . " An office at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House doubled as the office of Arthur Case (Christopher Plummer) . Plummer believed that the office 's design was essential to his character : " The space literally presents Case 's power , so I found that part of my character was to simply play very cool about everything . You don 't have to push the power , because it 's all around you . " The location was also used to film a

scene where Frazier confronts Madeleine White (Jodie Foster) . The American Tract Society building , located at 150 Nassau Street and Spruce Street , Manhattan , doubled as White 's office . Cafe Bravo , a coffee shop located at 76 Beaver Street and Hanover Street , was also used for filming . Other filming locations included Battery Park and the New York Supreme Court House 's Appellate Division located at East 25th Street and Madison Avenue , Manhattan .

===== Design =====

Wynn Thomas supervised the production design , continuing a 20 @-@ year collaboration with Lee . With a former Wall Street bank doubling as the fictional Manhattan Trust branch , Thomas and his team restored the former bank to its 1920s architectural structure . The first floor underwent renovations and was used as the first place where the hostages are held captive by the robbers . The bank 's basement was one of several interior sets created at Steiner Studios . Thomas and his team also designed Frazier 's apartment , which he described as " very masculine and rich and highly monochromatic in its many hues of brown . " He was also tasked with designing a police interrogation room , as well as the interiors of the New York City Police Department and a light @-@ duty Mobile Command vehicle . An actual Mobile Command vehicle , supplied by LDV Group , was used for exteriors .

===== Cinematography =====

Inside Man was director of photography Matthew Libatique 's second film with Lee . Because the filmmakers intended to finish with a digital intermediate (the post @-@ production digital manipulation of color and lighting) , Libatique chose to shoot Inside Man in the Super 35 format for a 2 @.@ 35 : 1 aspect ratio . He mainly used Kodak Vision2 500T 5218 and Vision2 Expression 500T 5229 film stocks . The film was shot with Arricam and Arriflex cameras and Cooke S4 lenses .

Several scenes in Inside Man required multiple @-@ camera setups , which meant that Libatique had to instruct and work with multiple camera operators . Lee wanted to create a visual distinction between the characters Russell (Owen) and Frazier (Washington) , while incorporating visual metaphors . Russell 's scenes , in which he masterminds the bank heist , were shot with a Steadicam to suggest that the character is in control . Frazier 's scenes , in which he is tasked with handling the hostage situation , were filmed with multiple hand @-@ held cameras to display the character 's confusion . Libatique explained , " I said , ' We want to create a sense of control and largely centered frames with Clive ? s character , and we want to have movement with Denzel ? s . ' Having three operators on the same character , I ? d watch all three . In a handheld shot , a long lens has a little bit of movement and a wider lens is inherently smoother . I would actually talk to the operator and tell him not to be so steady . It was the first time I ? d worked with so many operators where I wasn ? t one myself . " Telephone conversations between Russell and Frazier were shot using two cameras simultaneously filming the actors performing on two different sets of a soundstage at Steiner Studios . Steadicam operator Stephen Consentino estimated that 80 % of the film was shot with hand @-@ held cameras or a Steadicam . A total of seven cameras were used to film the scene where the hostages are finally released . A Technocrane was used for a crane shot that would cover the following moment , in which the hostages are placed in buses .

The film features a number of scenes which involve Detectives Frazier and Mitchell (Chiwitel Ejiofor) interrogating several hostages during the aftermath of the heist . Libatique described these scenes as a " flash @-@ forward " to events , explaining that Lee " wanted a look that would jump out and tell you you ? re somewhere else . " Libatique photographed the scenes with Kodak Ektachrome 100D 5285 reversal film . Technicolor then cross @-@ processed the filmed footage before it was put through a bleach bypass , which neutralized color temperature and created more contrast . Libatique explained , " Basically , it unifies all the color ... When you try to apply correction , the film moves in very strange ways . "

Post @-@ production facility EFILM carried out the digital intermediate (DI) , with Libatique overseeing the process and working with colorists Steve Bowen and Steve Scott : " It ? s difficult to

match all of your shots meticulously when you have three cameras and one lighting setup , so I spent the majority of the DI just adhering to the original vision of the disparity in color temperature , which I can accentuate , versus the unified color temperature . " A majority of Inside Man was scanned on a Northlight film scanner , while the interrogation scenes had to be scanned on a Spirit DataCine , as the negatives proved " too dense for the Northlight to perform the task . "

= = = Effects = = =

= = = = Video game sequence = = = =

Inside Man features a scene in which Russell (Owen) interacts with Brian Robinson (Amir Ali Said) , an 8 @-@ year @-@ old boy who is playing a violent video game titled " Gangstas iz Genocide " on his PlayStation Portable . The scene is intercut with a 30 @-@ second animated sequence of the fictional game , in which a character performs a drive @-@ by shooting , before killing an intended target with a hand grenade . Using the Grand Theft Auto franchise as a reference , Lee wanted the scene to serve as a social commentary on gangsta rap , violent crime among African Americans and the rising level of killings in video games .

