

EQUALIZER 2 (2018)

- July 20th, 2018
- 2 hrs 1 minute
- \$62 million (Estimated)
- Directed by Antoine Fuqua
- Written by Richard Wenk, Michael Sloan (based on TV series)
- Production company: Columbia Pictures
- Rated R for Sex & Nudity, Violence & Gore, Profanity, Alcohol, Frightening & Intense Scenes

QUICK THOUGHTS

- Demetri Panos
- Phil Svitek

DEVELOPMENT

- It is a sequel to the 2014 film *The Equalizer*, which was based on the TV series of the same name
 - *The Equalizer* is an American crime drama television series, originally airing on CBS from fall 1985 until late-spring 1989. It starred Edward Woodward as a retired intelligence agent with a mysterious past, who uses the skills from his former career to exact justice on behalf of innocent people who are trapped in dangerous circumstances. The series combined elements of the spy, private investigator/police procedural, and vigilante genres
 - The series featured English actor Edward Woodward as Robert McCall, a former covert operations officer of an unnamed US government intelligence organization, which was often referred to simply as "The Agency" or "The Company", who tries to atone for his past by offering, usually free of charge, his services as a troubleshooter, a protector, and an investigator. People in need find him through a newspaper classified ad: "Got a problem? Odds against you? Call the Equalizer. 212 555 4200." When he begins this business in the pilot episode, it is revealed that the nickname "Equalizer" was bestowed on him by another operative by the name of "Brahms", played by Jerry Stiller
- On February 24, 2014, seven months before the release of *The Equalizer*, it was announced that Sony Pictures and Escape Artists were planning a sequel, with Richard Wenk penning the script again
- In early October 2014, Antoine Fuqua stated that there would be a sequel to the film only if audiences and Denzel Washington wanted it. He said it was an interesting character, and that the sequel could have more of an international flavor
- On April 22, 2015, Sony officially announced a sequel, with Washington returning to his role as vigilante Robert McCall. Fuqua's returning was not yet confirmed
- In September 2016, producer Todd Black revealed that the script of the film was complete, and that Fuqua would return to direct, with shooting set to begin in September 2017
- On August 21, 2017, Pedro Pascal was cast in an unspecified role
- Two days later, Melissa Leo and Bill Pullman were confirmed to reprise their roles from the first film, as Susan and Brian Plummer, and it was reported that the film would be produced by Jason Blumenthal, Black, Washington, Steve Tisch, Mace Neufeld, Alex Siskin and Tony Eldridge

- On August 24, 2017, Ashton Sanders joined the film to play a character who comes to consider Washington's McCall a father figure
- On March 25, 2018, it was revealed that Sakina Jaffrey had also been added to the cast

WRITING (Richard Wenk)

- Richard Wenk was born in 1956 in Plainfield, New Jersey, USA. He is a writer and director, known for The Equalizer (2014), The Expendables 2 (2012) and The Mechanic (2011)

STORY/TOPICS

- Robert McCall serves an unflinching justice for the exploited and oppressed, but how far will he go when that is someone he loves?

CAST:

