

INCREDIBLES 2 (2018)

- June 15, 2018
- 1 hr 58 min
- \$200 million
- Directed by Brad Bird
- Written by Brad Bird
- Production company: Pixar Animation Studios and Walt Disney Pictures
- Rated PG

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Marisa Serafini
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DEVELOPMENT

- Bird pitched the idea for *The Incredibles* to John Lasseter, founder of Pixar
 - For the first *Incredibles* movie, Bird won his first Academy Award for Best Animated Feature, and his screenplay was nominated for Best Original Screenplay
- Director Brad Bird had stated over the years that he would only do a sequel to *The Incredibles* if he could come up with a story that was just as good as, or better than, its predecessor
- The idea of Bob/Mr. Incredible becoming a stay-at-home dad while Helen/Elastigirl becomes the breadwinner was there from the very beginning, but it took years for Bird to come up with the perfect story to write this idea around
- Following the success of *The Incredibles*, Bird expressed an interest in making a sequel, but held off development to direct and contribute to the production of other films
- It was confirmed in March 2014 that the sequel was in the works
- At the Disney shareholder meeting in March 2014, Disney CEO/chairman Bob Iger confirmed that Pixar was working on an *Incredibles* sequel, and that Bird would return as writer

WRITING (Brad Bird)

- Bird worked as an animator for Disney in *The Fox and the Hound* and *The Black Cauldron* and wrote the screenplay for *Batteries Not Included*
- Bird faced multiple challenges crafting the film, such as finding a way to distinguish the script from other films and television shows produced within the superhero genre since the first film's release
- Bird started the script around April 2015
- One challenge in writing *Incredibles 2* was how to deal with the large number of superhero films and television shows that had been released since the first film
- Even though the sequel was released fourteen years after the first, Bird did not want to use a narrative element like a timeskip or to come up with new characters, and instead continued from where the first film left off

STORY/TOPICS

- Three months following Syndrome's defeat, the Parr family – Bob, Helen, Dash, Violet and Jack-Jack – continue operating under their superhero identity, the Incredibles.
- However, after the Incredibles are unsuccessful in preventing the villain Underminer from robbing Metroville Bank, the authorities become concerned over the level of damage caused by the incident. As a result, Rick Dicker informs the Parr family that his department's "Super Relocation"

program is being shut down, forcing supers across the world to permanently adhere to their secret identities, and he relocates the family to a motel as that is all he can do for them.

- Soon thereafter, Bob and Helen, along with family friend Lucius Best – the superhero Frozone – are contacted by Winston Deavor, a superhero fan, telecommunications tycoon, and owner of DEVTECH, who proposes a publicity stunt to regain the general public's support of supers.
- Helen Parr, considered the least destructive of the supers, is selected to undertake the stunt by openly fighting crime in New Urbem, under her old identity of Elastigirl.
- As part of the plan, Winston provides the family with a new home, to which Bob offers to take care of the kids while Helen is away. During her absence, Bob discovers that Jack-Jack has various super powers, but struggles with controlling the family's infant.
- Seeking help, Bob takes Jack-Jack to Edna Mode, a family friend and superhero-costume designer, who originally refuses to help until she sees the baby's superpowers in action.
- Meanwhile, during her mission, Helen confronts the Screenslaver – a mysterious villain who hijacks screens in order to project hypnotic images that can brainwash civilians.
- After rescuing an ambassador from his clutches, Helen manages to defeat the Screenslaver, only to find that he is no more than a pizza delivery man, who has no recollection of what he did.
- While attending a celebration of the Screenslaver's defeat at DEVTECH, Helen realizes that the pizza delivery man was being controlled by hypno-screens within his goggles. Before she can alert anyone to this, Winston's sister Evelyn Deavor overpowers her and brainwashes her with Screenslaver's goggles glasses.
- Evelyn reveals herself to be the mastermind behind the Screenslaver – seeing supers as a threat to humanity's independence, she sought to undermine her brother's mission, and plans to brainwash the world's leaders so that they cannot re-legalize superheroes.
- Evelyn then manages to lure Bob into a trap, while Lucius is overpowered by other mind-controlled Supers, and both of them are placed under Evelyn's control with brainwashing glasses.
- Avoiding the same fate as their parents, Dash, Violet, and Jack-Jack, whom Edna had outfitted with a super-suit, sneak aboard the Deavors' ship to rescue their parents, as the world leaders meet for a hearing on supers.
- On board, the mind-controlled Helen, Bob and Lucius recite a vindictive manifesto on air to paint themselves - and Supers in general - as a public threat before they are freed from Evelyn's control by the children.
- A battle on the boat ensues, threatening to crash the ship into New Urbem. However, the group manage to stop it, while Helen apprehends Evelyn when she tries to make an escape. Following the incident, supers are made legal once again, while Evelyn is arrested.

