

= Daredevil (film) =

Daredevil is a 2003 American superhero film written and directed by Mark Steven Johnson . Based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name , the film stars Ben Affleck as Matt Murdock , a blind lawyer who fights for justice in the courtroom and out of the courtroom as the masked vigilante Daredevil . Jennifer Garner plays his love interest Elektra Natchios ; Colin Farrell plays the merciless assassin Bullseye ; David Keith plays Jack " The Devil " Murdock , a washed up fighter and Matt 's father ; and Michael Clarke Duncan plays Wilson Fisk , also known as the crime lord Kingpin .

The film began development in 1997 at 20th Century Fox and Columbia Pictures , before New Regency acquired the rights in 2000 . Johnson shot the film primarily in Downtown Los Angeles despite the Hell 's Kitchen , Manhattan setting of the film and comics . Rhythm and Hues Studios were hired to handle the film 's CGI . Graeme Revell composed the Daredevil score which was released on CD in March 2003 , whereas the various artists soundtrack album , Daredevil : The Album , was released in February .

Though reviews of the film were mixed , the movie became the second @-@ biggest February release to that time . A spin @-@ off film , Elektra , was released in 2005 to critical and commercial failure .

In 2004 , an R @-@ rated director 's cut of Daredevil was released , reincorporating approximately 30 minutes of the film , including an entire subplot involving a character played by Coolio .

= = Plot = =

Matt Murdock is a blind lawyer in New York City 's Hell 's Kitchen neighborhood , where he runs a firm with best friend Franklin " Foggy " Nelson . As a child , Matt was blinded by a toxic waste spill . The accident enhanced Matt 's other senses and gave him sonar to " see " via sonic vibrations . Matt 's father , boxer Jack " The Devil " , was killed after refusing to turn in a fixed fight for the mobster who had employed him earlier . After his father 's death , Matt promised to stop all crime that controlled Hell 's Kitchen , New York as the vigilante crime @-@ fighter " Daredevil " .

Matt meets Elektra Natchios , daughter of Nikolas Natchios , a businessman who has dealings with Wilson Fisk , a rich executive who is also the criminal leader known as the Kingpin . When Nikolas tries to end his relationship with Fisk , the mobster hires the Irish hitman Bullseye , who has preternatural aim , to kill him . Matt tries to stop Bullseye , but Bullseye ultimately succeeds in killing Nikolas and framing Matt in the process . Elektra vows to exact revenge , while reporter Ben Urich discovers his secret identity . Believing Matt to have done good things for Hell 's Kitchen , Urich tells Matt that Bullseye is going after Elektra next .

Matt tracks Bullseye , but is attacked by Elektra , who plans to use her own training in martial arts to avenge her father 's death . She defeats and injures Matt ; when she manages to remove his mask , she discovers Matt 's secret identity and innocence . Forced to fight Bullseye alone , Elektra is overpowered and killed by the hitman . A wounded Matt makes his way to a church , where he is looked after by his confidante , Father Everett , who knows his secret identity . After recovering slightly , Matt fights Bullseye , who had followed him to the church . Bullseye discovers that loud noise is Matt 's weakness and prepares to kill him with a spiked piece of wood after incapacitating him . Matt blocks the attack and hears an FBI sniper stationed on the neighboring building preparing to fire . As the bullet is fired , Matt moves out of the bullet 's path and pulls Bullseye 's hands into it . When Bullseye pleads for mercy , Matt throws him from the church 's steeple . Bullseye lands on the hood of Urich 's car , severely injured but alive .

Upon discovering Fisk is the Kingpin and Bullseye 's employer , Matt makes his way to Fisk 's office . There , Matt and Fisk begin a fierce fight ; however , Fisk proves to be a surprisingly powerful combatant due to his size and brute strength , and he dominates Matt for most of the fight . Lying on the floor , Matt questions Fisk as to why he killed the people Murdock loved , including Jack Murdock years before : Fisk replies it was just business , for he had worked under Fallon at the time he killed Jack , and Elektra was " at the wrong place at the wrong time . " Angered , Matt regains his strength and breaks Fisk 's legs , but refrains from killing him , instead allowing him to be arrested

by the police , who have discovered his criminal connections . Before being taken away , Fisk ? who had also discovered Matt 's secret identity after overpowering him ? swears revenge on Matt , who points out that Fisk cannot reveal Matt 's secret identity because the humiliation of having been beaten by a blind man will cause him to be perceived as weak by other prison inmates . Having gained closure over his father 's murder , Matt returns to his day @-@ to @-@ day routine , and meets Urich one last time , in which Urich assures him he will not publish his article about Matt 's true identity .

