



WHO IS THE NEW BLACK PANTHER?

"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" will arrive in cinemas later this year, and we have now seen a few rounds of footage - enough to tease out some details about the eagerly-awaited sequel.

When Marvel debuted an emotional and moving teaser trailer at Comic-Con on July 23, it confirmed that T'Challa's death would be a part of the storyline following the tragic death of actor Chadwick Boseman in August 2020.

Since then, Marvel released another trailer, which meant fans could examine more footage for clues about what will happen in the sequel and for the identity of the new Black Panther. This is what we know so far about the upcoming film Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

RELEASE DATE

After shooting delays in October 2021, Black Panther: Wakanda Forever will now be released in cinemas on November 11, 2022.

That's a move of four months from July 2022. This sequel takes the original place of The Marvels, which was moved back to July 2023. While nothing is set in stone, we hope this will be the last shift for the movie's release.

Filming started in June 2021, but as mentioned above, there was a hiatus between November 2021 and January 2022. Production restarted in January 2022, and filming wrapped in March 2022, so fans are hopeful that it will hit its November release date.

THE CAST

This sequel will honor the legacy of the late Chadwick Boseman and won't recast the role of T'Challa. There are no plans to use a 'digital double' in the sequel in his place.

"There's only one Chadwick, and he's not with us," said Marvel Studios' EVP Victoria Alonso.

"Our king, unfortunately, has died in real life, not just in fiction. We are taking a little time to see how we return to history and what we do to honor this chapter of what has happened to us that was so unexpected, so



painful, so terrible, really.”

Kevin Feige added: “Wakanda is a place to further explore, with characters and different subcultures. This was always and initially the primary focus of the next story. We’re not going to have a CG Chadwick, and we’re not recasting T’Challa.”

Letitia Wright, Lupita Nyong’o, Winston Duke, Danai Gurira, Angela Bassett, and Danny Sapani are all reprising their roles in the sequel as Shuri, Nakia, M’Baku, Okoye, Ramonda, and M’Kathu, respectively.

Duke is reportedly set to be given an “expanded role” in the sequel, but the reports have yet to be confirmed by Marvel. Narcos: Mexico star Tenoch Huerta is playing the

antagonist Namor, confirmed to be a mutant in the film.

Martin Freeman will return as CIA agent Everett Ross. One character who we can officially confirm won’t be returning is Daniel Kaluuya’s W’Kabi.

Kaluuya, who played Border Chief tribe W’Kabi in the first film, revealed that he didn’t film any footage for the sequel. He was committed to the film Nope, which reunites him with Get Out director Jordan Peele, and shooting for both overlapped.

New to the cast are I May Destroy You star Michaela Coel and UFC champion Kamaru Usman, though their roles have yet to be confirmed. Dominique Thorne (If Beale Street Could Talk) will make her MCU debut as Riri Williams, a.k.a. Ironheart.

Another Marvel actor who was spotted on set was Falcon and the Winter Soldier’s Anthony Mackie – however, he has confirmed that he is not in the film, but merely visiting the set. This could, of course, be an elaborate

ruse, a la the reunion of the Spider-Men in Spider-Man: No Way Home. Only time will tell.

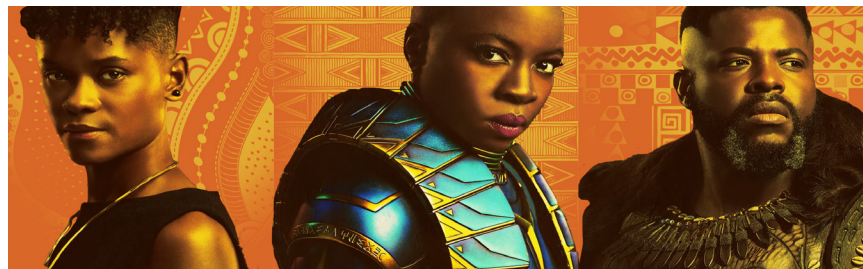
Behind the scenes, Ryan Coogler is returning to write and direct Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, and he’s bringing back the original creative cast.

THE PLOT

Since the role of T’Challa was not recast, the focus of the sequel had to change. All we officially know is that this film will continue to explore the world of Wakanda and beyond.

Along with the first trailer, we got our first official plot synopsis: “Queen Ramonda, Shuri, M’Baku, Okoye and the Dora Milaje fight to protect their nation from intervening world powers in the wake of King T’Challa’s death. As the Wakandans

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VICTORIA ALONSO



strive to embrace their next chapter, the heroes must band together with the help of War Dog Nakia and Everett Ross and forge a new path for the kingdom of Wakanda.”

