



Nope Editor Compares Working With Taika Waititi To Jordan Peele - Exclusive



BY DON KAYE / AUG. 5, 2022 1:41 PM EDT

Writer-director Jordan Peele's [third feature, "Nope,"](#) marks the second time that the rising filmmaker has collaborated on a theatrical film with editor Nicholas Monsour. In addition to editing Peele's previous movie, "Us," Monsour has also worked on Peele-driven TV projects like his relaunch of "The Twilight Zone" and the long-running comedy sketch show, "Key and Peele."



unseen movie — "[Next Goal Wins](#)," the next movie to arrive from New Zealand-based filmmaker [Taika Waititi](#). Yes, that's the same Taika Waititi who helmed both "Thor: Ragnarök" and the more recent "Thor: Love and Thunder." In between adventures in the MCU, Waititi directed what is likely to be a far more modest film about the American Samoa soccer team's improbable run at the 2014 World Cup ([via Al Jazeera](#)).

Both Peele and Waititi are brands unto themselves at this point. [Peele is becoming an auteur](#) in the realm of high-concept, socially conscious horror/sci-fi, while Waititi blends genuine emotion, whimsy, absurdist comedy, and gender-bending affirmation in whatever genre he lands in. Yet while they're operating in very different territories stylistically, Nicholas Monsour says that both directors have more in common than film journalists, loyal fans and general audiences might think.

"I definitely see a big similarity in that they're both really generous and so focused on the experience of their audience," Monsour tells [Looper](#) in an [exclusive interview](#). "They want to make the movie that they've always wanted to see and that they have a hunch that their audience also has been wanting to see."

Peele and Waititi both like to experiment with their films as they're making them



plot level," he recalls. "They would try new things in a scene unscripted, improvised, based on the character, that would create ramifications for the whole rest of the movie's plot ... my experience of working with Taika was that it was an even more extreme version of figuring it out in the edit, but intentionally doing that, like intentionally creating a whole variety of possible edits that he would then would go and figure it out."

Monsour adds that the amount of raw material shot for "Next Goal Wins" was "truly astounding," with one joke having 97 different versions to choose from – and they were "all really funny." Speaking of which, Monsour concludes by saying that while Waititi and Peele are very different in many ways, they do share one important trait: they're both "incredibly funny guys."

"Nope" is in theaters now, while "Next Goal Wins" is due out in 2023.

RECOMMENDED

NEXT UP

Movies That Will Blow Everyone Away In 2023



Every year is packed with big movies now, whether we're talking about the continuations of major franchises, the launch of new ones, or big-budget spectacles that just seem primed to grab our attention no matter what the subject matter. In that regard, 2023 is no different. In fact, it might be one of the biggest years for blockbuster movies we've ever seen.

We've got sci-fi epics, horror sequels, and more Spider-Man-related movies than you could possibly believe. In other words, it's going to be a memorable year for cinema. But which films are most primed to really knock you through the back wall of the theater in 2023, and when exactly will you get to see them? Well, we're here to help you find the best and the biggest that the year has to offer. From a villain's origin story to holiday season blockbusters, these are the movies that will blow you away in 2023.

Kraven the Hunter - January 13, 2023



presented in comics as a hunter who travels the world, taking down the deadliest game on the planet. That eventually leads him to Spider-Man, a powerful adversary who Kraven sees as the ultimate prey. The big-screen version of the character, which will be directed by "Triple Frontier" helmer J.C. Chandor, might not feature Spider-Man, but it will bring us Aaron Taylor-Johnson ("Avengers: Age of Ultron," "Bullet Train") as the title character, who [he describes \(via Collider\)](#) as a "protector of the natural world."

That leads us to believe this version of Kraven might not be quite so keen on killing animals left and right, but we still don't know much about the film's overall plot. What we do know is that "Kraven the Hunter" will finally hit theaters on [January 13, 2023](#), and when it does, [it will boast a killer cast](#), including Ariana DeBose as love interest Calypso, Christopher Abbott as the villainous Foreigner, and Fred Hechinger as Kraven's half-brother Chameleon, as well as Alessandro Nivola and Russell Crowe.

Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania - February 17, 2023



Marvel Studios

The Marvel Cinematic Universe has been playing with the concept of a multiverse for some time now, through films like "Spider-Man: No Way Home" and "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness." Now, that concept seems primed to explode across the MCU in "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania," the third installment in the "Ant-Man" series of films [that will reunite](#) original stars Paul Rudd, Evangeline Lilly, Michael Douglas, and Michelle Pfeiffer.

This time around, Scott Lang and his allies — along with [Kathryn Newton](#) as an adult version of Scott's daughter, Cassie — will team up to face Kang the Conqueror, a new multiversal, time-traveling villain played by "Lovecraft Country" star Jonathan Majors. Majors first played the role in the form of a character dubbed simply "He Who Remains" at the end of "Loki" Season 1, and now, he's returning to play another variant of the mysterious adversary. Exactly what Kang wants, and how Scott will end up facing him, is still a mystery.

What's not a mystery is that we know our heroes will be spending a lot of time in the Quantum Realm, where they'll run into [a character played by Bill Murray](#). One of Marvel's weirdest villains — the evil, oversized head M.O.D.O.K. — will also be showing up. We'll find out what happens next when "Quantumania" hits theaters on [February 17, 2023](#).

Creed III - March 3, 2023



Back in 2015, the "Rocky" franchise got its first spinoff with "Creed," Ryan Coogler's tale of Adonis Creed, son of the late heavyweight champion, Apollo, and his journey to his own success and confidence as a boxer. The film was a major hit for Coogler, star Michael B. Jordan, and "Rocky" icon Sylvester Stallone, who won a [Golden Globe](#) for his work in the film.

In 2023, the "Creed" franchise is set to continue with [its third installment](#), building on the first sequel in which Adonis (Jordan) took on the son of one of Rocky's greatest opponents, Ivan Drago. This time around, [Jordan himself](#) will also be stepping into the director's seat, giving him even more ownership of the subfranchise he helped launch. Tessa Thompson and Phylicia Rashad will also return as Adonis' girlfriend and stepmother, respectively, but one person who won't be back is Stallone. With Rocky Balboa's journey seemingly wrapped up at the end of "Creed II," it looks like the Italian Stallion is done, at least for now. Joining the cast this time around, in the boxing ring across from Jordan, is "Lovecraft Country" and MCU star [Jonathan Majors as a new antagonist](#) for the series.

We were originally supposed to see "Creed III" in 2022, but in July, Variety reported the release date has [been moved back](#) slightly, and we'll now see Adonis enter the ring again on March 3, 2023.

Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves - March 3, 2023



Paramount Pictures

"Dungeons & Dragons" has been one of the biggest names in fantasy for decades, so it makes sense that a new attempt at a big-screen version of the franchise was bound to come along eventually. In 2023, we'll see what looks like the biggest "D&D" adaptation yet with "[Honor Among Thieves](#)," a film from "Game Night" writers John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein that looks like it has the makings of a very clever, very fun movie adventure.

As revealed in the film's first trailer during San Diego Comic-Con 2022, "Honor Among Thieves" will follow a group of ... well ... thieves, led by a bard named Edgin (Chris Pine), as they set out to fix a problem they caused. It turns out the team stole wrong, super dangerous artifact for the wrong kind of people, and they have to find a way to steal it back if the world is going to survive. [The trailer](#), set to Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love," establishes the stakes of the story but focuses even more on the various classic "D&D" creatures we'll see along the way, and really plays up the dynamics of the cast, which also includes Michelle Rodriguez, Sophia Lillis, and "Bridgerton" breakout Regé-Jean Page.

"Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves" arrives — gelatinous cubes, owlbears, and all — on March 3, 2023.

Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom - March 17, 2023



Warner Bros. Pictures

Aquaman's been around in some form in the DC Extended Universe since 2016's "Batman v Superman," but he really exploded in popularity back in 2018 when he got his own big-screen adventure for the first time. We were originally expecting to see an "Aquaman" sequel during the 2022 holiday season, but the film was been pushed to 2023, when we'll finally get to experience the grandly titled "[Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom](#)."

