

= Edward Scissorhands =

Edward Scissorhands is a 1990 American romantic dark fantasy film directed by Tim Burton , produced by Denise Di Novi and Tim Burton , and written by Caroline Thompson from a story by Tim Burton and Caroline Thompson , starring Johnny Depp as an artificial man named Edward , an unfinished creation who has scissors for hands , who is taken in by a suburban family and falls in love with their teenage daughter Kim ; additional roles were portrayed by Winona Ryder , Dianne Wiest , Anthony Michael Hall , Kathy Baker , Vincent Price and Alan Arkin .

Burton conceived Edward Scissorhands from his childhood upbringing in suburban Burbank , California . During pre @-@ production of Beetlejuice , Caroline Thompson was hired to adapt Burton 's story into a screenplay , and the film began development at 20th Century Fox , after Warner Bros. denied . Edward Scissorhands was then fast tracked after Burton 's critical and financial success with Batman . The majority of filming took place in Lakeland , Florida between March 10 and June 10 , 1990 . The film also marks the fourth collaboration between Burton and film score composer Danny Elfman .

The leading role of Edward had been connected to several actors prior to Depp 's casting : a meeting between Burton and the preferred choice of the studio , Tom Cruise , was not fruitful , and Gary Oldman and Tom Hanks turned down the part . The character of The Inventor was devised specifically for Vincent Price , and would be his last major role . Edward 's scissor hands were created and designed by Stan Winston .

Edward Scissorhands was released to positive feedback from critics , and was a financial success . The film received numerous nominations at the Academy Awards , British Academy Film Awards , Saturn Awards , as well as winning the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation . Both Burton and Elfman consider Edward Scissorhands their most personal and favorite work .

= = Plot = =

An elderly woman tells her granddaughter a bedtime story of where snow comes from , by telling her the story of a young man named Edward who has scissors for hands . As the creation of an old Inventor , Edward was a human @-@ like boy who was in the penultimate stage of work . The Inventor homeschooled Edward , but suffered a fatal heart attack and died just as he was about to fasten hands on Edward .

Local Avon saleswoman Peg Boggs visits the decrepit Gothic mansion on the hill where Edward lives . She finds Edward alone ? at first startled , but , upon realizing he means well and is virtually harmless , takes him to her home . Edward becomes friends with Peg 's young son Kevin and her husband Bill . He later falls in love with the Boggs ' beautiful teenage daughter Kim , despite her initial fear of him .

Peg 's neighbors are impressed by Edward 's adept hedge @-@ trimming and hair @-@ cutting skills , though an eccentric religious fanatic named Esmeralda and Kim 's overbearing boyfriend Jim are fearful and contemptuous of him . Joyce , an ageing , unfaithful housewife in the Boggs ' neighborhood , has become fascinated with Edward and suggests that Edward open a hair @-@ cutting salon with her . While examining a proposed site , she attempts to seduce him in the back room , causing Edward to leave in a panic , and Joyce rumoring of him trying to rape her .

Wanting money for a van , Jim takes advantage of Edward 's ability to pick locks to break into his parents ' house to steal from his wealthy but bullying father . The burglar alarm sounds and everyone except Edward flees after he is trapped by the automatic locks triggered by the alarm , despite Kim 's insistence that they return for him , as the police have him arrested . He is released when a psychological examination reveals that his isolation allowed him to live without a sense of reality and common sense . Upon questioning by Peg , Edward takes full blame for the robbery , and is scrutinized for his behavior , believed to have committed the robbery as earlier he was denied a bank loan for his hair salon . During Christmas , Edward is cast out by almost everyone except the Boggs family . When Edward returns home , he reveals that he knew it was Jim 's house and that he did it because she asked him to , much to Kim 's shock , which causes her to break up with Jim .

