

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE (2016)

- Released May 27th, 2016
- Bryan Singer directed
- \$178,000,000 million budget
- 20th Century Fox
- Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence, action and destruction, brief strong language and some suggestive images

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Phil Svitek
- Marisa Serafini
- Demetri Panos
- Zach Wilson

DEVELOPMENT

- The film was announced by Bryan Singer in December 2013 via Twitter, before *Days of Future Past* was released to theaters
- In the same month, Simon Kinberg, Dan Harris, and Michael Dougherty were revealed by Singer to be attached to work on the film's story
- According to Singer, the film would focus on the origin of the mutants, and features the younger versions of Cyclops, Jean Grey, and Storm
- Singer also said that he was considering Gambit and a younger version of Nightcrawler to appear
- According to Kinberg, it would take place in 1983, and completes a trilogy that began with 2011's *X-Men: First Class*
- In September 2014, 20th Century Fox officially announced that Singer would direct the film
- Singer has called the film "kind of a conclusion of six X-Men films, yet a potential rebirth of younger, newer characters" and the "true birth of the X-Men"
- The film was to be called "Age of Apocalypse", after the comic of the same name. But this was changed to simply "Apocalypse" for a more ominous title, as well as to avoid comparison with *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2015) and *Transformers: Age of Extinction*(2014)

WRITING

- Bryan Singer, Simon Kinberg, Michael Dougherty, Dan Harris
- The year is 1983, about 10 years after the events of *X-Men: Days of Future Past*.
- Singer said that Apocalypse is the main focus of the film
- Kinberg said that the younger versions of Scott Summers, Storm and Jean Grey appearing in the film are "as much a part of the film as the main cast"
 - He described Summers as "not yet the squeaky-clean leader", Storm as a "troubled character who is going down the wrong path in life", and Grey as "complex, interesting and not fully mature."
- Kinberg also said that the film delivers on the dramatic story and emotion of the last two films and that it acts like the culmination of the main characters portrayed by Lawrence, McAvoy, Fassbender and Hoult
- Kinberg said *First Class*, *Days of Future Past*, and *Apocalypse* formed a trilogy about Mystique, explaining, "She starts in *First Class* entirely on Charles' side, ends up following Erik, and we then find her in *Days of Future Past* and she's on her own because Erik is gone. She's on her own side in that movie but is drawn toward Charles by the end of the film and shoots Erik. Then in *Apocalypse* she comes back to Charles. There's a full circle narrative over the span of this little trilogy that is about Mystique from beginning with Charles in the mansion and ending with Charles in the mansion, but not as the same timid little girl we met in *First Class*."
- Kinberg's process is to go away for about 6 weeks in a hole and just write - he writes stories he as a kid would have wanted to see since he grew up reading the comics and loving superhero movies
- Kinberg calls this film the culmination of Xavier and Lensherr's relationship: "First Class was about Erik becoming empowered, the origin story of a man's power. Days of Future Past was about

Charles becoming empowered, a guy who is a mess but masterminds the end of a massive event. This film has them both at their peak and finally going at each other!"

- Bryan Singer chose Apocalypse as the antagonist to examine the origins of mutants on Earth: "It deals with ancient mutantism, the origins of the mutant state; or the origin of gods and religion. There's a mixture of ancient religion and cultism in the character of Apocalypse."
- Writer Simon Kinberg has stated that he and Bryan Singer have talked about this film being the origin of the traditional X-Men team and hopes future films will follow this "next generation of X-Men characters" following on from X-Men: First Class (2011), X-Men: Days of Future Past (2014) and X-Men: Apocalypse
- Bryan Singer compared this film to Game of Thrones (2011), saying: "It's a younger generation finding their powers and finding out who they are and their place in the world. They don't even know if that's the right goal. Everyone's miserable, but they want to get that power."
- Simon Kinberg explains that, thanks to the time-travelling consequences of X-Men: Days of Future Past (2014), history has been altered so that some mutants have turned out differently than in the previous films. This has enabled new versions of old characters to potentially exist and appear in these films (Cyclops, Jean Grey, Storm, Angel, Nightcrawler, Blob, William Stryker, Wolverine)
- Singer: I knew I wanted to explore two things. I wanted to tell us the story of whatever happened to Raven and Erik when they left that stadium. When they both just left. I knew I wanted to tell that story, and like when I first came up with *First Class* and I wanted to tell the story of Xavier and Magneto, I knew I wanted to tell the origin of Jean and Scott and Storm. I knew those stories I wanted to tell. What happened to the two people that left the stadium and the origin of those three characters.

