

= The Chronicles of Narnia : Prince Caspian =

The Chronicles of Narnia : Prince Caspian is a 2008 American high fantasy film based on Prince Caspian , the second published , fourth chronological novel in C. S. Lewis 's epic fantasy series , The Chronicles of Narnia . It is the second in The Chronicles of Narnia film series from Walden Media , following The Chronicles of Narnia : The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe (2005) . The four Pevensie children (William Moseley , Anna Popplewell , Skandar Keynes , and Georgie Henley) return to Narnia to aid Prince Caspian (Ben Barnes) in his struggle for the throne against his corrupt uncle , King Miraz (Sergio Castellitto) . The film was released on May 16 , 2008 in the United States and on June 26 , 2008 in the United Kingdom . The screenplay based on the novel by C. S. Lewis was written by Stephen McFeely and Christopher Markus .

Prince Caspian is also the last Narnia film to be co-produced by Walt Disney Pictures , as 20th Century Fox became the distributor of its future films starting with The Chronicles of Narnia : The Voyage of the Dawn Treader . Work on the script began before The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe was released , so filming could begin before the actors grew too old for their parts . Director Andrew Adamson wanted to make the film more spectacular than the first , and created an action sequence not in the novel . The Narnians were designed to look wilder as they have been hiding from persecution , stressing the darker tone of the sequel . The filmmakers also took a Spanish influence for the antagonistic race of the Telmarines . Filming began in February 2007 in New Zealand , but unlike the previous film , the majority of shooting took place in Central Europe , because of the larger sets available in those countries . To keep costs down , Adamson chose to base post-production in the UK , because of recent tax credits there .

The film was a moderate success in the United States and Canada with a total sum of \$ 141 million. and \$ 278 million in the rest of the world . It received generally positive reviews from film critics . The film became 2008 's 10th highest grossing film worldwide .

= = Plot = =

1 @, @ 300 Narnian years after the Pevensie siblings left , Caspian , a Telmarine prince and heir to the throne , is informed by mentor Doctor Cornelius that his uncle , Miraz , is plotting to kill him and seize the throne for himself and his newborn heir . Cornelius gives him Queen Susan 's ancient magical horn , instructing him to blow it only at his greatest need . Caspian flees into the woods where he encounters two Narnian dwarfs , Trumpkin and Nikabrik , and a talking badger named Trufflehunter , and blows the horn to summon help .

Only one year in England has passed since the Pevensie children returned from Narnia . The children are waiting for a tube train when the station suddenly starts collapsing and they are magically transported to Narnia . At first they are overjoyed , but soon realize that much time has passed since their last visit , and their castle at Cair Paravel is in ruin with evidence it was attacked by catapults .

In the Telmarine castle , the lords of the council learn that Prince Caspian is gone , and Miraz , using Trumpkin , who has been captured , persuades them to attack the Narnians to retrieve Caspian while secretly plotting to kill him instead . Lord Sopespian suspects Miraz 's motives , and discusses his treasonous thoughts with his ally , General Glozelle .

The Pevensies save Trumpkin from being drowned by two Telmarines ; he realizes that the four children are the Kings and Queens of Old and they continue on together . Lucy glimpses Aslan and tries convincing the others that she has seen him ; only Edmund believes her .

Nikabrik and Trufflehunter lead Caspian to a gathering of the old Narnians , where he convinces them to help him win his throne so he can return their land . They meet the Pevensies and Trumpkin , and all journey to Aslan 's How . Peter decides they will attack Miraz 's castle , rejecting Lucy 's advice that they wait for Aslan to return .

The Narnians raid Miraz 's castle , but Caspian ruins the plan by freeing Cornelius instead of opening the gate . He learns that Miraz killed his father , and confronts Miraz but is wounded . Overwhelmed , Peter calls for a retreat . Peter , Susan , Edmund , Caspian and the Narnians

escape with heavy losses . Upon returning to Aslan 's How , Peter and Caspian argue , while back at the castle , Miraz is crowned King .

Nikabrik , with the aid of a hag and a werewolf , offers Caspian his help to guarantee victory . The hag uses black sorcery to summon Jadis , the White Witch . From inside a wall of ice , the White Witch tries convincing Caspian to free her , when Peter , Edmund , Lucy and Trumpkin arrive . Peter kills the hag , Edmund kills the werewolf , and Trumpkin stabs Nikabrik when he attacks Lucy . Peter knocks Caspian aside to face the Witch himself , but begins to be entranced , until Edmund shatters the ice , destroying the Witch 's apparition .