- Denzel Washington as Robert McCall
 - After over fifty-five film and television credits, this was Denzel Washington's first sequel
 - Denzel Hayes Washington, Jr. was born on December 28, 1954 in Mount Vernon, New York. He is the middle of three children of a beautician mother, Lennis, from Georgia, and a Pentecostal minister father, Denzel Washington, Sr., from Virginia. After graduating from high school, Denzel enrolled at Fordham University, intent on a career in journalism. However, he caught the acting bug while appearing in student drama productions and, upon graduation, he moved to San Francisco and enrolled at the American Conservatory Theater. He left A.C.T. after only one year to seek work as an actor. His first paid acting role was in a summer stock theater stage production in St. Mary's City, Maryland. The play was "Wings of the Morning", which is about the founding of the colony of Maryland (now the state of Maryland) and the early days of the Maryland colonial assembly (a legislative body). He played the part of a real historical character, Mathias Da Sousa, although much of the dialogue was created. Afterwards he began to pursue screen roles in earnest. With his acting versatility and powerful presence, he had no difficulty finding work in numerous television productions.
 - He made his first big screen appearance in Carbon Copy (1981) with George Segal. Through the 1980s, he worked in both movies and television and was chosen for the plum role of Dr. Philip Chandler in NBC's hit medical series St. Elsewhere (1982), a role that he would play for six years. In 1989, his film career began to take precedence when he won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Tripp, the runaway slave in Edward Zwick's powerful historical masterpiece Glory (1989).
 - Washington has received much critical acclaim for his film work since the 1990s, including his portrayals of real-life figures such as South African anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko in Cry Freedom (1987), Muslim minister and human rights activist Malcolm X in Malcolm X(1992), boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter in The Hurricane (1999), football coach Herman Boone in Remember the Titans (2000), poet and educator Melvin B. Tolson in The Great Debaters (2007), and drug kingpin Frank Lucas in American Gangster (2007). Malcolm X and The Hurricane

garnered him Oscar nominations for Best Actor, before he finally won that statuette in 2002 for his lead role in Training Day (2001).

- Through the 1990s, Denzel also co-starred in such big budget productions as The Pelican Brief (1993), Philadelphia (1993), Crimson Tide (1995), The Preacher's Wife (1996), and Courage Under Fire (1996), a role for which he was paid \$10 million. He continued to define his onscreen persona as the tough, no-nonsense hero through the 2000s in films like Out of Time (2003), Man on Fire (2004), Inside Man (2006), and The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009). Cerebral and meticulous in his film work, he made his debut as a director with Antwone Fisher (2002); he also directed The Great Debaters (2007) and Fences (2016).
- In 2010, Washington headlined The Book of Eli (2010), a post-Apocalyptic drama. Later that year, he starred as a veteran railroad engineer in the action film Unstoppable (2010), about an unmanned, half-mile-long runaway freight train carrying dangerous cargo. The film was his fifth and final collaboration with director Tony Scott, following Crimson Tide(1995), Man on Fire (2004), Déjà Vu (2006) and The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3. He has also been a featured actor in the films produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and has been a frequent collaborator of director Spike Lee.
- In 2012, Washington starred in Flight (2012), for which he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor. He co-starred with Ryan Reynolds in Safe House (2012), and prepared for his role by subjecting himself to a torture session that included waterboarding. In 2013, Washington starred in 2 Guns (2013), alongside Mark Walberg. In 2014, he starred in The Equalizer (2014), an action thriller film directed by Antoine Fuqua and written by Richard Wenk, based on the television series of same name starring Edward Woodward. During this time period, he also took on the role of producer for some of his films, including The Book of Eli and Safe House.
- In 2016, he was selected as the recipient for the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award at the 73rd Golden Globe Awards
- Pedro Pascal as Dave York
 - Pedro Pascal is a Chilean-born American actor. He is best known for portraying the roles of Oberyn Martell in the fourth season of the HBO series Game of Thrones and Javier Peña in the Netflix series Narcos.
 - In 2016 he starred in the American-Chinese film The Great Wall alongside Matt Damon
- Ashton Sanders as Miles Whittaker
 - Denzel refers to character Miles Whittaker as "Yummy" This is reference to Robert "Yummy" Sandifer who was an American street gang member from Chicago. He was only a child (beloved to be 14) Sandifer's murder by fellow gang members in Chicago garnered national attention, resulting in him appearing on the cover of TIME magazine in September 1994
 - Ashton Sanders was born on October 24, 1995 in Carson, California, USA. He is an actor, known for Moonlight (2016), The Retrieval (2013) and Straight Outta Compton (2015)
- Bill Pullman as Brian Plummer
 - William James Pullman was born in Hornell, New York, one of seven children of Johanna (Blaas), a nurse, and James Pullman, a doctor. He is of Dutch (mother) and English, Northern Irish, and Scottish (father) descent. After high school, Bill

went into a building construction program at SUNY Delhi in New York. He transferred to State University of New York College at Oneonta where he received his BA in Theater. He received both his MFA in Theater/Directing and an honorary PHD from University of Massachusetts at Amherst. While teaching Directing at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, one of Bill's students was the soon-to-be film director John Dahl, who later cast Mr. Pullman in "The Last Seduction".