STORY/CAST

- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Opening Sequence / Setting Up the Villain
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Apocalypse as a Villain
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Is this the same format? Intro a problem, recruit people, fight?
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Fans are saying strength is in individual story, not collective
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Magneto's turn at end?
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Young X-Men
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Charles, Magneto, Raven
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Tone? Funny scene with Quicksilver to weight of death of Havok
- In October 2014, casting for *X-Men: Apocalypse* began
- In November, Singer confirmed that Oscar Isaac would portray Apocalypse
- In January 2015, Singer announced that Alexandra Shipp, Sophie Turner, and Tye Sheridan would portray young Storm, Jean, and Cyclops
- The same month, Kinberg confirmed that Rose Byrne would reprise her role as Moira MacTaggart in the film
- In February, Kodi Smit-McPhee was cast as Nightcrawler and Ben Hardy was cast in an unspecified role
- In March, Singer announced that Lana Condor was cast as Jubilation Lee
- In April, Singer confirmed that Hardy would portray Angel, Olivia Munn would portray Psylocke, and Lucas Till would return as Havok
- In May, Singer announced that the mutant Caliban would appear in the film
- In July, Hoult revealed on *Conan* that Josh Helman would return as William Stryker
- In April 2016, Hugh Jackman confirmed that he would make a cameo appearance as Wolverine
- "I think it was really important for us to make them feel welcome, at ease and relaxed right at home, the same way we felt like when coming into the X-Men universe on *First Class*." - Fassbender about the new & young cast
- BB guns on the go. The cast always had BB guns and would prank each other on set, fire the bb guns while they stepped out of their trailers
- Ranking of performances:
<https://theringer.com/x-men-apocalypse-rankings-c17687361d70#.mqjipuhfc>

JAMES MCAVOY (Professor Charles Xavier)

- For the role of Charles Xavier, James McAvoy shaved his head. It was something he had wanted to do in the previous X-Men films
- The psychic battle between Xavier and Apocalypse was based on a concept from *First Class* where Xavier and Emma Frost would have battled on a psychic plane. However, at the time the idea was considered too similar to the film *Inception*
- "I'm always on the hunt for something new, a character I have never played before. Thanks to X-Men I have a certain amount of financial freedom. When I know I'll be making another blockbuster in a couple of years' time, I can afford to say yes to smaller projects with smaller budgets."

MICHAEL FASSBENDER (Magneto)

- Followed the comic books and the character arcs of Magneto
- "Simon [Kinberg] and I were talking on a plane heading to Russia for *Days of Future Past*, and we started spit balling that idea seeing him in a different environment in the beginning as a regular guy really living a family life, no longer partaking in world domination" - Fassbender
- Kinberg says it was good to see Magneto go from a leader to a follower
- Kinberg: We tried to keep it that the things that [Magneto] was destroying felt almost more like monuments or rooftops of buildings rather than a building toppling over and people dying. It's one of the things that Bryan's very sensitive to. I may be less sensitive to it. Actually, I'm sort of more of a genre geek where I'm okay if cities are destroyed. Bryan's very sensitive to collateral damage. If you go back and watch the movie, it's things like bridges ripping apart and cars floating up in the air, but you don't see cars dive-bombing into the water. Shipping containers flying through the air, but they don't smash into any bodies. The top of the Sydney Opera House ripping off, but the base of it remaining intact. We tried to be careful about that collateral damage. It's something people are very critical about in other movies that we know about.

JENNIFER LAWRENCE (Mystique)

- Her most difficult scene: "Being strangled by Apocalypse. That was the hardest, because I was in a harness, being lifted by my genitalia."
- Charles Xavier actor Patrick Stewart jokingly informed [Bryan Singer](#) that he would be willing to play Mystique should Jennifer Lawrence "start playing up". He said: "I am so ready to be naked, painted blue, and the world is ready for it too."
- Jennifer Lawrence has revealed this is her last appearance as Mystique. At the time of release, she's less than two years younger than Rebecca Romijn was when she first originated the role. X-Men: Apocalypse is also, at the time of release, the last contracted film for James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Nicholas Hoult, but all expressed interest in doing more, if the scripts were good

OSCAR ISAAC (En Sabah Nur)

- "His ability to physically damage, destroy, or build is in the non-biological world," Singer said. "That's in the physical world. He can change... the inorganic molecules of things...Apocalypse himself is not a physical form. He's an energy." - Singer
- Always on 6" risers because of his short stature
- "Oscar -- he was really involved, though, in shaping his character. Because he was going to be in so much make-up, he was meeting with [co-writer and producer] [Simon \[Kinberg\]](#) a lot -- he was more creatively involved than any of us were." - Lawrence
- Voice changes through the whole movie. Doubled his voice. Different ADR takes.
- *Comic Version*: Born with gray skin and blue lines running across his lips and face. "**The First One**", Believed in the principle that only the fittest, toughest, most ruthless and pitiless, tested by hardship, would, and should, survive. Apocalypse would use Rama Tut's technology to "regenerate" for long periods of time, becoming more and more powerful when awakening. Defeated by the time-lost mutants, [Cyclops](#) and [Phoenix](#)
- Tom Hardy and Idris Elba were both considered for the role of Apocalypse, but that part went to Oscar Isaac instead