As Miraz and his army arrive at Aslan 's How , Caspian suggests Peter and Miraz duel to the death , with the loser 's army to surrender , to buy Lucy and Susan time to find Aslan . Miraz agrees to the duel , not wanting to look like a coward in front of his men . The girls are attacked by Telmarine soldiers , so Susan remains behind to fight them while Lucy continues alone . Peter defeats Miraz , and gives Caspian his sword to finish him off , but Caspian spares Miraz 's life . Sorespian kills Miraz with one of Susan 's arrows and accuses the Narnians , leading to a battle , with the Telmarines gradually winning . Lucy finds Aslan in the woods and he awakens the trees , turning the battle in the Narnians ' favor . Sorespian orders retreat to a bridge , where they are confronted by Lucy and Aslan . Aslan summons the river god , who destroys the bridge , killing many of the soldiers , swallowing Sorespian and winning the battle .

Caspian invites the Telmarines to remain in Narnia if they will coexist peacefully with the Narnians ; but if they wish , they can return to the human world from which they originally came to Narnia . Some , including General Glozelle , agree to do so , and Aslan creates a portal for them and the four Pevensies . Susan kisses Caspian , knowing they will never meet again , as Aslan told her and Peter that they will never return to Narnia . The Pevensies return to England , leaving Caspian as King .

= = Cast = =

Pevensies

William Moseley reprises his role as Peter Pevensie . In a departure from the novel , Peter has a rivalry with Caspian . Moseley explained ,

" Peter 's got his own issues to deal with , and Caspian 's got his own issues to deal with , and when neither is willing to compromise , there 's bound to be friction . Peter came back to Narnia expecting to be king again and that everyone would do as he said , and Caspian is unwilling to let him take over , so that causes some of it . That 's really what happens . And it 's a lot about humility . I think they both have to learn a certain humility [...] and that 's really what a great king needs is to be humble , to listen to his people , to be willing to compromise , and they start off as these sort of angry teenagers , and become kings at the end . "

In real life , the two actors got on well together . Moseley also stated that he identified with Peter , having gone back to school between shooting both films . He trained for three months in New York City to improve his performance and his physicality .

Skandar Keynes reprises his role as Edmund Pevensie , the second youngest Pevensie . Edmund matured during the events of *The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe* , so the writers saw him " as our Han Solo " , " [doing] the right thing " and " probably going to be a little low @-@ key about it " , highlighting the immaturity of his older brother . Keynes bruised his heel when performing a stunt where he jumped onto a horse . He narrowly missed landing on it and hit his foot against a column when holding on . Excepting that , he enjoyed performing the action .

Anna Popplewell reprises her role as Susan Pevensie , the second oldest Pevensie . Popplewell had been disappointed she barely used her bow and arrow in the first film . Adamson convinced Douglas Gresham to have her present during the battles by suggesting her passive role in the novel indicated Lewis ' view of women before he met Joy Gresham . " I think [Lewis] cast women down in the earlier books , but when you look at *The Horse and His Boy* , it has a strong female character . Doug 's mother was a strong woman . " Adamson also chose to have her fall for Caspian , because " The kids are growing up . If you look at Ben and you look at Anna , it seems really implausible that

they wouldn't have some feelings for each other . " He knew it had to be " sensitively handled " though , and ultimately it is not about romance , but " [accepting] the fact that you can have a wondrous experience , enjoy it and move on " . Popplewell added that it would not make sense for the Narnians not to use Susan , a talented archer , in battle , and that the romance contributed to her character 's reconciliation with losing Narnia in the first place .

Georgie Henley reprises her role as Lucy Pevensie . Henley acknowledged Lucy represents faith in the story , being the youngest and therefore most open @-@ minded of the Pevensies . During filming , Henley 's baby teeth were falling out , so she wore fake teeth to fill in the gaps .