What is the Lost Kingdom? We don't know for sure yet, but we do know that Jason Momoa will return as Arthur Curry/Aquaman and that he'll be teaming up with his disgraced half-brother Orm (Patrick Wilson) to fight the powerful Black Manta (Yahya Abdul-Mateen II). [We'll also see returning cast members](#) like Amber Heard as Mera, Temuera Morrison and Nicole Kidman as Arthur's parents, Willem Dafoe as Atlantean vizier Vulko, and Randall Park as marine biologist Dr. Stephen Shin (he showed up the original film's post-credit scene). [Joining the cast this time out](#) are Jani Zhao as Stingray, Indya Moore as telepathic shark Karshon, and "Game of Thrones" star Pilou Asbæk in a still-mysterious role. Plus, [Ben Affleck will reprise his role](#) as the Caped Crusader himself, Batman.

"Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom" will finally reveal its secrets on [St. Patrick's Day, 2023](#).

John Wick: Chapter 4 - March 24, 2023



Lionsgate Pictures

We were originally supposed to get the fourth chapter in the ever-expanding "John Wick" saga back in 2021, but the COVID-19 pandemic pushed things back a bit. Now, we know that the spring of 2023 will finally bring us the next phase of the ever-expanding story of everyone's favorite assassin.

So far, we don't know all that much about where "Chapter 4" will take John, other than the clues left by the end of "Chapter 3," in which John cheated death yet again after the High Table demanded his execution. We do know, of course, that [Keanu Reeves will return](#) in the title role, along with Ian McShane as Winston, Lance Reddick as Charon, and Laurence Fishburne as the Bowery King. With the expanding world of the story comes an expanded cast, which [includes "John Wick" newcomers](#) Donnie Yen, Clancy Brown, Bill Skarsgard, Rina Sawayama, and Hiroyuki Sanada.

"John Wick" returns when "Chapter 4" hits theaters [March 24, 2023](#).

Scream 6 - March 31, 2023



Paramount Pictures

After more than a decade away from the box office, the "Scream" franchise returned with a fifth installment in January of 2022 and promptly made it back into box office hit territory. It wasn't long before progress on a sixth film was revealed, and we'll be getting both some welcome reunions and one surprising omission along the way.

We don't know much about "[Scream 6](#)" just yet, but filmmakers have revealed that "Scream" 2022 stars Melissa Barrera, Jenna Ortega, Jasmin Savoy Brown, and Mason Gooding will all reprise their roles in the sequel, alongside franchise mainstay Courteney Cox. In other return news, it's been revealed that Hayden Panettiere, who starred in "Scream 4," will reprise her role of that film's survivor, Kirby Reed.

Sadly, one major franchise star who will apparently not be back is Neve Campbell. Though Campbell was initially expected to return as the series' lead, Sidney Prescott, the actress announced in June of 2022 that she would not be appearing in the film [due to a dispute over the pay](#) she was offered to reprise her role. It'll be strange to lose Sidney, but the film will also be getting a brand

new character to make up for it in the form of [New York City itself](#), which will serve as a primary location in "Scream" for the first time. Plus, "[Ready or Not](#)" star [Samara Weaving](#) and "Servant" star Tony Revolori joined the cast in July 2022.

"Scream 6" arrives March 31, 2023.

Renfield - April 14, 2023



Andrea Raffin/Shutterstock

After the "Dark Universe" experiment failed with "The Mummy" in 2017, Universal Pictures set out to craft a new approach to its classic movie monsters, giving us films like "The Invisible Man" in the process. And now, they're taking some of their characters down a very different route with ["Renfield,"](#) a movie about one of the most famous sidekicks in movie history.

Directed by Chris McKay ("The Tomorrow War") and starring Nicholas Hoult ("The Great") in the title role, "Renfield" will tell the story of Count Dracula's legendary servant, who gets a new lease on life and a chance at his own agency when he [falls in love](#) with a traffic cop (Awkwafina) and sets off on an unlikely journey. To sweeten the deal with this premise, "Renfield" includes a story co-written by "The Walking Dead" creator Robert Kirkman and will feature [Nicolas Cage playing Count Dracula](#), marking the fulfillment of a dream role for the actor.

"Renfield" arrives in all its horror-comedy glory on [April 14, 2023](#).