- Bryan Singer describes Apocalypse as a mutant acting as a god, saying: "Apocalypse's from an ancient time and doesn't understand he's a mutant. He thinks of himself as more of a god. He's a hard man to break, it's why he thinks he's God. And the big giant ego of the god is that the world lacks order and respect/devotion to him. It needs to be culled, it needs to be wiped away and rebuilt."
- According to Simon Kinberg, Apocalypse is the darkest villain in the series: "He doesn't distinguish between mutants and humans like the other villains do, only between the weak and the strong. To him it's all just one giant screwed-up world that worships false idols and needs to be saved from itself. He is the God of the Old Testament: if there isn't the order and worship then I'll open up the Earth and swallow you whole!"
- According to Bryan Singer, Apocalypse's voice is a mixture of different sounds: "He's bearing the souls of many lives and many characters. He has contained within him many voices, all taken from various ranges and tones." To get this voice, the sound department used three microphones - a bass mic, a bass drum mic and a Sennheiser mic - for Oscar Isaac when recording his lines, and then mixed those voices together to create an otherworldly sound.

NICK HOULT (Beast)

- Reprised his role from the first 2 films

ROSE BYRNE (Moirra)

- Also currently starring in *Neighbors 2*

TYE SHERIDAN (Cyclops)

- Sheridan describes Cyclops as "angry and a bit lost." He added, "He's now learning about being a mutant and trying to handle his powers."

SOPHIE TURNER (Jean Grey)

- Turner states that she was cast in the film because of the "dark side" of her character Sansa Stark in *Game of Thrones*. She compared Jean to Sansa and described being an outcast in the human world, who struggles with her power and gift, the same way Sansa, who wanted to live a normal life, felt
- Turner learned archery in preparation for the role
- Despite having a small cameo at the end of *X-Men: Days of Future Past* (2014), Famke Janssen expressed her disappointment about not being asked to appear in this movie. She said she would have loved to appear alongside Sophie Turner in a scene with two Jean Greys
- To prepare for her role as Jean Grey, Sophie Turner studied Famke Janssen's performance as Grey in the previous X-Men films
- In the final battle scene, Jean Grey is shown in a flaming image representing her Phoenix status just as Apocalypse is defeated. His final words are potentially referential to the future of the comic book time-lines where Phoenix is responsible for the destruction of mankind. Ultimately Phoenix would be responsible for fulfilling Apocalypse's goals

OLIVIA MUNN (Psylocke)

- Munn described Psylocke as "very lethal, very powerful and very strong."
- For her role as Psylocke, Olivia Munn was advised by James McAvoy to practice sword-fighting: "I learnt to use a regular sword with both hands, so I can switch in between a real sword and a CGI blade. It's more work for the special effects guys but it's pretty cool."
- She reportedly lost 12 pounds during filming because of all the practice
- The appearance of Psylocke in this film is intended to lead into X-Force. Psylocke is a member of the X-Force team
- Very knowledgeable with the comics

LUCAS TILL (Havok)

- Reprised his role from *First Class*

EVAN PETERS (Quicksilver)

- Peters stated, "I have learned that he's my father at this point and I am trying to ... I don't know what I can say. I'm trying to ... Yeah. It's like an adoptive child or any kind of child who has a strange father trying to ... He knows who he is now so he is trying to find him. He's been searching for him. It's been 10 years and he hasn't found him and then something happens."
- Quicksilver's X-Mansion run lasts three minutes, but took three and a half months to film; Evan Peters spent more time on set than any other actor on the film. The sequence was shot with 3-D Phantom cameras traveling at near 90 mph, while shooting at 3100 frames per second
- Making of article:
<http://www.cartoonbrew.com/vfx/made-x-men-apocalypse-scene-everyone-talking-140192.html>
- Singer: Let's just say the Quicksilver sequence I did took a lot of technological steps, a lot of risks and things we did. This is a whole other level of actual live action elements, super-super high speed 3000+ frames per second Phantom camera work, visual effects work, and also some extraordinary choreography, stunt work, and destructive algorithms. Some things you destroy physically, some things you destroy digitally, so you have to create computer algorithms for what is it like when you blow up a piece of wood versus a piece of glass versus a piece of metal. So you're dealing with so much complexity in one sequence and by the way that's just one sequence that sets in motion a whole bunch of other sequences that start to happen. So what starts as sort of a drama evolves into this wild kind of thing.