In a mid @-@ credits scene , Bullseye , having been moved to a prison hospital and severely bandaged after his confrontation with Matt , is shown to still have his perfect aim after he impales a fly with a syringe needle and says " Bullseye . "

= = Cast = =

Ben Affleck as Matt Murdock / Daredevil

An attorney @-@ at @-@ law with a disability who was blinded as a youth in an accident with bio @-@ waste that drastically heightened his remaining senses and gave him a " sonar @-@ sense " , which allowed him to perceive his surroundings , and makes a silent promise with his father to " stick up for the long shots " . His father is killed not long after and at that moment , he vows to seek justice . At night , he becomes a devil @-@ modeled vigilante who takes justice into his hands . Affleck was cast in October 2001 . Vin Diesel was considered to portray Daredevil before him , but he opted to take a role in another film . In a February 2011 interview , Guy Pearce said that he was offered the role but turned it down , stating that " comic @-@ strip stuff isn ' t really my cup of tea , really . " Matt Damon also revealed that he was offered the role . He claimed that he and Ben " loved that comic book but I just didn ' t quite believe in the script or the director at the time . " Colin Farrell was also considered until Affleck signed . As a fan , Affleck made sure he had read every single issue of Daredevil , commenting that it was about taking what he knew as a fan and faithfully getting it on the screen . Joe Quesada considered it " serendipity in action " that Affleck is the lead role , as when he and Kevin Smith did the Guardian Devil series , they had modeled it on Affleck . Affleck said Daredevil was his favorite comic book as a kid , and explained why he took the role by saying " Everybody has that one thing from childhood that they remember and that sticks with them . This story was that for me . " Additionally , he said , " I didn ' t want someone else to do it , because I was afraid that they would go out and do it different from the comic and screw it up . " Scott Terra as Young Matt Murdock

As a youth , he has trouble with local bullies and a close bond with his father . This changes in different ways after the accident . Terra was officially announced as a part of the cast in March 2002 .

Jennifer Garner as Elektra Natchios

The daughter of billionaire Nikolas Natchios and the love interest of Matt Murdock . At a very young age , she witnessed the murder of her mother , and since then her father has had her become highly trained in martial arts . For the role of Elektra , many actresses were looked into with considerations including Penélope Cruz , Salma Hayek , Natalie Portman , Lucy Liu , Jessica Alba , and Katie Holmes . A short @-@ list was eventually made , giving the choices of Jennifer Garner , Jolene Blalock , Mía Maestro and Rhona Mitra , with Garner finally becoming the actress to land the role . Garner said of the character , " I think she 's strong and cool and beautiful and smart . She 'd be a good role model . " Garner noted the costume would be different , as Elektra in comics often wears red satin but in the film wears black leather . Garner explained , " [T] he red would never have worked for hiding a harness , and I know this sounds ridiculous , but you have to protect your skin a little bit . They throw me around so much on the rooftop [that] I got cut through the leather , so imagine if I hadn ' t had anything . "

Michael Clarke Duncan as Wilson Fisk / Kingpin

By appearance , he is an overweight corporate head that takes the name Wilson Fisk , but in fact he is the sole person running organized crime , under the moniker of Kingpin . Kingpin is the murderer of Matt 's father , and the man responsible for the hiring of Bullseye , with intention of

having the Natchios family murdered . Michael Clarke Duncan signed on for the role in January 2002 , though he had been attached far earlier . When Duncan was cast , he weighed 290 pounds . He was asked to gain 40 pounds for the role in order to fit the physique of Kingpin . In order to do this , he would lift weights for 30 minutes a day , and power @-@ lifted with one or two reps a day , as well as eating whatever he wanted . Despite this , Duncan 's biggest concern was that he is black , while Kingpin has always been portrayed as white . Also , Duncan provided the voice for Kingpin in Spider @-@ Man : The New Animated Series . He spoke on the fan 's loyalty to the source material by saying " they watch movies to say , ' Hey , that 's not like the comic book . ' But I want them to get past that and just see the movie for what it is and see me for what I am ? an actor . "