- Moving to New York City, he worked with Kathy Bates in the acclaimed stage production of "Curse of the Starving Class". However, it was his first work in three strikingly diverse films that brought him to the attention of his audience: "Ruthless People" with Danny DeVito and Bette Midler, the Mel Brooks hit "Spaceballs" and the Oscar-nominated (and winner for Best Supporting Actress Geena Davis) "The Accidental Tourist". Still attracted to the art and study of building construction, Bill has designed and/or restored three "barns": In Montana, he converted a 1933 barn at his ranch into his family home. In Los Angeles, he built a Truss barn in the style of LA's 1910 fruit storage barns. In western New York State, he restored a '3-bay' barn that sometimes serves as a community center near his hometown of Hornell, New York. Focused more on neighborhoods than show business-based charities and societies, Pullman has defined himself by his work with his local communities. He works to bridge communities of Los Angeles through his board work with Cornerstone Theater. Pullman continues to work with his neighbors who formed "Concerned Citizens Montana" to secure a place at the table regarding the national need for a smart grid for energy transmission. He also works with the local university (Alfred University, New York) as well as supports local health services ("The Pullman Women's Health and Birthing Center" at St James Hospital, Hornell, NY).
- Pullman is also an MS Society Ambassador. Based in Los Angeles, New York City and Western Montana, Pullman is married to dancer Tamara Hurwitz Pullman, and they have three children, daughter singer/songwriter Maesa Rae and multi-talented sons Jack and Lewis Pullman, who is now also an actor.
- Melissa Leo as Susan Plummer
 - Melissa Chessington Leo is an American actress. She is known for her Academy Award-winning performance in the 2010 film The Fighter (2010). She was born on September 14, 1960, in New York City. Leo starred as the mother of boxer Micky Ward in the 2010 film The Fighter, also starring Mark Wahlberg. The role garnered her both Golden Globe (Best Supporting Actress) and Oscar awards. Other accolades include award nominations for the film Frozen River (2008) and the HBO series Mildred Pierce.
- Sakina Jaffrey as Fatima
 - Sakina Jaffrey was born on February 14, 1962 in Manhattan, New York, USA. She is an actress, known for House of Cards (2013), The Mindy Project (2012) and Mr. Robot(2015)
- Jonathan Scarfe as Resnik
 - Jonathan Scarfe was born on December 16, 1975 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada as Jonathan J. Scarfe. He is an actor and director, known for The Equalizer 2 (2018), Van Helsing (2016) and Hell on Wheels (2011). He has been married to Suki Kaiser since August 30, 1998. They have two children
- Adam Karst as Turkish Father