Cinematographer Matthew Libatique enlisted his cousin , Eric Alba , and a team of graphic artists known as House of Pain to design the 30 @-@ second animated sequence . Lee asked for the sequence to show two black characters in a ghetto environment dressed in gangster attire . He also gave the artists mockups of two scenarios that ended in homicide ? one being a robbery at an ATM , and the other a drive @-@ by shooting .

House of Pain spent 10 days working on " Gangstas iz Genocide " . Alba digitally photographed images of buildings near the Marcy Houses in Brooklyn , New York . Portions of the sequence were pre @-@ visualized in 3D Studio Max , while stills were imported as texture maps and added to animated cut scenes created in 3D modeling package Maya . The artists also improvised the use of a hand grenade . When Lee saw how violent the sequence was , he improvised the line " Kill Dat Nigga ! " as a subtitle . The entire sequence was rendered out to play onscreen in full frame . The original running time of the animated sequence was 60 seconds . Lee cut it to 30 seconds , feeling that a shorter length would make more of an impact . Upon Inside Man 's theatrical release , he regretted the video game sequence in the film , saying , " The sad thing is somebody is probably gonna make a game out of it and take that as inspiration . "

= = = Music = = =

Jazz musician and trumpeter Terence Blanchard composed the film score , marking his eleventh collaboration with Lee . The soundtrack for Inside Man features the song " Chaiyya Chaiyya " , composed by A. R. Rahman , which originally appeared in the 1998 Hindi film Dil Se .. The song is featured during the opening credits of the film . A remix of the song , titled " Chaiyya , Chaiyya Bollywood Joint " plays during the end credits , and features Panjabi MC 's added rap lyrics about people of different backgrounds coming together in order to survive . The soundtrack , titled Inside Man : Original Motion Picture Soundtrack , was released on CD in North America on March 21 , 2006 , through record label Varèse Sarabande .

= = Release = =

Inside Man held its premiere in New York at the Ziegfeld Theatre on March 20 , 2006 , coinciding with Lee 's 49th birthday . On March 24 , 2006 , Universal Studios released the film in 2 @,@ 818 theatres in North America . The film was given the widest release of any Spike Lee film , edging out Summer of Sam (1999) by 1 @,@ 282 theatres . Inside Man was also released throughout 62 foreign markets . The film was released on DVD on August 8 , 2006 , on HD DVD on October 23 , 2007 and on Blu @-@ ray disc on May 26 , 2009 .

=== Box office ===

On its opening day in North America , Inside Man grossed \$ 9 @, @ 440 @, @ 295 with an average of \$ 3 @, @ 350 per theatre . By the end of its opening weekend , the film had grossed \$ 28 @, @ 954 @, @ 945 , securing the number one position at the domestic box office . Inside Man held the record for the highest opening weekend gross as a Denzel Washington starring vehicle , surpassing Man on Fire (2004) which debuted with \$ 22 @. @ 7 million on its first weekend .

Inside Man had dropped 46 @. @ 7 % in its second weekend , earning \$ 15 @, @ 437 @, @ 760 ; it had dropped to second place behind Ice Age : The Meltdown . The film dropped an additional 40 @. @ 9 % in its third week , bringing in \$ 9 @, @ 131 @, @ 410 , though it remained in the Top 10 rankings for the weekend , placing fourth overall . The film remained in the top ten for the fourth weekend in a row , grossing approximately \$ 6 @, @ 427 @, @ 815 and finishing sixth for the week . In its fifth weekend , Inside Man had grossed an additional \$ 3 @, @ 748 @, @ 955 , while in eighth place . In its sixth weekend , Inside Man fell out of the box office top ten , finishing eleventh with an estimated \$ 2 @, @ 081 @, @ 690 . The film ended its theatrical run in North America on July 6 , 2006 after 15 weeks (105 days) of release . Inside Man grossed a total of \$ 88 @, @ 513 @, @ 495 in North American territories , ranking as Spike Lee 's highest @-@ grossing film , ahead of Malcolm X (1992) , which had ended its domestic release with over \$ 48 million .