While the family is setting up Christmas decorations , Edward creates a large angel ice sculpture (modelled on Kim) . The shavings create an effect of falling snow , which Kim dances under . Jim arrives and calls out to Edward , startling him , resulting in Edward accidentally cutting Kim 's hand . Jim accuses Edward of intentionally harming her and attacks him . Edward runs away , wandering the neighborhood in a rage , ruining one of his earlier hedge works , pokes a hole in the tire on someone 's car , and trims a bush in Esmeralda 's front yard into the shape of the devil . However , when a shaggy puppy comes near , Edward calms down , smiles at the dog and give it a trim . While Peg and Bill search for Edward , he returns and finds Kim alone in the Boggs ' house . She asks Edward to hold her , but he is afraid that he will hurt her again ? she pulls his arms around her and they embrace . Jim returns to the Boggs ' house in a drunken rage to confront Kim , forcing his friend to drive his van while inebriated . Kevin is almost run over , but Edward pushes him out of the way , cutting Kevin 's arms and face , causing witnesses to think he is attacking him . Jim then attacks him furiously and Edward cuts Jim 's right arm . When the police arrive , Edward flees to the mansion as the neighbors pursue .

Kim runs to the mansion , reuniting with Edward . Jim follows her and attacks them with a handgun , beating Edward severely , who refuses to fight until Jim strikes Kim across the face when she intervenes . Edward stabs Jim in the stomach , causing him to fall out of a window to his death . Kim confesses her love for Edward and they share a kiss before saying goodbye . Kim tells the townspeople that Edward and Jim fought each other to death and tells them that the roof caved in on Edward , showing them a discarded scissor @-@ hand from the Inventor 's lab . The neighbors return home with Joyce feeling guilty for framing Edward and causing the neighbors to hate him .

The elderly woman finishes telling her granddaughter the story , revealing that she is Kim and saying that she never saw Edward again . She chose not to visit him because decades have passed and she wanted him to remember her the way she was in her youth . She believes that Edward is still alive , immortal because he is artificial , and because of the winter " snow " that Edward creates by carving ice sculptures that scatter shavings over the neighborhood , and remind her of dancing in the snow long ago .

= = Cast = =

Johnny Depp ? Edward Scissorhands
Winona Ryder ? Kim Boggs
Dianne Wiest ? Peg Boggs
Anthony Michael Hall ? Jim
Kathy Baker ? Joyce
Robert Oliveri ? Kevin Boggs
Conchata Ferrell ? Helen
Caroline Aaron ? Marge
Dick Anthony Williams ? Officer Allen
O @-@ Lan Jones ? Esmeralda
Vincent Price ? The Inventor
Alan Arkin ? Bill Boggs

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

The genesis of Edward Scissorhands came from a drawing by then @-@ teenaged director Tim Burton , which reflected his feelings of isolation and being unable to communicate to people around him in suburban Burbank . Burton stated that he was often alone and had trouble retaining friendships . " I get the feeling people just got this urge to want to leave me alone for some reason , I don 't know exactly why . " During pre @-@ production of Beetlejuice , Burton hired Caroline

Thompson , then a young novelist , to write the Edward Scissorhands screenplay as a spec script . Burton was impressed with her short novel , First Born , which was " about an abortion that came back to life " . Burton felt First Born had the same psychological elements he wanted to showcase in Edward Scissorhands . " Every detail was so important to Tim because it was so personal " , Thompson remarked . She wrote Scissorhands as a " love poem " to Burton , calling him " the most articulate person I know , but couldn 't put a single sentence together " .

Shortly after Thompson 's hiring , Burton began to develop Edward Scissorhands at Warner Bros. , with whom he worked on Pee @-@ wee 's Big Adventure and Beetlejuice . However , within a couple of months , Warner sold the film rights to 20th Century Fox . Fox agreed to finance Thompson 's screenplay while giving Burton complete creative control . At the time , the budget was projected to be around \$ 8 ? 9 million . When writing the storyline , Burton and Thompson were influenced by Universal Horror films , such as The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1923) , The Phantom of the Opera (1925) , Frankenstein (1931) , and Creature from the Black Lagoon (1954) , as well as King Kong (1933) and various fairy tales . Burton originally wanted to make Scissorhands as a musical , feeling " it seemed big and operatic to me " , but later dropped the idea . Following the enormous success of Batman , Burton arrived to the status of being an A @-@ list director . He had the opportunity to do any film he wanted , but rather than fast track Warner Bros. ' choices for Batman Returns or Beetlejuice Goes Hawaiian , Burton opted to make Edward Scissorhands for Fox .