Telmarines

Ben Barnes as Prince Caspian . Adamson said " Caspian is a coming of age and , to some degree , a loss of innocence story , with Caspian starting out quite naïve , then craving revenge and finally letting go of the vengeance . " While many readers interpret Caspian as a child , a passage in the novel mentions his age to be near that of Peter 's , so an older actor was sought to match Moseley . Barnes had read the novel as a child , and was cast in two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half weeks after meeting with the filmmakers . He spent two months in New Zealand horse riding and stunt training to prepare for shooting . Barnes modelled his Spanish accent on Mandy Patinkin 's performance as Inigo Montoya in The Princess Bride , though he also had a dialect coach aiding him . Adamson did not expect to cast a British actor as Caspian , and said Barnes fitted well into the surrogate family of Adamson and the four actors playing the Pevensies . When cast , Barnes was set to tour with the Royal National Theatre 's production of The History Boys : producer Mark Johnson joked Barnes " probably isn 't the Nation 's favourite actor right now " . Barnes left England without telling the Theatre . They were furious when they found out that he had left them without permission , so they considered suing him for breach of contract , but decided against it .

Sergio Castellitto as King Miraz . Castellitto was not familiar with the novel , but his four children had enjoyed the first film . Miraz marks the first time the Italian actor has portrayed a villain , and he found it interesting to " act out a stereotype . " Nonetheless , he also felt that he and Adamson brought depth to the role , explaining Miraz is a soldier , not a coward , and that he takes the throne for his son . He compared the character to King Claudius in Hamlet .

Pierfrancesco Favino as General Glozelle , Miraz 's military commander , who plots with Sopespian to have his king killed in combat with Caspian and Peter in order to lead his own attack on the Narnians . However , in the end , Glozelle repents and is the first to volunteer to go into the Pevensies ' world , and in return , is granted a good future by Aslan . This was Favino 's idea , because originally Glozelle would have died in battle . Adamson dubbed the character " a real Benedict Arnold " . Favino is able to speak several languages and generally acted as a translator to Adamson on set while working with actors and crew members of multiple nationalities .

Damián Alcázar as Lord Sopespian . " In some ways Sopespian turns out to be the real bad guy of the film , " Adamson said . " Where it seems that Miraz has the upper hand at the beginning , we see that Sopespian , like Shakespeare 's Iago , is trying to manipulate the situation . "

Vincent Grass as Doctor Cornelius : Caspian 's mentor , who is half @-@ dwarf . Adamson compared Caspian and Cornelius ' relationship to Aristotle and Alexander the Great . Cornelius ' role in the movie is significantly smaller than in the novel , and he is not named on screen , being referred to only as " Professor " .

Alicia Borrachero as Queen Prunaprismia . Prunaprismia was Miraz 's wife . When she had learned that her husband had killed his own brother , she became heartbroken . After Miraz 's death , Prunaprismia was the second volunteer to go back to our world (with her child) . Because of her repenting , Prunaprismia and her child were promised a good life back in our world .

Simón Andreu as Lord Scythley .

Predrag Bjelac as Lord Donnon .

David Bowles as Lord Gergiore . He served as one of the marshals during the duel between Peter and Miraz .

Juan Diego Montoya Garcia as Lord Montoya .

Narnians

Liam Neeson reprises his role as the voice of the lion Aslan . Aslan is " more parental here , [he]

lets the kids , well , make their own mistakes " . Aslan 's entrance was filmed as a dream sequence to emphasize his messianic nature , and not make it reflect badly on his absence when Narnia is in turmoil . Although the character is considered C.S. Lewis ' version of Jesus , Neeson " see [s] him more as the spirit of the planet ? this living , breathing planet . That 's what he stands for , for me ; more what the native Americans would believe . " As Aslan has fewer action scenes than in the first film , the animators found it difficult to make him move interestingly . His pose had to be regal , but if he moved his head too much , he would remind viewers of a dog . As well as having his size increased by fifteen percent , Aslan 's eyes were also changed to look less " Egyptian " . Many of his shots were finished at the last minute .

Peter Dinklage as Trumpkin , a cynical red dwarf . Dinklage was Adamson and Johnson 's first choice , having seen him in The Station Agent . He accepted because " often , you get the hero and the villain and not much in between . Trumpkin is in between . He is not a lovable Snow White dwarf . Audiences appreciate these cynical characters . It helps parents and adults to go along with the journey . " Dinklage 's prosthetics took three hours to apply , and restricted his performance to his eyes . Even his frown was built into the make @-@ up . On his first day of filming , he was bitten by sand flies and fell into a river . " We were lucky that he returned after his first day ! " recalled Johnson .