Salem's Lot - April 21, 2023



Ever since "IT: Chapter One" set off a fresh wave of Stephen King fever in Hollywood, we've been getting both brand new adaptations of the master of horror's stories and new versions of old favorites. In 2023, "[Salem's Lot](#)" will join the party with its third live-action adaptation, this time helmed by "Annabelle Comes Home" director Gary Dauberman.

Dauberman both wrote and directed the new adaptation of King's beloved second novel, which tells the story of a writer returning to his hometown in Maine to work on a book, only to find the place slowly succumbing to the influence of a vampire. Lewis Pullman [will play the writer](#), Ben Mears, while Makenzie Leigh will play his love interest, Susan Norton, and "Game of Thrones" favorite Pilou Asbæk [will play Richard Straker](#), a mysterious antiques dealer who might be the vampire's chief servant. With his work on the "Conjuring" franchise spinoff films, as well as writing both "IT" movies, Dauberman has proven himself a steady modern horror stylist, and it'll be really interesting to see what he does with this new take on a King classic.

Sadly, we have to wait just a little longer than expected to see it. Originally dated for the fall of 2022, "Salem's Lot" was [pushed back](#) to the spring of 2023, and we'll now finally get to go back to the title town on April 21.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 - May 5, 2023



Marvel Studios

James Gunn said back in 2017 that he would be back to make a third installment in the "Guardians of the Galaxy" series at Marvel Studios, but we didn't know then that the wait would be this long. In the interim, Gunn was fired by Marvel for some controversial old tweets, went over to Warner Bros. to make "The Suicide Squad" and "Peacemaker," and was then re-hired to come back and shepherd his old team through their trilogy-completing adventure. Now, ["Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3"](#) seems to finally be on course.

At San Diego Comic-Con 2022, we finally got our first key plot details from the film courtesy of a new trailer that premiered exclusively in Hall H. [Though we haven't seen the footage yet](#), reports from inside the room tease tension between Star-Lord and the past version of Gamora from "Avengers: Endgame," as well as a look at the origin story of Rocket Raccoon. In addition to all the usual Guardians suspect, "Vol. 3" will feature "Superstore" breakout Nico Santos, "The Suicide Squad" actress Daniela Melchor, "Borat 2" star Maria Bakalova as Cosmo the Spacedog, Will Poulter as Adam Warlock, and "Peacemaker" co-star Chukwudi Iwuji [as Marvel Comics villain the High Evolutionary](#).

The Guardians of the Galaxy will return for the MCU's first-ever holiday special on Disney+ during the 2022 Christmas season. "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" will follow in theaters a few months later, on May 5, 2023.

Fast X - May 19, 2023



Universal Pictures

The "Fast Saga" of action films has been an unstoppable franchise juggernaut for years now, but things are finally starting to slow down when it comes to the story's main characters. The upcoming tenth and eleventh installments in the series will wrap up the main story of the Toretto family and their exploits, which means that the [upcoming "Fast X"](#) will be one of the biggest films of 2023 by default.

All the usual major players are back for the penultimate installment in the series, including Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Jordana Brewster, and Sung Kang, and they'll be joined by more recent franchise additions like "F9" star John Cena and "Fate of the Furious" villain Charlize Theron. Plot details are scarce, but "F9" did end up with the return of Jason Statham as Deckard Shaw, which means that Shaw's attempts to kill Han (Kang) in previous movies will probably have a big role to play.

In terms of newcomers, the film will also [feature "Aquaman" star Jason Momoa](#), "Captain Marvel" star Brie Larson, and [screen legend Rita Moreno](#) in key roles. It's also the first "Fast" outing for director Louis Leterrier, [who replaced outgoing filmmaker Justin Lin](#) midway through production.

"Fast X" speeds into theaters May 19, 2023.

Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse - June 2, 2023



Sony Pictures Animation

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" is one of the most acclaimed superhero films of the past decade, a major animated hit for Sony Pictures that won [an Oscar for Best Animated Feature](#), and a film that set up a whole universe of new possibilities for its sequel. In 2023, we'll finally get to see what that sequel has to offer.