Colin Farrell as Bullseye

An assassin with perfect accuracy and deep @-@ rooted pride of it who is hired by Kingpin to kill Nikolas and Elektra Natchios , but when Daredevil gets involved and causes him to miss his target , he makes it his own personal vendetta to take Daredevil down . Farrell was attached to the role in December 2001 . Mark Steven Johnson credits Joe Quesada with talking him out of using the traditional Bullseye costume for the film , and Farrell was encouraged to keep his Irish accent as this version of Bullseye is from Ireland . Farrell had to read Frank Miller 's Daredevil comics to understand Bullseye " because the expression on the character 's faces in the comic books , and just the way they move sometimes , and the exaggerations of the character I 'm playing [?] he 's so over @-@ the @-@ top that you do draw from that . But it 's not exactly a character you can do method acting for ... you know , running around New York killing people with paper clips . "

Jon Favreau as Franklin " Foggy " Nelson

Matt Murdock 's legal partner and best friend , he is also used as a form of comic relief . Favreau joined the cast in February 2002 . Favreau would later go on to direct the Marvel @-@ produced Iron Man and its sequel , Iron Man 2 while also appearing as Happy Hogan .

Joe Pantoliano as Ben Urich

An investigative journalist whose articles notably relate to Daredevil , and the Kingpin . During the film , he goes on to uncover a lot of information about the two . Pantoliano was cast in March 2002 .

David Keith as Jack Murdock

Father of Matt Murdock and a boxer , he is murdered by the Kingpin when he does not take a fall for a fight . Keith was officially announced as a part of the cast in March 2002 .

Leland Orser as Wesley Owen Welch

The number two of Wilson Fisk , but he does not like to be involved in the activities of the Kingpin . Orser previously co @-@ starred with Jon Favreau in 1998 in Very Bad Things .

Lennie Loftin as Detective Nick Manolis

A NYPD cop who considers Daredevil an urban legend .

Erick Avari as Nikolas Natchios

The father of Elektra , who is murdered by Bullseye on behalf of the Kingpin .

Ellen Pompeo as Karen Page

The secretary at Matt Murdock and Franklin Nelson 's law firm .

Derrick O 'Connor as Father Everett

A priest of Matt Murdock 's local church , where he sometimes goes to find solace .

Stan Lee , Frank Miller , and Kevin Smith , each notable for their work on the Daredevil comics , also have cameo roles throughout the film . Mark Margolis has an uncredited role as Fallon , a mobster who once employed Fisk as a hitman . The director 's cut version also features Jude Ciccolella and Coolio in a sub @-@ plot removed from the theatrical version . Tanoai Reed appears uncredited as a thug in Josie 's Bar .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

In 1997 , 20th Century Fox optioned the rights from Marvel Enterprises , and Chris Columbus was

chosen to direct the film . In 1998 , Marvel was facing bankruptcy . During this time 20th Century Fox allowed the option to expire , so Disney began negotiations in order to acquire the rights . In 1999 , the negotiations failed to work out so Marvel set the project up with Sony 's Columbia Pictures . During this time , Chris Columbus and Carlo Carlei co @-@ wrote a script together , before Mark Steven Johnson got signed to write the screenplay . By 2000 , Sony decided to cancel the project , as the two companies reportedly could not come to an agreement over Internet rights .

New Regency entered negotiations with a more satisfying offer , attaining the character rights from Marvel in 2000 to produce the film , with 20th Century Fox handling the distribution . Mark Steven Johnson was rehired and his script was turned in during 2001 , which was praised by Ain 't It Cool News ' Harry Knowles . Prior to shooting , producer Gary Foster said that in comparison to other comic book @-@ based films before it , this film would be " more character @-@ driven ... darker ... edgier , " while Marvel Studios executive Kevin Feige felt the script was one of the strongest comic scripts Marvel had received .

= = = Filming = = =

Fox wanted to start filming in Canada in order to save money . This plan was contended by Johnson , and the film 's cinematographer , Ericson Core , after they found a preferred area for shooting around downtown Los Angeles ' Arcade Building . Core noted that the appeal came from the " beautiful , old brick buildings and great rooftops , " which they felt was perfect for a depiction of Hell 's Kitchen , Manhattan , in comparison to the studio 's choice where the filming would be done in Montreal or Vancouver . Due to their insistence , coupled with Ben Affleck 's disinterest in filming in Canada (after having filmed there for his previous film , The Sum of All Fears) they were able to change the studio 's mind .