Warwick Davis as Nikabrik , a black dwarf . He is descendant of Ginarrbrik , who served the White Witch , and bears one of his rings , which was passed down from each generation . Mark Johnson acknowledged casting Davis as the treacherous Nikabrik was casting against type : Berger covered all his face bar his eyelids in prosthetics , to allow Davis to ward off the audience 's perceptions of him . Nikabrik 's nose was based on Berger . Davis feared filming in the Czech Republic , because the grass is filled with ticks , so he put elastic bands to hold his trousers against his legs . Davis portrayed Reepicheep in the 1989 BBC production of Prince Caspian .

Ken Stott as the voice of Trufflehunter the badger . Adamson called Trufflehunter " a walking and talking Narnian library [who is] totally old @-@ school " . The animators visited a badger sanctuary to aid in depicting his performance .

Eddie Izzard as the voice of Reepicheep , a swashbuckling mouse . Over 100 actors auditioned to voice the character . Izzard approached Reepicheep as less camp and more of a bloodthirsty assassin with a sense of honour (a cross between Mad Max and a Stormtrooper from Star Wars) : Izzard interpreted Reepicheep as someone whose family was killed by the Telmarines . The Narnia series were some of the few books Izzard read as a child , and he cherished them . When discussing Reepicheep to the animators , Adamson told them to rent as many Errol Flynn films as possible . Adamson credits Izzard for making the role his own ; beforehand , the director was approaching the character similarly to Puss in Boots in Shrek 2 .

Cornell John as Glenstorm the Centaur . Adamson had seen John perform in Porgy and Bess in London , and liked his long face . John imagined the character as being 170 years old , and wanted to convey " honour , pride and tradition " . Lejla Abbasová as Windmane (Glenstorm 's wife) .

Yemi Akinyemi as Ironhoof (Glenstorm 's son) .

Carlos Da Silva as Suncloud (Glenstorm 's son) .

David Walliams as the voice of the Bulgy Bear .

Klara Issova as a Narnian Hag who attempts to resurrect the White Witch . She used some Arabic words in her incantation .

Gomez Mussenden (son of costume designer Isis Mussenden) plays Lightning Bolt , a child Centaur .

Jan Pavel Filipensky as Wimbleweather the giant .

Shane Rangi as Asterius the Minotaur and Josh Campbell as the voice of Asterius . An elderly minotaur who aids Caspian . He is killed during the raid while holding the gate open to allow some of the army to escape . Rangi also stood in for Aslan , the Bulgy Bear , the Werewolf , another Minotaur , and the Wild Bear on set . Rangi played General Otmin in the previous film and Tavros in The Voyage of The Dawn Treader . He was able to see more in the redesigned animatronic minotaur heads , though " in order to make the eye line straight and correct , you 've actually got to hold your head down , so your view is only about a foot and a half in front of you , which still makes

it a little bit hard " . This resulted in Rangi knocking himself against the rising gate of the Telmarine castle , although he was fine and it was the animatronic head that bore the brunt of the damage . The costumes were still very hot , reducing him to a " walking waterfall " . Although a head sculpt of Aslan was used to stand in for the character on the first film , Rangi had to portray the character on set because Lucy interacts with him more . Rangi lost four kilograms wearing all his costumes .

Cameos

Tilda Swinton reprises her role as Jadis , the White Witch . Her ghost appears as the hag and werewolf attempt to resurrect her . Swinton and her two children also cameos towards the film 's end as centaurs .

Composer Harry Gregson -Williams made a vocal cameo as Pattertwig the squirrel , as Adamson felt he had a " squirrel -like energy " .

Douglas Gresham cameos as a Telmarine crier .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

Before the release of The Chronicles of Narnia : The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe , the screenplay for the sequel Prince Caspian had already been written . Director Andrew Adamson said the decision was made to follow the publication order of the novels because " if we don 't make it now we 'll never be able to , because the [actors will] be too old " . Prince Caspian , the second published novel in the series , is the fourth chronologically . The Horse and His Boy takes place during a time only hinted at in The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe . The writers briefly considered combining Caspian with The Voyage of the Dawn Treader , which the BBC did for their television adaptation .

Screenwriters Christopher Markus & Stephen McFeely wanted to explore how the Pevensies felt after returning from Narnia , going from being kings and queens back to an awkward year as school children . They noted , " [C. S. Lewis] doesn 't much consider what it would be like for a King of Narnia to return to being a 1940 's schoolchild . " They also decided to introduce the Pevensies back into Narnia nearer the start , in order to weave the two separate stories of the Pevensies and Caspian , in contrast to the book 's structure . A sense of guilt on the Pevensies ' part was added , seeing the destruction of Narnia in their absence , as was hubris for Peter to enhance the theme of belief : his arrogance means he is unable to see Aslan .