In 2022, Sony revealed that the "Into the Spider-Verse" sequel has been dubbed "[Across the Spider-Verse](#)," and the studio dropped the first teaser footage for the much-anticipated follow-up. Like the first film, the sequel will feature Miles Morales (Shameik Moore), Peter B. Parker (Jake Johnson), and Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld) teaming up as Spider-themed heroes to save the world, but this time around, they'll be getting some new friends and enemies. Oscar Isaac has returned to play Miguel O'Hara, aka Spider-Man 2099, a character introduced in a post-credits scene in the first film. On the newcomers side of things, Issa Rae ("Insecure") has joined the film as Jessica Drew, aka Spider-Woman, while Jason Schwartzman will play the [Spider-Man villain known as the Spot](#).

"Across the Spider-Verse" arrives June 2, 2023, and will be followed [the next year](#) by "Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse," giving us a trilogy of animated fun.

Transformers: Rise of the Beasts - June 9, 2023



Shutterstock

The "Transformers" movie franchise just keeps ... well, transforming. More than a decade after director Michael Bay launched the live-action adaptations of the world's favorite robots in disguise, the Autobots and Decepticons keep finding new ways to make it back to the big screen. In 2023, they'll do it for the seventh time, and this time, they'll be joined by the Maximals.

In June of 2021, Paramount Pictures revealed that the next Transformers film would be "Rise of the Beasts," a '90-set story that will introduce elements of the popular "Beast Wars" storyline from the toys, comics, and TV series into the film franchise. This time around, we'll head to Brooklyn, where Optimus Prime (Peter Cullen, back again) will encounter humans, including "In the Heights" star Anthony Ramos, and face the vicious Terrorcons.

But the Autobots won't be alone in the fight. They'll have the Maximals — transforming robots who become animals — along for the ride for the first time, including [Ron Perlman as Optimus Primal](#). It's a whole new frontier of Transformers movie storytelling, and [it arrives June 9, 2023](#).

The Flash - June 23, 2023



Warner Bros. Pictures

A version of "The Flash" has been in the works [for over a decade at this point](#), enough time for the character to get a whole different life in the form of a TV series on The CW. After a long list of screenwriters and directors moved through the project without completing it, the long-awaited DC Comics film starring Ezra Miller will finally land in 2023.

We don't know much about the plot of "[The Flash](#)" yet, but we do know that the film will focus on the DC Multiverse and will bring in none other than [Michael Keaton himself](#) to play Bruce Wayne for the first time since 1992's "Batman Returns." Ben Affleck, who worked alongside Miller's Allen in "Justice League," is also back as his version of Bruce Wayne, setting the stage for a dimension-hopping adventure. But it's not all old characters getting a new spin. The film will also introduce a new live-action version of Supergirl, [played by Sasha Calle](#), setting the stage for even more spinoff potential in the DCEU.

Sadly, "The Flash" has made news more recently not for director Andy Muschietti's vision but for Miller's [frequent run-ins with police](#) and arrests tied to their erratic behavior. Now the question is how Warner Bros. deals with those issues in the lead-up to the film's impending release. No matter the circumstances, it looks like we'll see "The Flash" run on [June 23, 2023](#).

Indiana Jones 5 - June 30, 2023



Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures/Twitter

In 2023, 15 years after he last appeared in a feature film, Indiana Jones will return to the big screen for what's possibly the final time with Harrison Ford in the leading role. In development for years, the still-untitled fifth "Indiana Jones" film is finally on track, and it's set to give us something just a little different, with a few firsts, and possibly a few finals.

Though director Steven Spielberg will still be on board as a producer, "Indy 5" marks the first time in the history of the franchise that the Oscar-winning hasn't directed, turning that honor over to "Logan" helmer [James Mangold](#), who also co-wrote the script. Harrison Ford, who turned 80 years old in 2022, is back once again as Dr. Henry "Indiana" Jones, and he's joined this time by an all-star cast that includes Mads Mikkelsen, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Antonio Banderas, Boyd Holbrook, and more.

We still don't know much about the film's plot, but we do know that it'll carry with it a certain gravity, as composer John Williams has suggested that the film may be Harrison Ford's last hurrah as a big-screen actor. Williams himself has also suggested ([via IndieWire](#)) that he may retire from composing after writing the score for "Indy 5." So, it'll be an epic return for Indy, but it might also serve as a farewell to two of the most influential people in the history of film.

"Indiana Jones 5" is in theaters June 30, 2023.

Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One - July 14, 2023



Paramount Pictures

The "Mission: Impossible" films have defied the odds by being a franchise that seems to get bigger and better with each installment. Tom Cruise first played Ethan Hunt way back in 1996, and since then, he's worked with various filmmaking legends to build the character into a kind of superhero, taking on increasingly daring missions and real-life stunts along the way. Now, we're about to get the biggest "Mission" story yet.

The long-developing seventh film in the series will once again team Cruise with director Christopher McQuarrie, the mastermind behind the previous two installments in the series. Franchise mainstays Rebecca Ferguson, Ving Rhames, Vanessa Kirby, and Simon Pegg will be along for the ride, along with newcomers like Hayley Atwell, Pom Klementieff, and [Holt McCallany of "Mindhunter."](#) As for the mission, we know that it will involve the return of Ethan Hunt's old boss, Eugene Kittredge (Henry Czerny), who hasn't been seen since the first film, and that it'll feature Hunt on a mission that will tackle a global conspiracy to define the very nature of truth in the public eye.

In 2022, Cruise revealed that the film is subtitled "[Dead Reckoning Part One,](#)" setting up a two-part adventure that will continue in 2024 with what may well be the final installment in the entire franchise.

"Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One" finally arrives [July 14, 2023.](#)

Barbie - July 21, 2023



Stefanie Keenan/Getty Images

In the race of the internet's most-talked-about upcoming movie, "Barbie" seems to be taking an early lead in building up buzz for [its 2023 release](#). The talent behind the film made it an interesting prospect from the beginning, as Oscar nominee Greta Gerwig ("Lady Bird," "Little Women") [stepped up to direct](#) and co-write the film alongside her partner and fellow Oscar nominee Noah Baumbach ("Marriage Story"). Then, Margot Robbie joined the film in the title role, followed by [Ryan Gosling as Barbie's beau, Ken](#), and things really picked up.

We still don't know all that much about the plot of "Barbie," but we do know that [the set photos](#) from the film are playing up the neon-colored 1990s-inspired designs of the film, suggesting a lot of knowing winks in the direction of Barbie's history and place in pop culture. We'll hopefully learn more soon, but no matter what happens at this point, "Barbie" seems set to be one of the most buzzworthy movies of 2023, especially as [it's added names](#) like Simu Liu, America Ferrera, Issa Rae, Kate McKinnon, Michael Cera, and Will Ferrell — among others — to its cast.

"Barbie" will make its way to theaters on July 21, 2023.

Oppenheimer - July 21, 2023



Denis Makaranko/Shutterstock

Christopher Nolan films are events unto themselves at this point in the director's career, as Nolan uses every ounce of clout he won through Batman blockbusters to make grand-scale films that he might not otherwise get the chance to tackle.

In September 2021, Nolan revealed that his next project would be "Oppenheimer," a film about legendary scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his work creating the first atomic bombs. Over the next year, the film slowly built up an increasingly impressive, and increasingly massive, [cast of all-star actors](#). Cillian Murphy, who's worked with Nolan on the "Dark Knight" trilogy and "Inception," will [play the title character](#) during his years in the Manhattan Project, while the film's supporting cast will include Emily Blunt, Robert Downey Jr., Matt Damon, Florence Pugh, Rami Malek, Benny Safdie, Josh Hartnett, Dane DeHaan, Jack Quaid, Matthew Modine, Alden Ehrenreich, Kenneth Branagh, David Dastmalchian, Jason Clarke, and [many, many more](#).

It's a truly epic undertaking by one of America's most revered filmmakers, and it'll be really interesting to finally see footage that previews how Nolan hopes to build the story of a man who created the world's most devastating instrument of death. "Oppenheimer" hits theaters July 21, 2023.

The Marvels - July 28, 2023



Disney

Phase 4 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe has been an interesting expansion project so far, as the MCU uses both its feature films and its streaming offerings on Disney+ to grow new characters and concepts that will, eventually, be united in some larger story. Now, one of those key unions is almost here.