When the look of the film was being decided , Mark Steven Johnson opted to use direct scenes from the Daredevil comics . Joe Quesada 's artistic take in Guardian Devil (Daredevil vol . 2 , # 1- # 8) was an influence on the film , with Johnson noting that they would " literally take out a scene from the comic book that Joe did [?] Here 's Daredevil on the cross , you know , it 's that scene from ' Guardian Devil ' . You just shoot that . " Throughout the film , Ben Affleck had to wear " cataract milky @-@ blue " contacts , which would effectively make him blind . This was considered great by Johnson , as it would aid his performance .

The sound plays an integral part in the film , as the superhero relies on it in order to form his ' sonar sense ' . Post @-@ production sound was done by supervising sound editor John Larsen and sound designer Steve Boeddeker and is heard taking place immediately after Matt 's optic nerve is seen mutating . The mutating of the nerve was done by Rhythm and Hues Studios , who also worked on the sonar @-@ sense which became referred to as the " shadow world " . Shadow world was made using just CGI except in a scene where Elektra and Matt Murdock are in the rain , which was done using CGI over film .

= = = Music = = =

The score to Daredevil was written by Graeme Revell , and released on March 4 , 2003 . He was attracted to the focus of " human @-@ ness " on Daredevil , torn emotionally and physically by his superhero status . Avi Arad asked Revell to concentrate more on the emotions of Daredevil and Elektra , while Mark Steven Johnson wanted to stay clear from any gothic and action movie clichés . Revell tried to avoid too much individual motifs but some characters would have an identifiable sound , like Bullseye would have guitar undertones , while Kingpin would have bass beats . Guitarist Mike Einziger of Incubus collaborated with Revell for any additional rock elements . Revell thoroughly enjoyed working with Johnson , describing the director as " positive " and " responsive " when it came to experimenting (as opposed to feeling " locked in a box of preconceptions ") which he felt lead to " cool stuff " . Varèse Sarabande put together the score record .

= = Release = =

== Marketing ==

Aside from expected TV commercials during such TV hits as *Friends* and *Law & Order* , as well as one in the second quarter of the Super Bowl , there was also a tie in with Kraft , an in-store promotion at Wal-Mart , a marketing campaign with Hamilton Watch Company , who designed the watch Matt wears in the film , and a weeklong Daredevil segment on Entertainment Tonight . As part of an online form of marketing , a viral e-mail drive was started , where participants would be entered in a contest where they could win prizes such as Daredevil T-shirts , Game Boy Advance games , and cufflinks . To enter the drawing , the user had to book tickets for the film online , then pass an e-mail on to someone else . The idea was to encourage online ticket booking , which at the time was seen as a growing trend . The Game Boy Advance Daredevil game was released on February 14 , 2003 , and was created by Encore , a subsidiary of Navarre Corporation . The soundtrack to the film , *Daredevil : The Album* , was released in February 2003 .

== Censorship ==

Due to the film 's violent scenes , the Film Censorship Board of Malaysia banned Daredevil in that country . 20th Century Fox unsuccessfully appealed to Malaysia 's censorship board to change its decision , hoping to release the film in Malaysia on February 27 , 2003 . The deputy prime minister told the press films were banned if containing what the board felt was " excessive violence and sexual material or elements which can create chaos in the community " .

== Box office ==

The film opened theatrically on February 14 , 2003 , on 3,471 screens in North America and took first place in its opening weekend , grossing \$ 45,033,454 . At the time , it became the second biggest February release , behind *Hannibal* . By the second weekend the film saw a 55% decline in takings but managed to maintain the number one spot , beating new release *Old School* by \$ 639,093 . By the third weekend release , Daredevil saw a further 38% drop in sales , and so fell to third place at the box office . The film grossed over \$ 102 million in North America , and over \$ 76 million in the rest of the world , totalling the film 's worldwide takings at just over \$ 179 million , grossing over double its budget of \$ 78 million . Avi Arad addressed the top spot success by saying " we are five for five with record-breaking box office successes [with *Blade* , *X-Men* , *Blade II* then *Spider-Man*] and have two more Marvel releases slated for this summer [which are *X2 : X-Men United* and *Hulk*] . It 's a testament to the broad appeal of these characters before mainstream audiences outside of the core comic fans . These super heroes have been successful within the Marvel pantheon for decades ; it only makes sense that their translations to the big screen are just as fruitful . "

== Critical reception ==

Daredevil received mixed reviews from critics . The review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes reported that 44 % of critics gave the film positive feedback , based on 221 reviews , with the critical consensus reading , " While Ben Affleck fits the role and the story is sporadically interesting , Daredevil is ultimately a dull , brooding origin story that fails to bring anything new to the genre . " On the website Metacritic the film has an average score of 42 out of 100 , based on 35 critics , indicating " mixed or average reviews " .