CAST:

Craig T. Nelson as Bob Parr / Mr. Incredible

- Possesses super strength, limited invulnerability and danger sense
- Mr. Incredible is a stay-at-home-dad in this sequel while wife, Elastigirl, is “working” as a superhero. He soon learns child-rearing isn't as easy as his wife made it look.
- Bob is kind, friendly, brave, heroic, and pleasant. His NSA file described him as easily distracted and unable to prioritize.

Holly Hunter as Helen Parr / Elastigirl

- Has the ability to stretch her body into many shapes and forms. She also has superhuman durability

- Elastigirl is an accomplished pilot and is also skilled in hand-to-hand combat
- First time in a Pixar Animation Film that a protagonist is seen using a gun (Elastigirl uses one to shoot the lock on a door)
- Elastigirl is asked to lead a campaign to bring other super-powered humans out of hiding
- Helen is the only member in the Parr family with brown eyes, as her husband and all three of their children have blue eyes
- If Elastigirl is exposed to extreme cold, she will be unable to use her powers. Much like how rubber breaks when its frozen, the same principle will happen to her if she tries to stretch in freezing temperatures.

Sarah Vowell as Violet Parr

- The family's daughter and first child, who can become invisible and project force fields for limited lengths of time
- Violet is generally shy and withdrawing, down to her understated taste in clothing and shadowy hair style
- 14-year-old Violet is still working at perfecting her super abilities while trying to balance school and a potential romance
- In *Incredibles 2*, Violet has embraced her powers and displays a broader range of emotions that is typical of a girl her age: Throwing tantrums, acting awkward and at times being depressive
- Sarah Vowell, who voices the daughter Violet, is now older than Holly Hunter was in the first film. Vowell was 34 at the time the first film was released, while Hunter was 46. At the time the sequel was released, Vowell was 48 and Hunter was 60.

Huck Milner as Dashiell "Dash" Parr

- The family's troublemaker first son, who has superhuman speed
- Dash just wants to show off his super powers but he's still being warned to keep them a secret
- Disney announced Huckleberry "Huck" Milner as Spencer Fox's replacement at the D23 Expo in summer 2017. Fox's voice had changed in the past 14 years since the first movie was released.

Eli Fucile as Jack-Jack

- The infant son of Bob and Helen who has an assortment of powers
- Nicholas Bird provides the vocal effects of Jack-Jack's monster form
- Jack-Jack has many superpowers, they come about randomly since he is a baby and unable to control them. Some of them are: Polymorphisim (which bestows him the ability to assume a flamed form, demon-like appearance, metal-skin, and alter his size) Levitation, Teleportation, Intangibility, Telekinesis, Electrokinisis, Reality Waping, and Self-Duplication
- Edna Mode is ecstatic when she learns Jack-Jack has powers and babysits him for the night to create a supersuit for him

Samuel L. Jackson as Lucius Best / Frozone

- Bob's best friend, who has the ability to form ice from humidity
- Frozone is recruited along with the Incredibles to inspire other super-powered humans to come out of hiding
- This was Samuel L. Jackson's fourth animated film, after *The Incredibles*, *Astro Boy* and *Turbo*
- As in the first movie, Frozone's wife, Honey, does not appear on screen. She is only heard yelling at her husband from off camera as he runs off to don his supersuit and help the Parr Family

- According to Bird, Honey was initially going to appear on screen, and she even got her own character design, but ultimately, they decided it would be funnier if she remained off-screen

Bob Odenkirk as Winston Deavor

- A superhero fan who leads a telecommunications company with his sister Evelyn, and wants to bring back the "supers" by revamping the public's perception of them
- Odenkirk is known from *Breaking Bad* and *Better Call Saul*

Catherine Keener as Evelyn Deavor

- Winston's sister and a technological genius who has never encountered a problem she could not solve
- Evelyn Deavor's name is a pun on "evil endeavor," which seems to foreshadow her villainous side