Adamson also desired to make the film larger in scale ; " I 've gained confidence having gone through the first . This time , I was able to go larger [in] scale , with more extras and bigger battle scenes . " Inspired by a passage in the novel where Reepicheep says he would like to attack the castle , a new battle scene in which Peter and Caspian make an attempted raid on Miraz 's castle was created . Adamson felt the imagery of mythological Greek creatures storming a castle was highly original . Markus and McFeely used the sequence to illustrate Peter and Caspian 's conflict and Edmund 's maturity , in an effort to tighten the script by using action as drama . Adamson preferred subtlety to the drama scenes , asking his young male actors not to perform angrily . Adamson copied Alfred Hitchcock by " tell [ing] people at the end of the scene , ' Now just give me something where you 're not thinking about anything . ' By using it in context , the audience will read an emotion into it . "

= = = Design = = =

Andrew Adamson described the film as being darker , as it takes place " another 1300 years later , [and] Narnia has been oppressed by Telmarines for a large period of that time , so it 's a dirtier , grittier , darker place than the last world was " . He added , " This one is more of a boy 's movie . It 's a harsher world . The villains are human , and that lends a more realistic attitude . " Creatures were designed by veteran horror and monster concept artist Jordu Schell and supervised by Howard

Berger , who said that Prince Caspian would be more medieval than The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe . Alongside Adamson , Berger 's children critiqued his designs , aiding the process : his son thought the werewolf 's ears were silly , so they were made smaller .

For the Narnians , Berger envisioned them as more wild in appearance , as they have been forced into the forests . He also decided to increase the portrayal of various ages , sizes and races . The black dwarfs are distinguished from the red dwarfs as they have more leather and jewellery , and a darker colour scheme in their costumes . Each race of creatures also had their fighting styles made more distinguishable . The minotaurs have maces , and the centaurs use swords . The satyrs were redesigned , as their creation on the first film had been rushed . 4 @, @ 600 make @-@ up jobs were performed , which Berger believes is a record .

The filmmakers interpreted the Telmarines , including Caspian , as being Spanish because of their pirate origins , which producer Mark Johnson noted made Caspian " a contrast to the lily @-@ white [Pevensies] " . Production designer Roger Ford originally wanted the Telmarines to be French , as they had a confrontational history with the English , who are represented by the Pevensies . This was scrapped as the crew were unable to shoot at Pierrefonds Castle , for Miraz 's lair , so they went for the Spanish feel . Weta Workshop created masked helmets for their army , and faceplates for the live horses on set . The stunt soldiers wield two @-@ hundred polearms in two different styles , two @-@ hundred rapiers of varying design , over a hundred falchions , two @-@ hundred and fifty shields and fifty @-@ five crossbows . Caspian 's own sword is a variation of the Royal Guard 's weapons . Costume designer Isis Mussenden looked to the paintings of El Greco to inspire the Telmarines ' costumes . She wanted to use colours that looked " acidic and hot and cool at the same time " , unlike the red and gold seen in the Narnian soldiers . Their masked helmets are based on conquistadors and samurai . She visited the armour archives of the Metropolitan Museum of Art for inspiration . An eagle emblem was incorporated into the characters ' lairs to make them feel fascist .

= = = Filming = = =

Eight months were spent scouting locations , including Ireland , China and Argentina , before New Zealand , Prague , Slovenia and Poland were chosen . Whereas the previous film was predominantly shot in New Zealand with a few months of filming in Central Europe , Adamson decided New Zealand lacked enough sound stages to accommodate the larger scale of the film . The decision to film most of the picture in Europe also allowed the ability to shoot during summer in both continents , although the weather turned out to be so erratic during filming that Adamson joked he had been lied to .

Filming began on February 12 , 2007 in Auckland . The scene where the Pevensies return to the ruined Cair Paravel was shot at Cathedral Cove . The filmmakers chose the location because it had a tunnel @-@ like arch , which echoed the train tunnel the children go into before being summoned back into Narnia . Henderson Valley Studios was used for the Pevensies ' ancient treasure room and the Underground station .