Film critic Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun-Times* gave the film 3 out of a possible 4 stars and called the film good , despite noting the almost typical superhero background . Of the actors , he stated that Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner were suitable for their roles , while Michael Clarke

Duncan 's presence alone was menacing . He said , " I am getting a little worn out describing the origin stories and powers of superheroes [?] Some of their movies , like this one , are better than others . " The Houston Chronicle 's Bruce Westbrook considered it " the best Marvel movie to date , it 's as well @-@ written and character @-@ driven as some of today 's Oscar contenders , and its story doesn 't stall with hollow flamboyance . " The Austin Chronicle 's Kimberly Jones praised the film , the actors , and felt that though an unproven director , " Johnson has just signed his meal ticket with this marriage of big brains , big brawn , and ? most happily ? big heart . "

Empire 's Kim Newman gave the film 3 out of 5 stars , and felt people " will like the characters more than the film , " before adding that there are enough strong moments to guarantee a good viewing . The Guardian 's Peter Bradshaw stated that the film held " unconvincing touches " but was more enjoyable than Spider @-@ Man and as dark as Tim Burton 's Batman . BBC film critic Nev Pierce believed the film had spectacular set @-@ pieces , but felt there was no strong narrative arc to keep the viewer interested . The Wall Street Journal 's Joe Morgenstern considered the film to be neither original nor great but felt it maintained " many grace notes and interesting oddities . " The Globe and Mail 's Rick Groen said the film was " not woeful , not wonderful , merely watchable . " The Philadelphia Inquirer 's Steven Rea thought the film brought a variance of humor and violence , but felt it didn 't work as well as it could have . James Berardinelli felt it was merely a satisfactory superhero film . TV Guide 's Frank Lovece said Daredevil " makes clear that superhero films are the next evolutionary generation of action movies : Now that Schwarzenegger @-@ styled heroes have upped the action ante as far as the human body can go and remain even marginally believable , it 's up to superheroes ... to take it further . " He also felt it was " a movie for grown @-@ ups , not kids . "

Particularly negative reviews included that of The New York Times ' Elvis Mitchell , who said the film was " second @-@ rate and ordinary , " while Variety 's Todd McCarthy considered it " a pretender in the realm of bona fide superheroes . " Entertainment Weekly 's Owen Gleiberman gave the film a " C- " , criticizing the story as " sloppy " and " slipshod " , saying , " Daredevil is the sort of half @-@ assed , visually lackadaisical potboiler that makes you rue the day that comic @-@ book franchises ever took over Hollywood . " Time Out 's Trevor Johnston praised Ben Affleck , feeling he " persuades us of the pain of sightlessness and supersensitive hearing , " but also felt writer / director Johnson 's construction fails all involved in the film . Slate 's David Edelstein believed Johnson copied a lot of Batman , and concluded by saying " that 's not so bad : The movie looks best when it looks like other , better movies . " The Chicago Tribune 's Michael Wilmington thought the film grabs the attention , but felt it does not reward it . The New York Post 's Lou Lumenick panned the film , describing it as a " mind @-@ numbing , would @-@ be comic @-@ book franchise , which often seems as blind as its hero -- not to mention deaf and dumb . " Character co @-@ creator Stan Lee himself felt , " [T] hey just wrote the whole thing wrong . They made him too tragic . " Ben Affleck won the Golden Raspberry Award for Worst Actor for his work in the movie , as well as for Gigli and Paycheck .

= = = Director 's cut = = =

A director 's cut of the film was announced for a spring 2004 DVD release . This version contained new additions like previously unseen footage and a removed subplot , and was to be a bit darker with an R rating . The film , released in 2 @.@ 35 : 1 widescreen format , was released with DTS and Dolby Digital sound . The new version of the film has newly recorded commentary to accompany it , featuring Mark Steven Johnson and Avi Arad . A " Making of Director 's Cut " featurette also accompanied the film . The release date of the DVD was later pushed back to November 30 , 2004 . On September 30 , 2008 the director 's cut was released on Blu @-@ ray . The DVD release of the director 's cut removed the bonus material included on the theatrical cut 's DVD release , but that content was restored for the Blu @-@ ray release (although the Blu @-@ ray release only contains the director 's cut) .

One of the biggest changes to the film was the addition of a subplot involving a drug addict played by Coolio . While this subplot was missing from the theatrical version of the film , it is present in the

novelization by Greg Cox , published in 2003 .