KODI SMIT-MCPHEE (Nightcrawler)

- Singer said that Nightcrawler is a source of comic relief

ALEXANDRA SHIPP (Storm)

- Shipp shaved her head partially, and sported a Mohawk for the role

BEN HARDY (Angel)

- He is based on a famous X-Factor storyline in the comic book event Fall of the Mutants
- Hardy practiced indoor skydiving in preparation for his role
- This is Ben Hardy's feature film debut; he previously starred in the British soap opera EastEnders (1985) for two years, before recently leaving the role

HUGH JACKMAN (Wolverine)

- Weapon X program and killing a large number of dudes
- There were versions of the script that gave him a much larger role – however, his part was decreased in part because it stole some of the spotlight from Jennifer Lawrence's Mystique
- Hugh Jackman announced that X-Men: Apocalypse and the then untitled Wolverine sequel (2017) would be his last portrayal as Wolverine. He would then be retiring from the role after playing the character since 2000
- Kinberg: There was always a notion that we wanted Wolverine to be in the movie. We wanted to find a way to feature him in the film, partly because Bryan [Singer] and I love Hugh [Jackman] so much. We love the character, obviously, and he's such a huge part of the franchise. There were a lot of iterations of how Wolverine would enter and exit the movie. There was a version when he was going to come in at the midpoint of the film and be like the drill sergeant for the kids and take over as their leader. And we felt like that stepped on Jen's role in the movie and becoming their leader.

EASTER EGGS / TRIVIA

- Xavier's wheelchair in the teaser trailer is the same one Patrick Stewart used in X-Men(2000)
- This is the first time that the Summers brothers, Scott Summers (Cyclops) and Alex Summers (Havoc), appear together in a live-action movie. In the comics, there was another brother, Gabriel Summers (Vulcan), but he has not appeared in any shows/movies, and the filmmakers decided two brothers in a film was enough

- This will be Betsy Braddock/Psylocke's first major appearance; she had a minor role in X-Men: The Last Stand (2006)
- As well as making his usual cameo appearance, Stan Lee appears with his wife for his cameo in this film
- The final trailer for the film ended with confirmation of an appearance by Hugh Jackman's Wolverine. This will make it his eight time donning the claws (as its come to be known), with one more scheduled appearance in the as of yet untitled Wolverine 3 (2017). Jackman has previously stated 3 will be his last time as Wolverine, with nine total appearances. This gives Jackman the rare distinction of appearing as the same character in nine different films spanning nearly twenty years. He has appeared in every X-Men movie, with the exception of Deadpool (2016). It has been rumored however, that Jackman could play Wolverine in a Deadpool/Wolverine team up movie, or more likely an X-Force adaptation which has reportedly been in development. If that is to come to pass then Jackman will have appeared as Wolverine ten times, a very rare distinction
- When arriving at Storm's home Apocalypse interacts with the television. The TV shows the Star Trek episode Star Trek: Who Mourns for Adonais? (1967) which features a superior powered being acting as a God in an attempt to control mortal men in a mirror story to Apocalypse's own behavior
- Apocalypse's quote, "Everything they built will fall! And from the ashes of their world, we'll build a better one!" is almost a direct quote of his from the animated series X-Men(1992) ("From the ashes of this world, I will build a better one!")
- Apocalypse is to make his live-action debut in 2016, the 30th anniversary of his debut in the X-Men comics (May 1986)
- In the comics, the Age of Apocalypse affected the Marvel Universe immensely and resulted in the deaths of prominent characters such as Peter Parker (who never becomes Spider-Man), Namor, Clint Barton, Thor, Carol Danvers, Frank Castle, Victor von Doom, Susan Storm, Ben Grimm and many others. In contrast, Gwen Stacy who famously dies in the main universe, is alive. The Age of Apocalypse is an alternate reality identified as "Earth-295"
- In the original trilogy, Angel, Psylocke and Jubilee are portrayed as younger than Cyclops, Jean, Storm and Nightcrawler. However, Jubilee is being portrayed as the same age as the four, while Psylocke and Angel are now older
- Apocalypse's appearance was severely criticised by fans and Internet commentators in general with many comparing it to Ivan Ooze from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Movie (1995), and criticising Oscar Isaac's normal size. Bryan Singer justified that it was the pink colored effect on the picture, and remarked that Apocalypse is able to change his size. In contrast, when Hugh Jackman was announced as Wolverine in X-Men (2000), fans complained that he was too tall for the role (Jackman is 6' 2" as opposed to the character's 5' 3" in the comics)
- This is the first film ever to feature all of the major "blue" mutants -- Mystique, Beast, and Nightcrawler all have major roles in the film. However, Dr Hank McCoy (Beast) does appear outside of his blue form in X-Men 2
- Fans have gotten the in-joke from Jean Grey after watching Return of the Jedi in which she says the third movie is the weakest (in reference to the criticisms from the fans about X-Men: The last Stand (2006)). However, the scene includes another in-joke. Before Jean remarking that the third movie is the weakest, Cyclops says the "The Empire Strikes Back" was the best. Bryan reportedly said in 2003 that he envisioned X2: X-Men United (2003) as the film series' The Empire Strikes Back. Fans agree that X2 is the best of the original trilogy with some saying it is the best entry of the entire series
- The Four Horsemen that Apocalypse recruits in this film are: Storm (Famine), Magneto (War), Archangel (Death) and Psylocke (Pestilence). Archangel and Psylocke had been Horsemen in the comics (Angel was an original member, and Psylocke became a Horseman in the "Uncanny X-Force" comic), and Storm and Magneto were Horsemen in X-Men: Evolution (2000)
- Erik (Fassbender) and Charles (Mcavoy) share the same/very similar dialogue at the end of this movie and at the end of the first X-men movie as Mckellan and Stewart in the plastic prison