= = = Casting = = =

Although Winona Ryder was the first cast member attached to the script , Dianne Wiest was the first to sign on . " Dianne , in particular , was wonderful " , Burton said . " She was the first actress to read the script , supported it completely and , because she is so respected , once she had given it her stamp of approval , others soon got interested " . When it came to casting the lead role of Edward , several actors were considered ; Fox was insistent on having Burton meet with Tom Cruise . " He certainly wasn 't my ideal , but I talked to him " , Burton remembered . " He was interesting , but I think it worked out for the best . A lot of questions came up " . Cruise asked for a " happier " ending . Gary Oldman and Tom Hanks turned down the part , the latter in favor of critical and commercial flop The Bonfire of the Vanities . Oldman found the story absurd , and declined without meeting with Burton . He said of the finished film , however : " Literally two minutes in , I went , ' Yeah , I get it ' . I just got it too late . " Jim Carrey was also considered for the role , while Thompson favored John Cusack . Elsewhere , William Hurt , Robert Downey Jr. and musician Michael Jackson expressed interest , although Burton neglected to converse with Jackson .

Though Burton was unfamiliar with Johnny Depp 's then @-@ popular performance in 21 Jump Street , he had always been Burton 's first choice . At the time of his casting , Depp was wanting to break out of the teen idol status which his performance in 21 Jump Street had afforded him . When he was sent the script , Depp " wept like a newborn " and immediately found personal and emotional connections with the story . In preparation for the role , Depp watched many Charlie Chaplin films to study the idea of creating sympathy without dialogue . Fox studio executives were so worried about Edward 's image , that they tried to keep pictures of Depp in full costume under wraps until release of the film . Burton approached Ryder for the role of Kim Boggs based on their positive working experience in Beetlejuice . Drew Barrymore previously auditioned for the role . Crispin Glover auditioned for the role of Jim before Anthony Michael Hall was cast .

Kathy Baker saw her part of Joyce , the neighbor who tries to seduce Edward , as a perfect chance to break into comedy . Alan Arkin says when he first read the script , he was " a bit baffled . Nothing really made sense to me until I saw the sets . Burton 's visual imagination is extraordinary " . The role of The Inventor was written specifically for Vincent Price , and would ultimately be his final feature film role . Burton commonly watched Price 's films as a child , and , after completing Vincent , the two became good friends . Robert Oliveri was cast as Kevin , Kim 's younger brother . Nick Carter from The Backstreet Boys was an uncredited casting as the blond boy playing on the Slip ' n Slide when Edward was riding in Peg 's car through suburbia .

== Filming ==

Burbank , California was considered as a possible location for the suburban neighborhoods , but Burton believed the city had become too altered since his childhood so the Tampa Bay Area of Florida , including the town of Lutz and the Southgate Shopping Center of Lakeland was chosen for a three @-@ month shooting schedule . The production crew found , in the words of the production designer Bo Welch , " a kind of generic , plain @-@ wrap suburb , which we made even more characterless by painting all the houses in faded pastels , and reducing the window sizes to make it look a little more paranoid . " The key element to unify the look of the neighborhood was Welch 's decision to repaint each of the houses in one of four colors , which he described as " sea @-@ foam green , dirty flesh , butter , and dirty blue " . The facade of the Gothic mansion was built just outside Dade City . Filming Edward Scissorhands created hundreds of (temporary) jobs and injected over \$ 4 million into the Tampa Bay economy . Production then moved to a Fox Studios sound stage in Century City , California , where interiors of the mansion were filmed .