- Adam is best known for The Equalizer 2 (2018). His first TV appearance was on Body Language (2008). A TV series created by Zalman King, then as a star role on Entourage(2004). Also known as the lead villain role, Soli, in the Jean-Claude Van Damme film, Full Love (2014). Other notable projects are The Equalizer 2 (2018) opposite Denzel Washington, a recurring role on Snowfall (2017) and a co star on Transparent (2014)
- Kazy Tauginas as Ari
 - Rising star Kazy Tauginas is a former restaurateur and Golden Gloves boxer turned actor.
 - Growing up just outside of Chicago, Tauginas played many different sports, settling on figure skating before he discovered a natural talent for boxing after college. His grace on the ice helped him in the ring, where he fought in 13 amateur bouts.
 - After trying his hand in the restaurant business, Tauginas turned to acting and writing, a passion that led him to the New York Film Academy, where he graduated from their Conservatory Acting for Film.
 - Tauginas has appeared in numerous theatre, film and television roles. His television credits include "Person of Interest," "Blindspot," "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," "Turn: Washington's Spies," "Blue Bloods" and "Sneaky Pete."
 - Tauginas' film work includes "John Wick," "The Broken Tower," "Terminal Legacy," "Eleanor," "Sollers Point," "Life Is Too Short," "Empire Gypsy," "Recruiter" and "Sheer." Most recently, he was seen as Ari in "The Equalizer 2," starring Denzel Washington.
 - After writing several short films (and starring in over 20 of them), Tauginas drew inspiration from his mother who'd been diagnosed with Lupus, and his own boxing experience, and decided to write "Standing Eight," a short about a boxer who is forced to retire and contend with life outside of the ring after being diagnosed with systemic lupus. During the spring of 2015 he oversaw two successful Kickstarter campaigns to fully fund the film. Since its completion, "Standing Eight" has won eleven festival awards including Trinity International Film Festival's Best Short Film. He hopes to release the film later this year on Amazon, with proceeds going to Lupus charities
- Garrett Golden as Kovac
- Orson Bean as Sam Rubinstein
 - Orson Bean, the American actor, television personality and author, was born Dallas Frederick Burrows on July 22, 1928 in Burlington, Vermont to George Burrows, a policeman who later went on to become the chief of campus police at Harvard University, and the former Marian Pollard. The newborn Dallas Burrows was a second cousin once removed to Calvin Coolidge, who was President of the United States at the time of his birth. The young Dallas, an amateur magician with a taste for the limelight, graduated from Boston's prestigious Latin School in 1946. Too young to see military service during World War II, the future Orson Bean did a hitch in the United States Army (1946-47) in occupied Japan.
 - After the war, he launched himself onto the nightclub circuit with his new moniker, the "Orson" borrowed from reigning enfant terrible Orson Welles. His comedy act premiered at New York City's Blue Angel nightclub, and the momentum from his act launched him into the orbit of the legitimate theater. He made his Broadway debut on April 30, 1954 in Stalag 17 (1953) producer Richard Condon's only

- Broadway production as a playwright, "Men of Distinction", along with Robert Preston and Martin Ritt. The play flopped and ran only four appearances.
- The following year was to prove kinder: he hosted a summer-replacement television series produced at the Blue Angel, and won a Theatre World Award for his work in the 1954 music revue "John Murray Anderson's Almanac", which co-starred Harry Belafonte, Polly Bergen, Hermione Gingold and Carleton Carpenter. It was a hit that ran for 229 performances. He followed this up with an even bigger hit, the leading role in "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter". Next up was a success d'estime as the leading man in Herman Wouk's comic play "Nature's Way", which co-starred Bea Arthur, Sorrell Booke and Godfrey Cambridge. Though the play lasted but 67 performances, Orson Bean had established himself on the Broadway stage.
 - He enjoyed his greatest personal success on Broadway in the 1961-62 season, in the Betty Comden and Adolph Green musical "Subways Are for Sleeping", which was directed and choreographed by Michael Kidd and featured music by Jule Styne. Bean received a Tony Award nomination for Best Featured Actor in a Musical (his co-star Phyllis Newman won a Tony Award as Best Featured Actress in a Musical). The following season, he was in a bigger hit, the comedy "Never Too Late", which would go on to play for 1,007 performances. After appearing in the flop comedy "I Was Dancing" in November 1964, Bean made his last Broadway appearance in the musical "Illya Darling" in 1967 with Melina Mercouri, directed by fellow blacklister Jules Dassin; it played 320 performances. He also toured in the Neil Simon-Burt Bacharach musical "Promises, Promises".
 - Bean made an impression as the Army psychiatrist in Otto Preminger's Anatomy of a Murder (1959). But it was as a television personality that he made his biggest inroads into the popular consciousness, as well as the popular culture. He appeared in numerous quiz and talk shows, becoming a familiar face in homes as a regular panelist on To Tell the Truth (1956). He also appeared on Norman Lear's cult favorite Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman (1976) and its sequel, Forever Fernwood (1977), as "Reverend Brim", and as store owner "Loren Bray" on Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman (1993). Much of his role as 105-year-old "Dr. Lester" in the cult film Being John Malkovich (1999) wound up the cutting room floor, but audiences and critics welcomed back his familiar presence.