We knew from the moment "Captain Marvel" hit theaters that Carol Danvers (Brie Larson) would be a major MCU player for some time, but it turns out her sequel is an adventure too big for just one hero. Directed by Nia DaCosta, "[The Marvels](#)" will unite Carol Danvers with her best friend's daughter, Monica Rambeau (Teyonah Parris), who picked up superpowers during the "WandaVision" series, and with newly minted Ms. Marvel, Kamala Khan (Iman Vellani), who launched her own series on Disney+.

Beyond the cast, which also includes [MCU mainstay Samuel L. Jackson](#) as Nick Fury, we don't know much about the film's plot just yet, but Carol, Monica, and Kamala have a lot of shared comic book history, so we can't wait to see the sparks fly.

"The Marvels" arrives [July 28, 2023](#).

Blue Beetle - August 18, 2023



Albert L. Ortega/Getty Images

The DC Extended Universe is pushing into plenty of new superhero territory lately, with upcoming films following characters like Batgirl and plans for other spinoff characters along the way. In the summer of 2023, they'll get one of their most interesting new additions yet with "Blue Beetle."

Directed by acclaimed "Charm City Kings" filmmaker Angel Manuel Soto, the film will star Xolo Maridueña as Jaime Reyes, a teenager from El Paso who encounters an alien artifact that takes the form of a mysterious blue scarab. When he interacts with it, it fits to his body and grants him an alien exosuit with extraordinary powers, turning him into the superhero known as Blue Beetle.

Jaime Reyes is not [the first comic book Blue Beetle](#), but he's been a hit among readers ever since he was introduced, and the film is both an exciting opportunity for DC to make a teen hero movie and a chance to showcase a primarily Latinx cast. Alongside Maridueña for the film are co-stars Harvey Guillen, Bruna Marquezine, George Lopez, and Raoul Trujillo. Plus, Susan Sarandon will be [starring as the villain](#).

"Blue Beetle" flies into theaters [August 18, 2023](#).

Madame Web - October 6, 2023



Roy Rochlin/Getty Images

Sony Pictures has spent several years working on its expanding universe of Spider-Man-related characters, and it's led to some surprising developments. Among the most surprising is the news that Madame Web, a Marvel Comics character with just a few major appearances to her name, will get her own feature film in 2023.

In the comics, Madame Web is often depicted as an old, infirm woman with prodigious clairvoyant abilities, but the movie version looks to be going in a slightly different direction. Dakota Johnson ("50 Shades of Grey," "The Lost Daughter") will take on the title role in the film, which suggests we'll get at least a little more of an action movie bent even as Madame Web will retain something of her comic book psychic roots. (As [Deadline puts it](#), she will be Sony's equivalent of the MCU's Doctor Strange.) S.J. Clarkson, whose work includes episodes of Marvel's "Jessica Jones" and "The Defenders," is set to direct the film, which will also star "Euphoria" breakout [Sydney Sweeney](#), "American Horror Story" alum Emma Roberts, [Adam Scott](#) of "Severance" and "Parks and Recreation," and more.

Beyond that, we don't really know much about the story of "Madame Web" just yet, but we'll find out more soon. The film is set to hit theaters [October 6, 2023](#).

Untitled Exorcist film - October 13, 2023



Warner Bros.

After reinvigorating the "Halloween" franchise with the 2018 legacy sequel, director David Gordon Green is turning his attention to another iconic horror film. In 2020, Green was announced as the director for a [new installment in "The Exorcist" franchise](#), setting the stage for yet another legacy sequel, one that will build on the original film's story of a young girl possessed by a frightening evil.

We still don't know much about the new "Exorcist" movie, but we do know that screen legend Ellen Burstyn will return to play Chris MacNeil, the mother of Linda Blair's Regan MacNeil, who was possessed by the demon Pazuzu in the first film. This time, Chris will be called upon to help another family whose child is possessed, possibly by the same evil force that tried to claim her daughter decades earlier. Joining Burstyn in the film is "Hamilton" breakout Leslie Odom Jr., who will play the father of the newly possessed child.

Beyond those details, we don't know much yet, but Green's definitely got plenty of experience revisiting horror classics at this point, so it'll be very interesting to see if he can do for possession movies what he did for slashers. The film is set to hit theaters on the very spooky date of October 13, 2023.