To create Edward 's scissor hands , Burton employed Stan Winston , who would later design the Penguin 's prosthetic makeup in Batman Returns . Depp 's wardrobe and prosthetic makeup took one hour and 45 minutes to apply . The giant hedge sculptures that Edward creates in the film were made by wrapping metal skeletons in chicken wire , then weaving in thousands of small plastic plant sprigs . Rick Heinrichs worked as one of the art directors .

== Music ==

Edward Scissorhands is the fourth feature film collaboration between director Tim Burton and composer Danny Elfman . The orchestra consisted of 79 musicians . Elfman cites Scissorhands as epitomizing his most personal and favorite work . In addition to Elfman 's music , three Tom Jones songs also appear : " It 's Not Unusual " , " Delilah " and " With These Hands " . " It 's Not Unusual " would later be used in Mars Attacks ! (1996) , another film of Burton 's with music composed by Elfman .

== Themes ==

Burton acknowledged that the main themes of Edward Scissorhands deal with self @-@ discovery and isolation . Edward is found living alone in the attic of a Gothic castle , a setting that is also used for main characters in Burton 's Batman and The Nightmare Before Christmas . Edward Scissorhands climaxes much like James Whale 's Frankenstein and Burton 's own Frankenweenie . A mob confronts the " evil creature " , in this case , Edward , at his castle . With Edward unable to consummate his love for Kim because of his appearance , the film can also be seen as being influenced by Beauty and the Beast . Edward Scissorhands is a fairy tale book @-@ ended by a prologue and an epilogue featuring Kim Boggs as an old woman telling her granddaughter the story , augmenting the German Expressionism and Gothic fiction archetypes .

Burton explained that his depiction of suburbia is " not a bad place . It 's a weird place . I tried to walk the fine line of making it funny and strange without it being judgmental . It 's a place where there 's a lot of integrity . " Kim leaves her jock boyfriend (Jim) to be with Edward , an event that many have postulated as Burton 's revenge against jocks he encountered as a teenager in suburban Burbank , CA . Jim is subsequently killed , a scene that shocked a number of observers who felt the whole tone of the film had been radically altered . Burton referred to this scene as a " high school fantasy " .

== Release ==

== Box office ==

Test screenings for the film were encouraging for 20th Century Fox . Joe Roth , then president of the company , considered marketing Edward Scissorhands on the scale of " an E.T.-sized blockbuster , " but Roth decided not to aggressively promote the film in that direction . " We have to let it find its place . We want to be careful not to hype the movie out of the universe , " he reasoned . Edward Scissorhands had its limited release in the United States on December 7 , 1990 . The wide release came on December 14 , and the film earned \$ 6 @, @ 325 @, @ 249 in its opening weekend in 1 @, @ 372 theaters . Edward Scissorhands eventually grossed \$ 56 @, @ 362 @, @ 352 in North America , and a further \$ 29 @, @ 661 @, @ 653 outside North America , coming to a worldwide total of \$ 86 @. @ 02 million . With a budget of \$ 20 million , the film was declared to be a box office success . The New York Times wrote " the chemistry between Johnny Depp and Winona Ryder , who were both together in real life at the time (1989 ? 1993) , gave the film teen idol potential , drawing younger audiences . "

= = = Critical response = = =

Edward Scissorhands received acclaim from critics and audiences . Review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reports that the film holds an 89 % approval rating , based on 56 reviews , with an average score of 7 @. @ 7 / 10 . The site 's consensus reads : " The first collaboration between Johnny Depp and Tim Burton , Edward Scissorhands is a magical modern fairy tale with gothic overtones and a sweet center . " Metacritic , another review aggregator , assigned the film a weighted average score of 77 (out of 100) based on 19 reviews from mainstream critics , considered to be " generally favorable " . CinemaScore reported that audiences gave the film a " A- " grade .