Inside Man was officially released overseas on March 23 , 2006 . In its opening weekend , it took in approximately \$ 9 @, @ 600 @, @ 000 throughout ten foreign territories . Since its opening , the film has taken in approximately \$ 95 @, @ 862 @, @ 759 in the overseas box office , giving it a worldwide total gross of \$ 184 @, @ 376 @, @ 254 . In North America , Inside Man was the twenty @-@ second highest grossing film of 2006 , while it ranked at twenty @-@ first place as the highest @-@ grossing film released overseas .

=== Critical reception ===

Inside Man has received mostly positive reviews . Rotten Tomatoes sampled 197 reviews , and currently has an 86 % rating , making it " Certified Fresh " . The site 's critical consensus reads , " Spike Lee 's energetic and clever bank @-@ heist thriller is a smart genre film that is not only rewarding on its own terms , but manages to subvert its pulpy trappings with wit and skill -- and Denzel Washington is terrific as a brilliant hostage negotiator . " Metacritic , another review aggregator , assigned Inside Man a weighted average score of 76 (out of 100) based on 39 reviews from mainstream critics , considered to be " generally favorable reviews " . CinemaScore polls reported that the average grade cinemagoers gave the film a " B + " on an A + to F scale , with exit polls showing that 54 % of the audience was male , while 68 % was at least 30 years old or older . The American Film Institute named Inside Man as one of the top ten films of 2006 .

Empire gave the film 4 out of 5 stars with the verdict , " It ? s certainly a Spike Lee film , but no Spike Lee Joint . Still , he ? s delivered a pacy , vigorous and frequently masterful take on a well @-@ worn genre . Thanks to some slick lens work and a cast on cracking form , Lee proves (perhaps above all to himself ?) that playing it straight is not always a bad thing . " Wesley Morris of The Boston Globe wrote , " The basic story is elemental , but because Lee and Gewirtz invest it with grit , comedy , and a ton of New York ethnic personality , it 's fresh anyway . " David Ansen of Newsweek commented , " As unexpected as some of its plot twists is the fact that this unapologetic genre movie was directed by Spike Lee , who has never sold himself as Mr. Entertainment . But here it is , a Spike Lee joint that 's downright fun . " Giving the film a B + rating , Lisa Schwarzbaum of Entertainment Weekly wrote , " Inside Man is a hybrid of studio action pic and Spike Lee joint . Or else it 's a cross between a 2006 Spike Lee joint and a 1970s @-@ style movie indictment of urban unease . "

Not all reviewers gave Inside Man positive reviews . Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times gave it a mixed review , writing , " Here is a thriller that 's curiously reluctant to get to the payoff , and when it does , we see why : We can 't accept the motive and method of the bank robbery , we can 't

believe in one character and can 't understand another . " Peter Bradshaw of The Guardian awarded the film one star out of five , calling it a " supremely annoying and nonsensical film " . Rex Reed of The New York Observer wrote , " Inside Man has two things going for it : better actors than usual and a slicker look . Otherwise , it ' s no different from nine out of 10 other preposterous , contrived , confusingly written , unevenly directed , pointless and forgettable junk films we ' ve been getting these days . "

= = Cancelled sequel = =

In November 2006 , it was announced that a sequel to Inside Man was in development , with Russell Gewirtz reprising screenwriting duties . Under the working title Inside Man 2 , the film would have Brian Grazer again serve as producer . Spike Lee was in negotiations to reprise his directing duties while serving as an executive producer alongside returning member Daniel M. Rosenberg . In 2008 , Terry George was in negotiations to write the screenplay for the sequel ; he later replaced Gewirtz , whose screenplay was abandoned . The plot for the sequel was intended to continue after the events of the first film , with Dalton Russell (played by Clive Owen) masterminding another robbery , and again matching wits with NYPD hostage negotiator Keith Frazier (Denzel Washington) . Lee confirmed that Washington , Owen , Jodie Foster and Chiwetel Ejiofor would all reprise their roles . He also expressed interest in filming Inside Man 2 during the fall of 2009 .

In 2011 , it was announced that plans to make Inside Man 2 had been cancelled . Lee confirmed this , expressing that he could not secure funding for the project . " Inside Man was my most successful film , but we can ' t get the sequel made , " he said . " And one thing Hollywood does well is sequels . The film ' s not getting made . We tried many times . It ' s not going to happen . "