Blade - November 3, 2023



Albert L. Ortega/Getty Images

At San Diego Comic-Con in 2019, Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige announced that Oscar-winner [Mahershala Ali would be joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe](#) as Blade, heralding the arrival of the legendary Daywalker into the MCU. Sadly, while the announcement was great, we still had a long way to go until the film starring Ali actually arrived. Now, that wait is almost over.

Feige announced at San Diego Comic-Con 2022 that the MCU's first "Blade" movie will arrive on November 3, 2023, setting up the character's future as a potential major player after a brief, voice-only cameo in "Eternals." We still don't know much about the film's story, but we do know that it will be [directed by Bassam Tariq](#), a rising filmmaker best known for projects like "Mogul Mowgli," in keeping with Marvel's drive to get a more diverse array of director's into its talent pool. We also know that [Delroy Lindo and Aaron Pierre](#) are joining Ali in his vampire-hunting adventures.

While information on the film remains scarce, the prospect of seeing Ali stepping into the shoes of Marvel Comics' favorite vampire hunter is enough to keep us excited until the first footage finally arrives. The Daywalker will arrive on November 3, 2023.

Dune: Part Two - November 17, 2023



Warner Bros. Pictures

Well before his first "Dune" film was released in the fall of 2021, filmmaker Denis Villeneuve made it clear that he was aiming for multiple installments and that the first film was just the first half of Frank Herbert's epic novel. Now, thanks to the first movie's success, "[Dune: Part Two](#)" is on its way, and it seems set to present something even grander than its predecessor.

The original film's cast are all set to reprise their roles, including Timothee Chalamet, Rebecca Ferguson, Zendaya, Josh Brolin, Dave Bautista, and Stellan Skarsgard. Joining them this time around are incoming stars Florence Pugh, who will play Princess Irulan, "Elvis" star Austin Butler as the Harkonnen fighter Feyd-Rautha, [Christopher Walken as the Emperor Shaddam IV](#), and Lea Seydoux as [Lady Margot](#). The film will pick up where the first installment left off, as Paul Atreides and his mother join the Fremen in their fight against the Harkonnen invasion of Arrakis, and Paul works to claim his rightful place in the universe. "Dune: Part Two" arrives [November 17, 2023](#).

Star Trek 4 - December 22, 2023



A new "Star Trek" feature film has been in some stage of development ever since "Star Trek Beyond" hit theaters in 2016, but for a long time, no one was sure what shape it would take. In the intervening years, everyone from Quentin Tarantino to " Fargo " creator Noah Hawley worked on some version of a new "Trek" story, even as the franchise continued with several streaming series on the Paramount+ series. At various points, it seemed like "Star Trek" would simply transition to becoming a TV franchise again, with little movement on the film side.

That changed in early 2022, when Paramount Pictures announced that [a new "Star Trek" film](#) was on the way, and the actors from the new films — including Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Karl Urban, and John Cho — are expected to return to the bridge of the Enterprise. We don't know anything about the story yet, but we do know that acclaimed "WandaVision" director Matt Shakman has signed on to helm the film. Hopefully we'll know more soon.

The untitled fourth "Star Trek" film of the reboot era will beam into theaters [December 22, 2023](#).

Killers of the Flower Moon - 2023



Driver" star Robert De Niro in key roles for "[Killers of the Flower Moon](#)," his upcoming adaptation of the true-crime book of the same name. Those three talented people alone are reason enough to get excited about the film.

Based on a true story, the film is set in Osage County, Oklahoma, in the 1920s, and follows the complex investigations into a series of murders of Native Americans in the area that seem to have spurred by a battle over oil rights. The case was one of the first major investigations by the agency now known as the FBI, which gives it plenty of historical weight. That historical power, plus lead performances from DiCaprio and De Niro and Scorsese in the director's chair, are all enough to make it worth seeing. Also prepare to see Jesse Plemons ("[Breaking Bad](#)," "[The Power of the Dog](#)") give the performance of his career, as he'll play the lead FBI investigator on the case.

Sadly, we'll have to wait a bit longer before we can finally watch "[Killers of the Flower Moon](#)." Though the film was originally expected to have a 2022 awards season run, Deadline reported in July of 2022 that the release has [been pushed back](#) to some time in 2023, probably to give the film a world premiere at a major film festival.

RECOMMENDED