On April 1 , 2007 , the crew began filming at Barrandov Studios in Prague . There , sets such as Miraz 's castle , Aslan 's How and the underground hiding places of the Narnians were created . The 200 @-@ foot @-@ tall (61 m) castle was built to scale because Adamson felt he overused digital sets on the last film . The castle was built in the open air during winter , where the temperature would drop to minus 20 ° C. Miraz 's courtyard is the largest set in production designer Roger Ford 's career , including the previous Narnia film . Aslan 's How was modified into the hideout after filming for those scenes was finished . To create Trufflehunter 's den , Ford 's crew put a camera inside a badger 's den to study what it should look like . The den 's roof had to be raised by three inches because Ben Barnes was too tall .

In June 2007 , they shot the bridge battle near Bovec in the So?a Valley , Slovenia . The location was chosen for its resemblance to New Zealand . A large bridge was built , which was modelled on the one Julius Caesar built to cross the Rhine . Whereas Caesar supposedly built his bridge in ten days , the filmmakers had around forty . The schedule was short though , but the authorities would

only allow them this build time to not completely disrupt normal summer activities on the lake . The filmmakers made a trench to change the river 's course , so they could deepen the drained sides of the riverbed so it looked like one could drown in it . The crew also cut down 100 trees for shots of the Telmarines building the bridge ; the trees were moved to another side of the river for decoration . The bridge stood for two months before being dismantled . As part of the clean @-@ up , the cut @-@ down trees and parts of the bridge were sent to a recycling plant , while other portions of the bridge were sent to the studio for close @-@ ups shot against bluescreen .

Part of the battle was shot at Ústí nad Labem in the Czech Republic . Only the entrance to Aslan 's How was built on location . Adamson wanted Peter and Miraz 's duel to feel unique and not like a controlled , overly choreographed fencing match : Moseley and Castellitto began training for the scene in November 2006 . The stunt coordinator Allan Poppleton doubled for Castellitto in some shots because they are similar in size . For claustrophobic shots , cameras were built into their shields . The main camera was placed on a 360 degree track surrounding the ruin it takes place on . The filmmakers dug a large hole in the ground for the scene where the Narnians cause the pillars supporting the growth near Aslan 's How to collapse on the Telmarines . The earth was then restored following completion of the scene . They also had to restore the grass after filming numerous cavalry charges . 18 @,@ 000 fern plants were imported to the Czech Republic to create a forest . A scene shot in Poland , which involved building a cliff face , also had to leave no trace behind . Filming finished by September 8 , 2007 .

= = = Effects = = =

Prince Caspian has over 1 @,@ 500 special effects shots , more than The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe 's 800 effects shots , yet the film had less time to complete them . The scale of special effects led Andrew Adamson to base production in the UK , to take advantage of new tax credits . Therefore , it legally qualifies as a British film . This also meant the director only had to walk five minutes from the editing room to supervise the effects . British visual effects companies the Moving Picture Company and Framestore CFC were hired to create the visual effects alongside Weta Digital . Framestore worked on Aslan , Trufflehunter and the door in the air ; Scanline did the River @-@ god ; Weta created the werewolf , the wild bear and Miraz 's castle ; MPC and Escape Studios did the main battle , the tunnel scene , the castle assault , the council scenes and all the other creatures .

Alex Funke , who worked on The Lord of the Rings , directed the film 's miniatures unit . These include 1 / 24th and 1 / 100th scale miniatures of Miraz 's castle . A scale model was built of the Narnians ' cave hideouts during the climactic battle , which the actor playing the giant Wimbleweather was filmed against . One of the improvements made over the previous film was to make the centaurs walk during dialogue scenes , so Cornell John as Glenstorm wore Power Risers (mechanical stilts with springs) , to mimic a horse 's canter and height . The animatronic Minotaur heads were also improved to properly lip sync , although this was not as successful as hoped and had to be revamped digitally .

In the climactic battle , 150 extras stood in for the Narnians , while 300 extras were used for the Telmarines . These were digitally duplicated until there were 1 @,@ 000 Narnians and 5 @,@ 000 Telmarines onscreen . The animators found it easier to create entirely digital centaurs and fauns , rather than mix digital legs with real actors . The dryads were entirely computer @-@ generated , whereas in the first film digital petals had been composited over actors . However , Adamson had chosen to make the centaurs not wear armour , meaning the animators had to make the human ? horse join behave more cohesively . Combining digital characters with actors , such as when Lucy hugs Aslan , had become easier since the first film , as lighting had improved . To achieve Lucy hugging Aslan , Framestore even replaced Georgie Henley 's arm with a digital version . For the gryphons , a motion control rig was created for the actors to ride on . The rig could simulate subtle movements such as wing beats for realism . Adamson cited the river @-@ god as the character he was most proud of . " It was a really masterful effect : to control water like that is incredibly difficult " , he said . " The [visual effects company] told us they 'd been waiting to do a shot like that for ten

years . "

The film features catapults resembling windmills , that can fire rapidly , and a ballista that can fire three projectiles at a time . The practical versions of these were metal with fibreglass painted and aged to resemble wood on top . Weta created props of the missiles thrown by the Telmarine equipment . The practical version of the catapult had its upper half painted blue , to composite a digital version programmed for rapid firing movement .

