

PADDINGTON 2 (2017)

- Released on December 20th, 2017
- 1 Hours 44 minutes
- \$84,000,000 (estimated)
- Directed by Paul King
- Written by Paul King, Simon Farnaby
- StudioCanal, Anton Capital Entertainment (ACE), Amazon Prime Instant Video
- Rated PG for some action and mild rude humor
- Paddington duly became a hit, topping the charts as the most successful British film_of the year, grossing £203 million worldwide
- 'Paddington 2' released in Irish cinemas in November of 2017.

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Marisa Serafini
- Phil Svitek

DEVELOPMENT

- "I am thrilled to be back in the warm embrace of Paddington Bear, again under the inspired direction of Paul King. And I'm delighted to welcome Hugh and Brendan to our exceptional cast."

WRITING (Paul King, Simon Farnaby)

- King had a writing ally this time in Simon Farnaby, an old pal from his days directing surreal BBC3 sitcom The Mighty Boosh
- "He doesn't sleep during the year and a half of prep, shooting and post-production," says David Heyman, Paddington's producer." - David Heyman
- "When I was writing the first film, I vaguely had the idea of a villain who might be a vain-actor-slash-master-of-disguise," says King. "We abandoned the idea after about 20 minutes. It was always too much legwork. But when I started working with Simon Farnaby on this one, he really ran with it. He is very funny on actors and the ridiculousness of that trade." - King

STORY/TOPICS

- Popup book- Paddington getting job to purchase book
- Incarceration - Friends

CAST:

BEN WHISHAW (Paddington)

- "When I record the voice I'm wearing this kind of helmet, which has a huge arm on it and then a camera stuck on the arm recording my face," says Whishaw. "You can't wear anything that wears a lot of noise or rustles. And then there are other microphones attached to you. It's not that comfortable – or that conducive to giving a good performance."
- "[Paul] wants to engage with you, and wants your thoughts about judging every moment just right, getting the humour. It's much more fine and fiddly than just putting some voice over something." Wishaw

SALLY HAWKINS (Mary Brown)

HUGH BONNEVILLE (Henry Brown)

- "It was different in so far as, the family's story is separate to Paddington's really, and I thought that was interesting, and I wasn't sure how it would fit together." - Bonneville
- "Simon and Paul are very collaborative, and wanting to get the best out of the story, and find the best way of telling the story, I spent a day or so with them while they were writing, and we talked through the journey of Mr Brown." - Bonneville
- RESHOOTS: "There were things that changed [in the story] when we did pick up shots, so for instance in an earlier incarnation we shot a whole sequence where, basically, I decked Phoenix Buchanan with a punch. And I think they felt that wasn't very Paddington-esque, or Mr Brown-esque. So when we revisited it, it was all to do with this coconut shy, and Bullseye Brown, and all that. And that, I thought, actually came out much better. It was more charming, and funny, and quirky, and very much more Paul and Simon's territory.

HUGH GRANT (Phoenix Buchanan)

- 'I got a letter with the script saying, 'We've got this part of an extremely self-obsessed, ex-famous actor that's fallen on hard times. I was a fraction hurt! But it was a very funny script and it was a tad therapeutic as I have deep reservoirs of actorly narcissism, neurosis, anger and hatred that I was able to tap!'

BRENDAN GLEESON (Knuckles McGinty)

- "Several takes were needed to perfect scenes in Paddington 2, and admits it was challenging trying to "keep the energy up" during filming." "There were a lot of takes and we had to try and keep the energy up, and the frantic nature of the storytelling, and keep it in the right place," Gleeson added.