DIRECTING: (Antoine Fuqua)

- This was the first time director Antoine Fuqua directed a sequel to one of his own movies
- This was the fourth film Denzel Washington and director Antoine Fuqua worked on together
- Antoine Fuqua is an American film director, known for his work in the film Training Day as well as The Replacement Killers, Tears of the Sun, King Arthur, Shooter, Brooklyn's Finest, Olympus Has Fallen and The Equalizer.
- He has directed music videos for such artists as Arrested Development, Prince, Stevie Wonder, Toni Braxton, Pras Michel and Usher Raymond. He was nominated for MTV's Best Rap Video for Heavy D & the Boyz. He also won two Music Video Production Awards: The Young Generators Award, for his work on Coolio's rap video "Gansta Paradise" and the Sinclair Tenebaum Olesiuk and Emanuel Award for the trailer to the hit feature film Dangerous Minds (1995). Among his many commercial credits are Wings

for Men, Big Star Jeans, Miller Genuine Draft, Reebok, Toyota, Armani and Stanley Tools.

- Trademarks:
 - Most of his films contain politically driven elements and themes.
 - The main characters secretly hide their past
 - Hard characters, hard conflict scene, and hard film setting
 - Neutral dark tone

TRIVIA

- Although McCall is seen holding and using guns to threaten in the movie, he only actually shoots one man with a gun. The other McCall shoots with a harpoon

PRODUCTION/CINEMATOGRAPHY (Oliver Wood)

- Arri Alexa Mini, Hawk V-Lite Lenses
- Arri Alexa XT, Hawk V-Lite and Angenieux Optimo A2S Lenses
- 2.39 : 1 ratio
- Principal photography on the film began in the South End area of Boston, Massachusetts, on September 14, 2017
- Filming also took place on Lynn Shore Drive in Lynn, Massachusetts, as well as in Marshfield, Massachusetts and Istanbul, Turkey.
- While Sony and other publications reported the film was made on a net production budget of \$62 million, Deadline Hollywood stated their sources insisted the cost was "in the high [\$70 million]" range after Massachusetts tax credits
- Oliver Wood was born in London, England. He is known for his work on The Bourne Ultimatum (2007), Face/Off (1997) and Rudy (1993)

EDITING/VFX (Conrad Buff IV)

- Conrad Buff IV was born on July 8, 1948 in Los Angeles, California, USA. He is known for his work on Titanic (1997), Terminator 2 (1991) and The Abyss (1989)

SOUND/MUSIC (Harry Gregson-Williams)

- Harry Gregson-Williams returned to score this film. The soundtrack was released by Sony Classical
- Harry Gregson-Williams is a composer. He was the composer on all four installments of the blockbuster Shrek franchise; garnered a BAFTA nomination for the score for the first Shrek; and received Golden Globe and Grammy Award nominations for his score to Andrew Adamson's The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. He has also just completed work on Adamson's Mr Pip starring Hugh Laurie. His other recent scores include Blackhat for Michael Mann, Monkey Kingdom for Disney Nature and Miss You Already for director Catherine Hardwicke, The Equalizer starring Denzel Washington, Total Recall starring Colin Farrell and Kate Beckinsale, music for Ridley Scott's Prometheus, the animated film from Aardman, Arthur Christmas, and the action thriller Cowboys & Aliens directed by Jon Favreau as well as the unique documentary Life in a Day.
- His long list of film credits also includes the critically acclaimed The Town, marking his second collaboration with director Ben Affleck. Gregson-Williams first worked with Affleck as the composer on Gone Baby Gone. He has worked multiple times with other