= = = Music = = =

The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe composer Harry Gregson @-@ Williams began composing the sequel in December 2007 . Recording began at Abbey Road Studios the following month , and finished by April 2008 . The Crouch End Festival Chorus , Regina Spektor 's song , " The Call " , Oren Lavie 's song , " Dance ' Round The Memory Tree " and Switchfoot 's song , " This Is Home " , are featured on the soundtrack . Imogen Heap , who sang " Can 't Take It In " for the first film , wrote a new song which Gregson @-@ Williams considered too dark .

Gregson @-@ Williams ' score is darker to follow suit with the film . Gregson @-@ Williams wanted Caspian 's theme to convey a vulnerability , which would sound more vibrant as he became more heroic . It originally used a 3 / 4 time signature , but the opening scene required a 4 / 4 and thus it was changed . To represent Miraz 's cunning , the heroic theme from the first film was inverted . For Reepicheep , a muted trumpet was used to present his militaristic and organised character . Gregson @-@ Williams considered arranging his theme for a small pennywhistle , but found that it sounded too cute and broke the tension of the night raid .

= = Release = =

During pre @-@ production , Disney announced a December 14 , 2007 release date , but pushed it back to May 16 , 2008 , because Disney opted to not release it in competition with The Water Horse , another Walden Media production . Disney also felt the Harry Potter films comfortably changed their release dates from (Northern Hemisphere) winters to summers , and Narnia could likewise do the same because the film was darker and more like an action film . The world premiere was held at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York City on May 7 , 2008 . The British premiere was held at the O2 Arena on June 19 , the first time the dome has hosted a film screening . Around 10 @, @ 000 people attended the event , the proceeds of which went to Great Ormond Street Hospital .

The film opened in 3 @, @ 929 theaters in the United States and Canada on May 16 , 2008 . The Motion Picture Association of America gave the film a PG . To earn this rating , which the filmmakers were contractually bound by Disney to do , Adamson altered a shot of a fallen helmet to make clear that it did not contain a severed head . Adamson made numerous edits to the film beforehand after showing the film to a young audience , explaining " When you sit down and you 're watching it , and you see the kids ' faces while making the film , you 're just making an attempt , you 're making it exciting , you 're doing all of these things because you 're essentially making the film for yourself . When you start showing it to an audience , that then influences how you feel about the film . "

= = = Marketing = = =

Adding to the film 's \$ 225 million budget (almost \$ 100 million of which were spent on the effects) , Disney also spent \$ 175 million on promoting the film . Play Along Toys created a playset of Miraz 's castle , a series of 3 ¾ -inch and 7 @-@ inch action figures , and roleplaying costumes . Weta Workshop 's Collectibles unit also created statues , busts and helmets based on their props for the film , and there was also a Monopoly edition based on the film . In the UK , Damaris Trust was commissioned to produce resources relating to the film for churches and schools , which are available from the official UK Narnia website . In June 2008 , the Journey into Narnia : Prince Caspian Attraction opened at Disney 's Hollywood Studios , featuring a recreation of the Stone Table , behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage , concept art , storyboards , props and costumes from

the film . The tone of the film 's marketing focused on the film 's action , and unlike The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe Disney and Walden did not screen the film for pastors or give Bible @-@ based study guides in North America .