DIRECTING (Bryan Singer)

- Bryan Singer had a cameo. He was the final guard (the one whose blood splattered the walls) to be killed by Weapon-X during the escape scene
- “Whenever I can go physical I try to. It gives the actors something to play with. What did Nicholson say when he played The Joker? Let the costume do the acting? There’s a lot more that goes into it than that but nonetheless it makes it real. It makes it real for the actor and it makes it real for the people who are playing against the actor than when they’re wearing a green suit with dots on it. Once the people at Legacy could prove it to me that they could pull it off, it was very complicated how to do that. It was just complicated. Once I saw a few key designs, surfaces, shieldings, panels, artistry, I was like ‘Okay that’s the guy, lets build it’. Let’s make it real. If the character is a strange size or something then maybe you have to do CG, although we do get into a little of that. Angel, we didn’t build the wings because they’re twenty feet long. He’s two characters, he’s Angel then he’s Archangel and either are very complex and those we clearly make room for but we always have to be careful. Whenever I’m telling my cinematographer ‘Leave negative space for the wings, they’re wings!’ It’s like let’s do an over the shoulder shot, ‘No you’re blocking them with wings!’ So you have to use your imagination and have a great guy like John [Dykstra, visual effects designer] who can run in there and remind you.”
- “Charisma, pure persuasion. Finding people at a time in a moment when there’s emptiness, when there’s a need. Finding them just at the right time as he does, and the hardest one is Erik. That’s a big one. The journey that Erik takes in this movie, because the last movie was very much the journey of Charles, I think. He was an older man who made a mistake, now he’s in this post-apocalyptic universe and he wishes he could go back in time. He can’t, his body can’t make it, so he sends back Wolverine, who’s not the best psychiatrist, to right his wrongs he had with Raven, and that’s that story. It’s really the story of Charles. This one the journey of Erik Lehnsherr is a very big part of this movie. I think the two biggest journeys are the journey of Erik, perhaps the journey of Raven, and on the younger side the journey of Scott and Jean and their story as young characters. One of the biggest challenges, and it’s very emotional and it’s somewhat dark, is getting Erik to that place where he would follow. Because Erik is a super villain. He’s dropped stadiums on the White House, whatever he does, and to get him to a place where he’s ready to go there with this character, with Apocalypse. That was one of the biggest challenges and there’s a scene Fassbender does with this movie, you always wonder what’s going to make the cut but he did something that we were pulling the Kleenex out in the tent. I’ve never had that happen on the set.”
- “You just make sure that each person, you understand their character arc and where they’re coming from. It starts where they’re coming from. I always make sure I always have an answer for every actor. When an actor comes up to me and says “What do I do for a living?” Lucas Till says ‘Okay, I left Vietnam, it’s the last time you saw me. I’m the brother of Scott Summers. What do I do for a living?’ I’m like ‘Well you live in Omaha, you’re an executive at Berkshire Hathaway. You’ve cleaned your life up. Your brother doesn’t like school, he’s the opposite of the Cyclops we’re going to get to know. Now he’s discovered he’s got this problem.’ So you start with whether you put it on screen or not, I have to understand where each character is in their life. Who just broke up with them, why they’re angry, how many parents they have, where they come from. Then who you focus on, that’s just where the story takes you and when you realize you want to recruit. This is a hard question to answer because each one has its own journey.”
- “Well it was fun RE-CREATING 1984 for me because that was my year. I graduated high school in ’84 so for me it was awesome. For instance they had some name for the arcade, we have a scene where some of the mutants decide to play hooky while Xavier is off at the CIA they decide to go and steal one of his really, really nice cars and an important thing about ’83 is it’s 10 years after the day that the world discovered mutants. So the world now embraces mutants and accepts them as part of society, so they can go to the mall. Obviously the instigator, Cyclops, who has only been there for like a day, convinces Nightcrawler, Jean, and Jubilee to play hooky, grab a car and go to the mall. So what I got to do was there was an arcade scene and they were calling it something else and I said ‘No, no, we’re calling it the Space Port where I played. And guess what? They’re all coming out of *Return of the Jedi*.’ This is going to be my 1984. The clothing, the everything, the whole vibe. A lot of it once we get into the action we’re all over the world with a lot of the movie from Westchester, New York to Cairo to everywhere. It’s different parts of the world but there is a little taste of what I