DIRECTING: (Brad Bird)

- Bird served as a creative consultant on *The Simpsons* during its first eight seasons, where he helped develop the show's animation style
- Bird's first animated feature, *The Iron Giant*, fared poorly at the box office but came to be regarded as a modern animated classic
- Bird linked up with Pixar in 2000, where he developed his second picture, *The Incredibles*, and his third picture, *Ratatouille*
 - Both films place among Pixar's highest-grossing features and gave Bird two Academy Award for Best Animated Feature wins and Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay nominations
- In 2011, Bird directed his first live-action film *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol*

TRIVIA/EASTER EGGS

- Write and director Bird provides the voice for costume-designer Edna Mode
- John Ratzenberger has been called Pixar's good luck charm and he voices a character in every Pixar feature to date- voiced Underminer.
- Shot of the Luxo ball in the background of the scene where Lucius first learns about Jack-Jack's power, it's not clear that it's the ball in question. You can see a picture of the ball, however, as an image of the toy is noticeable as part of Jack-Jack's crib.
- Elastigirl first fights the Screenslaver, the pair go tumbling out of a building and fall to the street below. When they do, you can see the Pizza Planet truck parked on the right-hand side of the screen. The truck has been modified from its traditional design to match the movie's 1950s aesthetic.
- Violet finally gets to go on her date with Tony, the film they go to see is listed on the theater marquee as *DementiA 113 - A113*
- Red Pagoda Chinese food box that appears in *A Bug's Life*, *Ratatouille*, *Monsters Inc.*, and *Inside Out* is in the scene where the Parr family is eating Chinese.
- The film is dedicated to the memory of animator Bud Luckey, who voiced government agent Rick Dicker in the original film
- Bird received *Variety's* Creative Impact in Animation honor on May 8, 2018
- The fourteen-year gap between the first film and this sequel was the longest waiting time between a Disney/Pixar film and its sequel

- When DEVTech is first revealed on screen, the sky looks similar to how the Gotham sky is portrayed and shown in most modern Batman films, and if you look to the left of the tall tower, you can see a faint Bat Signal formed in the clouds
- Second Pixar movie to feature a live action clip within the movie, the first being *WALL·E*

PRODUCTION/ANIMATION (Mahyar Abousaeedi)

- *Incredibles 2* is the longest Pixar Animation Studios film and the longest computer-animated feature film to date
- “Not only has the technology improved, but the studio is about three times larger than when we made the first film. The quality and experience level of the animators is just staggering.” - Bird
- Pixar announced in November 2016 that Holly Hunter and Samuel L. Jackson would return to reprise their roles and in 2017 that both Craig T. Nelson and Sarah Vowell would also return
- The swap of the release dates of *Toy Story 4* and *Incredibles 2* meant that Bird’s film lost a full year of production
- Roughly 410 storyboards were created to plan the Underminer sequence alone
- The entire movie was comprised of 52,725 storyboards
- Concept Art: Ralph Eggleston that allows more detailed planning of sequences and shots and provides a frame of reference for animators to know what they’re going to be creating. The point of these images is to put forth an idea of what kind of colors and design are wanted for the characters, environments and more.
- It takes Pixar four to six weeks to complete animation for a single shot.
- Each frame of *Incredibles 2* has over 2 million pixels, and there are 24 frames for each single second of the movie.

SOUND/MUSIC (Michael Giacchino)

- In 2015, Bird confirmed that Michael Giacchino would return to compose the score
- *The Incredibles* was the composer’s first film score.
- Giacchino began work on it around May 2017
- “The last thing I want to do is just rehash what we did before. I like to bring something new and then lean on old themes only when you absolutely need them.” -Giacchino
- The style remains rooted in the 1960s jazz-meets-orchestra spy-action style originated by John Barry in the James Bond films
- His inspirations for the score included Henry Mancini, John Barry and Hoyt Curtin.
- 99-piece orchestra on the Sony recording stage.
- Giacchino wrote a sexy, elegant new theme for Elastigirl, who has a much bigger role in the sequel.
- Collaborated with Tony-winning “Hamilton” arranger Alex Lacamoire on amusing commercial jingles for key characters Mr. Incredible
- The composer, along with director Brad Bird, wrote the lyrics, and the jingles are sung in the movie.
- “It’s as if, in that world, each of these characters had a TV show based on them and they know their own theme songs.” Thirty-second faux commercials for “Incredibles” toys, also featuring the jingles, have been a cornerstone of the marketing for the Disney movie.” -Giacchino
- The soundtrack album was released on June 15, 2018. In addition to the film’s score, it includes the vocalized theme songs for Mr. Incredible, Frozone, and Elastigirl heard in the credits, as well as bonus versions of the songs sung by Disney’s a cappella group, DCappella, and the latter’s version of the track “The Glory Days” from the first film.
- All music was composed by Michael Giacchino