directors including Joel Schumacher on the films *Twelve*, *The Number 23*, *Veronica Guerin* and *Phone Booth*; and Tony Scott on *Unstoppable*, *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3*, *Déjà Vu*, *Domino*, *Man on Fire*, *Spy Game* and *Enemy of the State*. Gregson-Williams' prolific output has also seen him scoring Mike Newell's *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time*; *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*; Adamson's *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian and Mr Pip*; Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven*; Beban Kidron's *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*; Aardman's animated smash *Chicken Run*; *Return to Sender* and *Smilla's Sense of Snow*, both for director Bille August; Antoine Fuqua's *The Replacement Killers*; and the first computer generated animation from Dreamworks, *Antz*.

- Gregson-Williams has scored three of the five games in the highly successful Metal Gear Solid franchise for Konami and recently scored *Call of Duty for Activision* which became the top selling video game of 2014 and which earned him various music gaming awards.
- Born in England to a musical family, Gregson-Williams earned a music scholarship to St. John's College, Cambridge at the age of 7 and subsequently gained a coveted spot at London's Guildhall School of Music & Drama from which he recently received an Honorary Fellowship. Gregson-Williams then turned his attention to teaching, initially in schools in England but later in Alexandria, Egypt. He started his film career as assistant to composer Richard Harvey and later as orchestrator and arranger for Stanley Myers, and then went on to compose his first scores for director Nicolas Roeg. His subsequent collaboration and friendship with composer Hans Zimmer resulted in Gregson-Williams providing music for such films as *The Rock*, *Armageddon* and *The Prince of Egypt* and helped launch his career in Hollywood. He has also been a regular and valued mentor at the Sundance Composers Lab working directly with talented emerging composers from all over the world. Gregson-Williams has four children & has lived and worked in Los Angeles since 1995.

PROMOTION

- *The Equalizer 2* was released on July 20, 2018, by Sony Pictures
 - Sony had originally scheduled the film for a September 29, 2017 release, and later pushed it back a year to September 14, 2018, then up to August 3, 2018, before settling on its July 20 date

BOX OFFICE

- As of July 25, 2018, *The Equalizer 2* has grossed \$47.8 million in the United States and Canada, and \$3.1 million in other territories, for a total worldwide gross of \$51 million, against a production budget of \$62 million
- In the United States and Canada, *The Equalizer 2* was released alongside *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* and *Unfriended: Dark Web*, and was projected to gross \$27–32 million from 3,388 theaters in its opening weekend
- It made \$3.1 million from Thursday night previews, double the \$1.45 million earned by the original film in 2014, and \$13.5 million on its first day. It went on to debut to \$35.8 million, finishing first at the box office. It also bested the opening of the first film (\$34.1 million) and was the third-best domestic start for Washington

RECEPTION

- On review aggregator website [Rotten Tomatoes](#), the film holds an approval rating of 51% based on 105 reviews, and an average rating of 5.6/10.
 - The website's critical consensus reads, "*The Equalizer 2* delivers the visceral charge of a standard vigilante thriller, but this reunion of trusted talents ultimately proves a disappointing case study in diminishing returns."
- On [Metacritic](#), the film has a weighted average score of 50 out of 100, based on 40 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews"
- Audiences polled by [CinemaScore](#) gave the film an average grade of "A" on an A+ to F scale, up from the first film's "A-", while [PostTrak](#) reported filmgoers gave it an 86% overall positive score and a 69% "definite recommend".
- David Ehrlich of [IndieWire](#) gave the film a "C-", saying: "The good news is that the fans of Antoine Fuqua's *The Equalizer* — a bland and pulpy 2014 riff on the '80s TV series of the same name — are in for more of the same. The bad news is that the rest of us are, too."

SEQUELS