remember from that period because this was my period when I was a teenager. I won't ruin who won the debate, they do have a debate over which is better: *Empire* or *Star Wars*."

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Newton Thomas Sigel)

- Known for *Drive*, *Usual Suspects*, *X-Men*
- Newton Thomas Sigel embraced the opportunity to explore new visual worlds, such as Ancient Egypt, modern Egypt, Poland, East Germany and the United States in 1983. He delineated each environment in several ways, especially in terms of color. The Middle East was to have a golden, sand colored hue, where the atmosphere was imbued with gold, inspiring the feeling of heat, sand, and dryness
- Filming in Quebec at the end of the harsh Canadian winter posed an obvious challenge. For the Ancient Egyptian interiors, Sigel says, "We kept the sun filtering into the pyramid and mixed it in with flame, fire and the type of oil lighting that they would have had 4,000 years ago. Millennia later, "Cairo is a smorgasbord of color and light with every kind of artificial and fluorescent light and the golden baked sun that we created for Egypt," says Sigel
- Principal photography commenced on April 27, 2015, in Montreal, Canada
- In late August, the first-unit production for the film wrapped
- Second-unit production wrapped on September 4, 2015
- Additional filming took place in January 2016
- According to Simon Kinberg, this film contains more mass destruction than any of the previous *X-Men* films. Kinberg states: "We've spent the most time talking about creating a character that's the most powerful mutant villain that we've seen in the *X-Men* movies so far, more powerful than Magneto or the Phoenix! The kind of scope and scale we're talking about is like a disaster movie featuring an extinction-level event. We're talking Michael Bay/Roland Emmerich-style moviemaking, which you've never seen in an *X-Men* movie, or any superhero movie."

EDITING/VFX (John Dykstra- VFX Supervisor)

- [MPC](#) (VFX Supervisor: Anders Langlands)
- [Digital Domain](#)
- [Cinesite](#)
- [Hydraulx](#) (VFX Supervisor: Colin Strause)
- [Rising Sun Pictures](#)
- [QuickSilver Mansion Extraction Scene](#): Acquire as many of the shots as possible in-camera. Used Phantom Camera that filmed at 3000 frames/second. Moved the camera at 90mph through the real-time explosion. One shot has them [kids] in the lobby area as the floor rises up from the explosion. This shot was achieved by "filming the kids on a piston setup that raised them up. A later shot sees Quicksilver hoist students out of the mansion windows. That was filmed via motion control using multiple passes.
- Roughly 13 minutes were chopped during the editing process.
- Deleted Mall Scene with Jean, Scott, Kurt and Jubilee. This included "a group of breakdancers in the mall, and Nightcrawler starts breakdancing with the breakdancers." Kinberg said this was "profoundly entertaining," but it "didn't unfortunately fit within the flow of the storytelling."
- Jubilee was edited down: "You get to see Jubilee use her powers. Unfortunately I couldn't use it in the film."- Singer "You'll see on the DVD."
- Deleted scene that featured a "farewell between Scott and his brother [Alex]."

WARDROBE

- Particularly with Psylocke, Storm, Cyclops and Mystique, the outfits and characters' looks were designed to pay homage to their comic book counterparts, differently from past films when the *X-men* used standard black leather uniforms. Cyclops' costume is taken from Jim Lee's blue and yellow design in the 90s
- With *X-Men: Apocalypse*, Costume Designer Louise Mingenbach took a beloved franchise and reimagined it through the prism of ancient Egypt and the elegance of Art Deco. Mingenbach enthuses, "It was a super fun movie, but it was also incredibly hard. We had very little prep time,

which is the way of the studios now.” There was a scant four months available to prep a film that featured a huge quantity of intricate costumes. This translated to just a couple of weeks for the actual design of many elements before needing approvals to move into the build. While Mingenbach personally prefers to ruminate over design choices, if she hadn’t moved quickly into the fabrication process, she would never have made her deadline. “It takes a village,” she explains, “it takes inspiration from many creative people. It was the kind of movie where everyone had to have ten good ideas an hour. Illustrators Keith Christensen and Phillip Boutté were on fire and it was just flying off their pens. It was fantastic.”