Producer Kevin Feige commented on this version of the film , believing " the people who had other opinions [of Daredevil] will be won over by this new version . " Reviewers like Empire 's Danny Graydon seemed to reaffirm this opinion by considering this version a " considerable improvement on the original version , " notably preferring the more violent undertones , a lesser focus on the romance , and the equal focus of Daredevil and his lawyer alias Matt Murdock and the subplot involving Coolio . Some critics continued to feel Affleck was unsuitable as Daredevil and that Duncan portrayed the Kingpin in an over @-@ the @-@ top manner . IGN 's Jeff Otto and Andy Patrizio also deemed this version an improvement over the original . They felt this version was more loyal to the Frank Miller feel of the Daredevil world , with more focus on themes such as Murdock 's struggle with his Catholic upbringing . On the whole they felt the film would be far more pleasing to the fans , and overall better than the theatrical release .

= = Reboot = =

Feige had stated on potential future Daredevil films , " there are many more stories to be told with old Hornhead and we 'd love to tell them someday . " Avi Arad has also said that a sequel will begin development once the rights go from 20th Century Fox to Marvel Studios . Director Mark Steven Johnson showed interest in returning to direct with the Born Again storyline , as well as suggesting Mr. Fear as a possible villain .

During 2004 , Ben Affleck shot a cameo role for the spin @-@ off film , Elektra , at the request of Daredevil co @-@ star Jennifer Garner . In October 2004 , Affleck stated he would only return in the lead role if Fox would renegotiate to tell the darker stories of Daredevil , and showed interest in a Kevin Smith graphic novel which included Mysterio , as well as the Born Again storyline . However , in November 2006 , Affleck stated that he would never reprise the role , having felt " by playing a superhero in Daredevil , I have inoculated myself from ever playing another superhero ... Wearing a costume was a source of humiliation for me and something I wouldn 't want to do again soon . " Despite this , Affleck would later sign on to portray another superhero , Bruce Wayne / Batman , in Batman v Superman : Dawn of Justice .

In July 2006 , Michael Clarke Duncan showed interest in returning for the role of the Kingpin , but stated that he would not be willing to gain weight as he felt " comfortable " being down to 270 pounds . However , he jokingly showed willingness to change his mind if he was offered \$ 20 million . Duncan suggested that the character is portrayed to have been training a lot in jail in order to become faster in combat against Daredevil , also working as a way to fit his weight loss into the story . Duncan would later go on to reprise his role as the Kingpin in an episode of the animated series : Spider @-@ Man : The New Animated Series .

In July 2008 , Jason Statham expressed interest in appearing as Daredevil in the future . Statham requested " just give me the chance , I would love to be Daredevil . " Frank Miller commented in agreement " I think he should be Daredevil too . " In October 2008 , 20th Century Fox executive Tom Rothman said " a Daredevil reboot is something we are thinking very seriously about . " Rothman added that " what it really needs is , it needs a visionary at the level that Chris Nolan was . It needs someone , it needs a director , honestly , who has a genuine vision . " By February 2010 , 20th Century Fox and New Regency were looking to develop the reboot with News Corp. , with Peter Chernin producing and David Scarpa writing the script . On March 15 , 2011 , it was announced that filmmaker David Slade would be directing the reboot , but he later had to drop out due to other obligations . Fringe writer and producer Brad Caleb Kane was hired to pen the Slade @-@ directed film . On September 3 , 2012 , Duncan died , precluding him from reprising his role as Kingpin .

Later , it was announced that should a sequel or reboot not start filming by October 10 , 2012 , the rights to the Daredevil franchise would revert from Fox back to Marvel . In early August 2012 , Fox scrambled to find a replacement for David Slade , who dropped out of the director 's chair due to scheduling conflicts . The studio briefly met with Joe Carnahan , for the job ? however , Carnahan said on Twitter that his pitch , described as a hard @-@ boiled ' 70s thriller , had gone up in smoke .

Several sources commented that Fox had given up on the reboot , and were prepared to let the rights revert to Marvel and their parent company , The Walt Disney Company . On April 23 , 2013 , Kevin Feige confirmed that the rights for Daredevil returned to Marvel Studios and Disney , opening the possibility of including the character into the Marvel Cinematic Universe . That speculation was confirmed with the announcement of an original Netflix Daredevil television series , which premiered on the streaming service in April 2015 , with English actor Charlie Cox in the title role .