- *Incredibles 2* was the seventh Pixar film scored by Michael Giacchino, following *The Incredibles*, *Ratatouille*, *Up*, *Cars 2*, *Inside Out* and *Coco*

PROMOTION

- There were 4 taglines for the movie:
 - "It's been too long, dahlings.", "Back to work.", "Almost ready." and "Suit up."
- Trailer premiered on November 18, 2017 during ESPN's broadcast of *College GameDay*
- *Incredibles 2* holds the record for the most viewed animated teaser trailer of all time, with 113 million views in the opening week
- A new sneak peek premiered during the 2018 Winter Olympics on February 14
- On April 13, a new trailer was released
- A Lego video game adaptation of both films was released on the same day as *Incredibles 2*
- Had a merchandise deal with the fast food restaurant chain McDonald's

BOX OFFICE

- Distributed by Walt Disney Pictures
- The official premiere of *Incredibles 2* took place in Los Angeles on June 5, 2018
- Opening weekend gross was \$182,687,905 from 4,410 theaters
- Ranked at #1 for the June 15-17, 2018 weekend. *Incredibles 2* earned \$163 million more than *Ocean's 8*, ranked at #2
- Instead of *Incredibles 2* being released on June 21, 2019, Pixar swapped release dates with *Toy Story 4*, as the film was being completed ahead of schedule while the other was lagging
- The series (both movies) has grossed a combined \$866 million worldwide
- Domestic total as of June 20, 2018 is \$253,112,730
- Worldwide total as of June 20, 2018 is \$328,212,730

RECEPTION

- RT: 94%
- Cinemascore: A+
- IMDB: 8.5/10
- "Of course, the big difference between *The Incredibles* and *Incredibles 2* is that in the intervening 14 years, the entire Marvel Cinematic Universe has successfully colonized multiplexes and the summer blockbuster season. (*The Incredibles* came out in 2004; *Iron Man* hit theaters four years later.) At times, it seems like *The Incredibles'* portrayal of its villain, Syndrome, as basically what gets called a "toxic fan" these days was pretty prescient; disappointed by his hero Mr. Incredible, Syndrome conspires to pretty much destroy the notion of superheroes altogether." -Alissa Wilkinson, *Vox*
- "I exaggerate not a bit when I say that parents will feel just as empowered while watching *"Incredibles 2"* as any child." -Bob Mondello, *NPR's All Things Considered*
- "It's been 14 years since *The Incredibles*, and superhero movies are a lot thicker on the ground now, but writer-director Brad Bird has lost none of his wit and ingenuity; he can still show them how it's done. It's an odd paradox that Bird's creations, despite a retro-'60s caricature look that's closer to *Jetsons* than *Justice League*, feel more real than all of the Marvel and DC Comics universes put together." -Jim Lane, *News Review*
- "The gender-swap career/parent dynamic feels a little obvious, *Screenslaver* is no match for the original's oh-so-prescient toxic fanboy Syndrome, and there's a twist you can see coming from outer space. But it is a blast, brilliantly animated and furious fun from first frame to last. And we

haven't even mentioned Bird's movie-stealing cameo as everyone's favourite fashionista Edna Mode..." -Jamie Graham, *Games Radar*

SEQUELS/LEGACY

- Following the release of *Incredibles 2*, director Brad Bird acknowledged that the film's truncated production schedule resulted in many plotlines and ideas he had for the film being cut from the final version
- Bird stated that the lingering plotlines could lead to a third installment
 - "There were a lot of ideas that we had on this film that could be [used]... whether it's another *Incredibles* film, or something else."
- Cast members including Samuel L. Jackson and Sophia Bush have expressed interest in reprising their roles
- "I wouldn't ever rule it out," said producer John Walker of a potential threequel
- In May 2018, a novel was released entitled *Incredibles 2: A Real Stretch: An Elastigirl Prequel Story*. It focuses on the life of the character Elastigirl before the events of the first film