- The story starts in Egypt, and at one plot point the most powerful mutant, Apocalypse, gives the other characters their costumes. This gave Mingenbach an impetus to dive deeply into an Egyptian aesthetic. She also drew from the 1930s and was inspired by early superheroes. She grounded the look in reality, mixing masks (created by Jose Fernandez of Ironhead Studio), which duplicated tomb sculptures, with modern elements. One of her favorite garments was a cloak built for Apocalypse. “I don’t know what I’ll do if it doesn’t make it in the movie,” says Mingenbach. “The fabric painter did something I didn’t even think was possible in three-dimensional paint and it was just for a little opening shot. It was a piece of art.”
- In final sequences, there were 30 costume dressers on set those days, working from four in the morning to get everyone ready for camera

MUSIC/SOUNDTRACK (John Ottman)

- On March 2, 2015, it was announced that John Ottman, who composed the scores for *X2* and *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, would return to write and compose the score for *Apocalypse*
- On May 20, 2016, the official soundtrack was released as a digital download
- In addition to Ottman's score, the film features the songs "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" by Eurythmics and "The Four Horsemen" by Metallica
- The song playing in the scene when Apocalypse finds Angel is by the heavy metal band Metallica. It's called "The Four Horsemen" from the album "Kill 'Em All", released in the same year the film takes place, 1983

PROMOTION

- In July 2015, Singer, Lee, Hugh Jackman and cast-members McAvoy, Fassbender, Lawrence, Isaac, Hoult, Munn, Peters, Smit-McPhee, Turner, Sheridan, Shipp, Condor, Till and Hardy gave a presentation at the 2015 San Diego Comic-Con International, together with the release of the film's first teaser poster, featuring En Sabah Nur and a wreckage of the X-Mansion
- In October 2015, Mars Chocolate partnered with 20th Century Fox for the marketing of the film, using M&M chocolates in their promotional materials. The deal included retail displays and special packaging markings, TV and cinema commercials, and social media posts featuring M&M's characters mixed with elements of the X-Men
- In December 2015, Kia Motors collaborated with 20th Century Fox to create a custom Kia Sportage to promote the film
 - Designed after Mystique, the car was revealed at the 2016 Australian Open. It is Kia's second "X-Car" project after the Kia Sorento customized for the home media release of *Days of Future Past* and the [2015 Australian Open](#)
- A trailer released in the same month received criticism from Rajan Zed, a United States-based Hindu cleric, who stated that the part where Apocalypse claims himself to have been called "Krishna" was an offense to the Hindu religion, and demanded that Singer remove all references to Krishna from the trailer, and the film itself
 - The references to Krishna were removed from the film's final cut
- In April 2016, Coldwell Banker partnered with 20th Century Fox to list the X-Mansion for \$75 million
 - The fictional listing included a video tour of the mansion and stories of the home from the perspective of characters such as Charles Xavier and Scott Summers. The fake property was listed by agent Kala V. Rhomedren, an anagram for Raven Darkholme
- There is criticism for a poster of Apocalypse choking Raven

- “There is a major problem when the men and women at 20th Century Fox think casual violence against women is the way to market a film,” Rose McGowan told the *Hollywood Reporter* on Facebook

BOX OFFICE

- As of June 1, 2016, *X-Men: Apocalypse* has grossed \$90.6 million in North America and \$190.9 million in other territories for a worldwide total of \$281.5 million
- Domestic Summary
 - Opening Weekend: \$65,300,000
 - (#1 rank, 4,150 theaters, \$15,735 average)
- Widest Release: 4,150 theaters
- In Release: 6 days / 0.9 weeks
- *X-Men: Apocalypse* opened in the United States on May 27, 2016, alongside *Alice Through the Looking Glass* and was initially projected to gross around \$80 million from 4,150 theaters in its opening weekend, and up to \$100 million over the four-day Memorial Day weekend
- It made \$8.2 million from Thursday previews at 3,565 theaters, besting its predecessor (\$8.1 million)
- On its opening day it earned \$26.4 million (including previews), the fourth-lowest opening day amount of the franchise
- Outside North America, *X-Men: Apocalypse* was released in 76 markets (64% of its total marketplace) beginning on May 18, 2016, and grossed \$101.5 million from 20,796 screens in its opening weekend
- It debuted at No. 1 in 71 of those markets, with IMAX contributing \$5 million from 246 screens in 57 markets, while RealD took in \$18.4 million