= = = Home media = = =

Prince Caspian was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray Disc in the UK on 17 November 2008 , and on 2 December 2008 in North America . It was the top selling DVD of its release week in the U.S. taking in \$ 54 @. @ 7 million . The film was released in Australia on 27 November 2008 . There were one @-@ disc and three @-@ disc DVD editions (two @-@ disc only in the UK) , and two @-@ disc and three @-@ disc Blu @-@ ray Disc editions (two @-@ disc only in the UK) . The first two discs contain an audio commentary by Adamson , bloopers reel , deleted scenes and documentaries , while the third disc contains a digital copy of the film . For the Blu @-@ ray Disc , Circle @-@ Vision 360 ° was used to allow viewers to watch the night raid from different angles . An additional disc of special features was only made available in Japan and Zavvi stores in the UK , while a separate version containing a disc of electronic press kit material was exclusive to Sanity stores in Australia . By the end of 2008 , the film earned almost \$ 71 million in DVD sales .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

The film received generally positive reviews . The review aggregate website Rotten Tomatoes reported that 67 % of critics gave the film positive reviews , based on 188 reviews . Metacritic reported the film had an average score of 62 out of 100 , based on 34 reviews . Audience members polled by CinemaScore mostly gave it an A ? . Film critic Leonard Maltin gave the film 3 out of 4 stars (as he did with The Lion , The Witch , and The Wardrobe) , calling the performances " strong " , the storytelling " solid " , and the scenery " breathtaking " , though he also said , " it 's a dark tale , and the climactic battle scenes go on at length . "

Two film industry trade journals gave the film positive reviews . Todd McCarthy of Variety felt Adamson 's direction had a " surer sense of cinematic values " and praised the improved special effects , the " timeless " locations and production design . On the performances , he felt " the four kids overall have more character and are therefore more interesting to watch than they were before , and Italian actor Castellitto registers strongly with evil that 's implacable but not overplayed . " Michael Rechtshaffen of The Hollywood Reporter noted the film was darker than its predecessor , with " the loss of innocence theme ... significantly deepened " . He highlighted Peter Dinklage 's performance , which " outmaneuver [ed] the title character as Narnia 's most colorful new inhabitant " ; .

A number of critics took issue with what they interpreted as the film 's underlying messages . San Francisco Chronicle critic Mick Lasalle wrote in his parental advisory that " basically , this is a movie about kids who go into another world and dimension and spend the whole time killing people . " MSNBC reviewer Alonso Duralde noted that " all the heroes have British accents while the Telmarines are all decidedly Mediterranean in appearance and inflection " . An Anglican Journal review described the movie as reasonably faithful to the adventure elements of the book , much lighter on the religious faith aspects , which they found integral to the novel , and deficient on character and emotion .

The Visual Effects Society nominated it for Best Visual Effects and Best Compositing . It was nominated for Best Fantasy Film , Best Costumes , Best Make @-@ up , and Best Special Effects at the Saturn Awards . Keynes and Henley received nominations at the Young Artist Awards .

In 2010 , Mark Johnson , a producer from all of the Narnia movies , admitted that " We made some mistakes with Prince Caspian and I don 't want to make them again . " He also said Caspian lacked some of the " wonder and magic of Narnia , " was " a little bit too rough " for families , and too much

of a " boys ' action movie . "

== = Box office == =

When released on May 16 in the United States and Canada , the film grossed \$ 55 million from 8 @, @ 400 screens at 3 @, @ 929 theaters in its opening weekend , ranking # 1 at the box office . Disney said it was happy with the film 's performance , although the opening fell short of industry expectations of \$ 80 million and was also behind The Lion , The Witch and the Wardrobe 's opening gross of \$ 65 @. @ 6 million . By June 1 it grossed \$ 115 million , while the first film had grossed \$ 153 million in the same amount of time . Disney CEO Robert Iger attributed the film 's underperformance to being released between two of the year 's biggest hits , Iron Man and Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull .

On May 16 , the film also opened at number one in twelve other countries , grossing \$ 22 @. @ 1 million , and bringing the worldwide opening total to about \$ 77 million . The film opened in Russia with \$ 6 @. @ 7 million , the biggest opening of the year ; it earned \$ 6 @. @ 3 million (15 % more than the first) in Mexico ; \$ 4 million in South Korea , making it in the third most successful Disney film there ; \$ 2 million from India , which was triple the gross of the first ; and it earned \$ 1 @. @ 1 million in Malaysia , making it the country 's third most popular Disney film after the Pirates of the Caribbean sequels . The film also opened with \$ 1 million in Argentina on June 13 , which was Disney 's third biggest opening in the country and the biggest of 2008 at that time . Prince Caspian made \$ 141 @, @ 621 @, @ 490 in the United States and Canada while the worldwide total stands at \$ 419 @, @ 651 @, @ 413 . The movie was the tenth highest @-@ grossing film of 2008 worldwide , and was Disney 's second highest @-@ grossing film of 2008 after WALL @-@ E.

== = Accolades == =