Peter Travers of Rolling Stone praised the piece by stating , " Burton 's richly entertaining update of the Frankenstein story is the year 's most comic , romantic and haunting film fantasy . " He continued by praising Depp 's performance stating , " Depp artfully expresses the fierce longing in gentle Edward ; it 's a terrific performance " and the " engulfing score " from Danny Elfman . Staff of Variety spoke highly of the film , " Director [Burton] takes a character as wildly unlikely as a boy whose arms end in pruning shears , and makes him the center of a delightful and delicate comic fable . "

Marc Lee of The Daily Telegraph scored the film five out of five stars , writing , " Burton 's modern fairytale has an almost palpably personal feel : it is told gently , subtly and with infinite sympathy for an outsider who charms the locals but then inadvertently arouses their baser instincts . " whilst additionally adding praise to Depp 's performance , " [Depp] is sensational in the lead role , summoning anxiety , melancholy and innocence with heartbreaking conviction . And it 's all in the eyes : his dialogue is cut @-@ to @-@ the @-@ bone minimal . "

Desson Thomson of The Washington Post wrote , " Depp is perfectly cast , Burton builds a surrealistically funny cul @-@ de @-@ sac world , and there are some very funny performances from grownups Dianne Wiest , Kathy Baker and Alan Arkin . " Rita Kempley of The Washington Post granted the film praise , " Enchantment on the cutting edge , a dark yet heartfelt portrait of the artist as a young mannequin . " She too praised Depp 's performance in stating , " ... nicely cast , brings the eloquence of the silent era to this part of few words , saying it all through bright black eyes and the tremulous care with which he holds his horror @-@ movie hands .

Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly gave the film an " A- " rating and praised it in " The romanticism has a personal dimension ? for Edward is , of course , Burton 's surreal portrait of himself as an artist : a wounded child converting his private darkness into outlandish pop visions . Like Edward , he finds the light . " He also commented very positively on character of Edward , " ... who is Burton 's purest achievement as a director so far . " Of Depp he wrote , " Depp may not be doing that much acting beneath his neo @-@ Kabuki makeup , but what he does is tremulous and affecting . " As well as Elfman 's score of the piece by saying it to be , " [A] lovely , storybook score highlights the pop romanticism of Burton 's conception . The romanticism has a personal dimension . "

Janet Maslin of The New York Times wrote , " Mr. Burton invests awe @-@ inspiring ingenuity into the process of reinventing something very small . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Stan Winston and Ve Neill were nominated the Academy Award for Best Makeup , but lost to John Caglione , Jr. and Doug Drexler for his work on Dick Tracy . Production designer Bo Welch won the BAFTA Award for Best Production Design , while costume designer Colleen Atwood , and Winston and Neil also received nominations at the British Academy Film Awards . In addition , Winston was nominated for his visual effects work . Depp was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy , but lost to Gérard Depardieu of Green Card . Edward Scissorhands was able to win the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation and the Saturn Award for Best Fantasy Film . Danny Elfman , Ryder , Dianne Wiest , Alan Arkin , and Atwood received individual nominations . Elfman was also given a Grammy Award nomination .

= = = Legacy = = =

Burton cites Edward Scissorhands as epitomizing his most personal work . The film is also Burton 's first collaboration with actor Johnny Depp and cinematographer Stefan Czapsky . In October 2008 , the Hallmark Channel purchased the television rights . Metal band Motionless in White have a song entitled " Scissorhands (The Last Snow) " , with its lyrics written about the film in homage to its legacy and impact on the gothic subculture . Scottish indie rock band The Twilight Sad named a mini @-@ album Here , It Never Snowed . Afterwards It Did after a line spoken in the final scene of the film .

An extinct lobster @-@ like sea creature called Kootenichela deppi is named after Depp because of its scissor @-@ like claws .

= = Stage adaptations = =

A theatrical ballet adaptation by the British choreographer Matthew Bourne premiered at Sadler 's Wells Theatre in London in November 2005 . After an 11 @-@ week season , the production toured the UK , Asia and the United States .

The British director Richard Crawford directed a stage adaptation of the Tim Burton film , which had its world premiere on June 25 , 2010 , at The Brooklyn Studio Lab and ended July 3 .