RECEPTION

- A few weeks ago, 20th Century Fox did something unusual for a studio with a blockbuster summer action movie headed to theaters: it dropped the review embargo on *X-Men: Apocalypse* early, letting critics get their responses online with much more lead time than usual
- IMDB: 7.5
- RT: 49% Tatometer from 252 reviews, 75% Audience
 - Last Stand received a 58%
 - Wolverine received 38%
- The site's critical consensus reads, "Overloaded action and a cliched villain take the focus away from otherwise strong performers and resonant themes, making *X-Men: Apocalypse* a middling chapter of the venerable superhero franchise."
- Cinemascore: A-
- Mick LaSalle from the *San Francisco Chronicle* gave the film a positive review, calling it "a thinking person's action movie", and complementing the movie for its high stakes
- Bruce Kirkland from the *Toronto Sun* gave the film a positive review, acknowledging "Piece by piece, Singer fits this ninth film in the franchise (which includes *Deadpool*) into the X-Men universe like a master puzzle maker. He does it so well, at least in terms of storytelling, that the *X-Men* franchise still has a vigorous future."
- Mike Ryan of Uproxx disparaged the film's story as redundant and stale, arguing, "I get it: Life is hard for mutants. We all get it. It's literally the only thing mutants ever seem to talk about. It is odd that other superheroes seem to get to have some fun, but never the X-Men. Here we are, 16 years later, and everyone involved is still sad. It feels repetitive."
- Scott Mendelson of *Forbes* wrote, "*X-Men: Apocalypse* is the kind of weightless, soulless trifle of a bore that makes comic book superhero movies look bad and makes me not look forward to the next installment."
- The sequences meant to be set in Poland have received particularly negative responses from natives, with audiences often finding them unintentionally humorous. No Poles were involved in their production, and many have said that the language spoken in the scenes is a largely incomprehensible language which merely resembles Polish

- Various mistakes in syntax, grammar, pronunciation and register resulted in audience laughing bouts. In addition to linguistic errors, several scenes seemingly located in the city of Pruszków center on a steel mill which appears neither in the city itself nor nearby. Furthermore, the story's taking place in 1983 (when Poland was still a communist country controlled by the USSR) led some to mock the appearance of a CNN correspondent in a sequence

SEQUELS

- In May 2016, screenwriter Simon Kinberg stated that the next *X-Men* film will be set in the 1990s, and has talked about doing a new version of "The Dark Phoenix Saga", much closer to the source material, as made possible by the new altered timeline; an approach that was financially and critically well-received in the *Deadpool* film
- Singer said he wants to do an *X-Men* movie in space, and has mentioned wanting to have Kevin MacTaggart / Proteus as a future villain, something that is hinted at by Moira MacTaggart having child in *X-Men: Apocalypse*
- Mister Sinister made his comic book debut in 1987's *Uncanny X-Men* #221. As Nathaniel Essex, he was a 19th century geneticist conducting unethical and dangerous experiments for the sake of accelerating evolution via mutation. Soon he crossed paths with Apocalypse, who transformed him into Mister Sinister. Thanks to this genetic alteration, he was given abilities like telekinesis, mind manipulation, shapeshifting, energy projection, regeneration and more. All this, combined with his own natural intellect, makes him one of the X-Men's most dangerous enemies. He may have started out working for Apocalypse, but he's done plenty over the years to stand on his own
- Kinberg has confirmed that the post-credits scene is a hint at things to come in future installments of the franchise
- Singer confirmed to Comic Book Resources that he will be stepping away from the film series but will return for a future film
- Kinberg confirmed that the after-credits scene mentioning Essex Corporation by name will affect and set up the upcoming Wolverine sequel, as well as *Gambit*, and the next *X-Men* film following those
- The after-credit scene references the Essex Group and Weapon X making it likely that Nathaniel Essex / Mister Sinister is to be the antagonist for the upcoming third Wolverine movie.
- Logan's blood sample is also taken by Sinister (known for conducting genetic experiments). This might also lead to an on screen appearance for X23 in the Wolverine 3 film
- Singer thinks Mystique should get her own film
 - I think [Mystique's] right for [a standalone], whether it's Jennifer [Lawrence] or not. She has this different view of the world. Xavier can get into Cerebro and look at the world but he'd rather just teach classes and see the beauty of mutants and humans co-existing in his mansion in Westchester. Along comes Raven with a reality check on the state of the world. It opens up a lot of avenues

FINAL THOUGHTS