SYMBOLISM/TRIVIA/EASTER EGGS

- Nicole Kidman had at one point expressed interest in being part of the sequel but unfortunately will not reprise the role of Millicent Clyde
- Creator of the Paddington books, Michael Bond, was told of the official announcement of the second film on his 90th birthday
- Plans for a third film in the series were announced in June 2016, several months before this film started filming

DIRECTING (Paul King)

PRODUCTION (Erik Wilson)

EDITING/VFX (Jonathan Amos, Mark Everson)

- Framestore's Animation Director Pablo Grillo reunited with Paul King and David Heyman to carve the story. 'I'm really lucky to have been brought into the creative team. It's a lovely film, a brilliant way to revisit the character and somehow find more avenues to explore Paddington's personality, as well as his heart and his warmth. It's been a crazy ride; with a very diverse set of challenges this time around showcasing the great range of skills that we have here at Framestore.' - Grillo

- Over 523 shots in the film hand-crafted by the Framestore team
- 'We were able to update [Paddington] a little. The fur was completely overhauled for this version and I think it looks better, softer and richer.' The team also had to build a baby Paddington, and create a whole new outfit for him. 'We treated Paddington to a new groom', says Laurent Laban, Animation Supervisor, 'and dressed him in prison outfit for his latest adventure.'
- 'He is very understated and simple', says Grillo. 'We couldn't be over-expressive or make huge gestures. He is a thoughtful performer, with small eyebrow twitches and subtle actions that react in the moment.'
- Pop up book London Tour: "Deep compositing was used to add Paddington and Aunt Lucy into the complex layering of the CG scene. This was then composited over a Nuke-projected sky illustration. 'It was a real labour of love to make it look as real as possible', says Pratt.
- https://youtu.be/t_Dr_RRKAdU

SOUND/MUSIC (Dario Marianelli)

PROMOTION

- The film was originally planned to be distributed by The Weinstein Company and Dimension Films in the United States through their sublabel, TWC-Dimension, but following the sexual abuse allegations against Weinstein Company founder Harvey Weinstein, Heyday Films and StudioCanal began looking for another American distributor for *Paddington 2*, because they believed that a film for children should not be associated with the Weinstein scandal
- In mid-November 2017, Warner Bros. Pictures, which distributed Heyman's *Harry Potter* films and was already distributing *Paddington 2* in Spain, acquired the film's North American distribution rights for \$32 million (£24 million)
- From 9 October 2017, five pop up installations of Paddington's pop up book featured in the film were placed around London in Peter's Hill, Tower Bridge, Paddington Station, Peninsula Square and Bankside. The event is being promoted by Visit London. The launch was attended by Hugh Bonneville and Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan
- On 26 October 2017, it was announced that Paddington would appear in the 2017 Marks & Spencer Christmas advertisement.
- A teaser was released on 4 November 2017, with the advertisement itself released on 7 November 2017 and had its television premiere on the *Pride of Britain Awards 2017*. Wishaw returns to voice Paddington, and the advertisement also features Mark Benton and Angela Rippon

BOX OFFICE

- Total Lifetime Grosses (As of January 22nd): \$25,041,233
- Opening Weekend: \$11,001,961
- Domestic: \$25,041,233
 - + Foreign: \$147,179,290
 - = Worldwide: \$172,220,523
- Domestic Summary
 - (#7 rank, 3,702 theaters, \$2,972 average)
 - % of Total Gross: 43.9%

- > View All Weekends
 - Widest Release: 3,702 theaters
 - In Release: 5 days / 0.7 weeks
 -

RECEPTION

- On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, *Paddington 2* has an approval rating of 100% based on 175 reviews, with an average rating of 8.7/10.
- The website's critical consensus reads, "*Paddington 2* honors its star's rich legacy with a sweet-natured sequel whose adorable visuals are matched by a story perfectly balanced between heartwarming family fare and purely enjoyable all-ages adventure."
- On 18 January 2018, it became the most-reviewed film ever to remain at 100% on the site with 164 positive reviews, beating *Toy Story 2* which has 163 positive reviews
- *Lady Bird* had previously beaten the record the past November, but registered a negative review at 196
- On Metacritic, another review aggregator, the film has a weighted average score of 88/100, based on 38 critics, indicating "universal acclaim"
- On French entertainment information website AlloCiné, the film has an average grade of 4.0/5, based on 22 critics
- Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A"
- Kevin Scott of Exclaim! wrote that *Paddington 2* "is delightful escapism entertainment for all ages."

SEQUEL/LEGACY