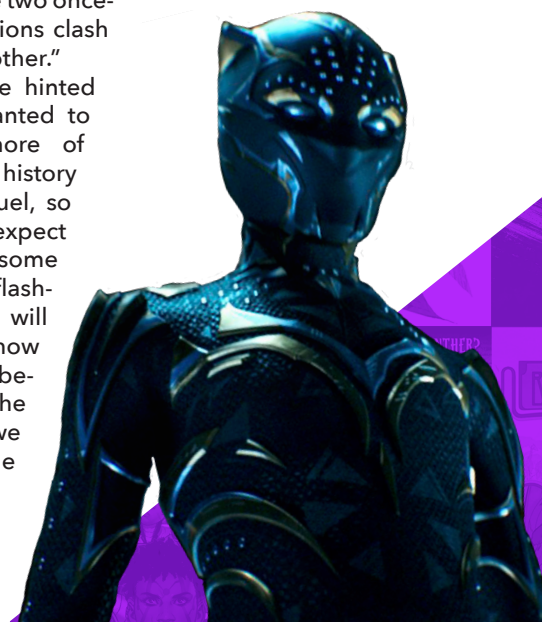
Early plot details from Production Weekly confirmed that Wakanda Forever would feature the aquatic villain Namor. “Both Wakanda and Atlantis are hidden civilisations with advanced technology and increased militaristic abilities that decided to separate themselves from the rest of the world for their own safety, and in a way, out of fear,” the details read. “Wakanda feared that their technology would be abused. Atlantis feared that surface dwellers would come and desecrate the mythical city, just as they did so many years ago. And yet their fears escalate even further when these two once-hidden nations clash with each other.”

Kevin Feige hinted that he wanted to explore more of Wakandan history in the sequel, so we can expect to see some historical flashbacks that will explore how Wakanda became the kingdom we saw in the first movie.

As for the question on everyone’s minds – who will be stepping into the Black Panther armor? – only time will tell. Many believe that Shuri, T’Challa’s younger sister, will take over the mantle. The newest trailer gave us our first full look at the new Black Panther: toward the latter half of the video, the new iteration of Black Panther makes her debut, falling from the ceiling in a spectacular stunt.

Still, there has yet to be any official word on who is in the suit, and this will likely not be revealed until the movie comes out.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever is set for release on November 11. Black Panther will be in theaters and available to watch on Disney+.





MARVEL MEETS MESOAMERICA

Tenoch Huerta Mejía makes his Marvel movie debut in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" in just a few weeks, and he's navigating a perfect storm of nerves and excitement. "I feel like I'm on the beach... it's

warm and beautiful, but the tsunami's coming," the Mexican actor said, smiling over a Zoom chat. As the antagonistic Namor, leader of the underwater kingdom of Talokan, Mejía brings a new wave of problems

for the Wakandan warriors of director Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther" sequel (in theaters Nov. 11). The Oscar-nominated 2018 hit celebrated Black people and African traditions, and the fresh faces of Forever could do the same for Latino community with a fictional global superpower inspired by Mayan and Mesoamerican culture.

In the sequel, T'Challa's sister Shuri (Letitia Wright), Dora Milaje leader Okoye (Danai Gurira) and others are mourning the loss of their king when Namor decides to invade Wakanda, as the Black Panther is no longer there to protect them.

"Wakanda has the privilege, in some ways, of opening themselves up to the surface world in the present day, because they've amassed so much power over time," says producer Nate Moore. "Namor's people don't feel like they have that same privilege. They've had to flee before, and they know what conquest can look like and how damaging that can be." Namor the Sub-Mariner, as he's been known in the comic books since 1939, is one of Marvel's oldest superheroes, predating Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four and even Captain America. Just as on the page, "Namor is a relatively conceited character and believes he knows better than everyone," Moore says. Mejía primarily sees Namor as someone whose "main goal is to keep his people safe and hide from the exterior world."

He's older than the rest of the Talokan people and sports pointy ears, but without the same blue tint to his skin. Those differences set Namor apart from his peers in a way that's "a bit emotionally isolating," Moore adds. "There's a tragedy to that character and a wisdom that comes with loss, and that is where he connects with

Shuri in the film."

While the comic-book Namor rules over Atlantis, "Wakanda Forever" filmmakers designed a kingdom anchored in Mayan mythology, just as Wakanda pulled from disparate African cultures.

The actors were impressed by the level of detail in the Talokan wardrobe, art pieces and symbols. Mayan consultants were hired for the production, one of whom was an on-set linguist: Talokan characters communicate with each other in the Yucatec Mayan dialect.

Mejía felt pride and happiness seeing himself in full Namor mode in the mirror for the first time.

"It was like, 'Oh my god, this is serious. This is good. This is beautiful.' And at the same time, those Speedos were so tiny," he said. "It's a balance, man."

He's received messages from fans about how important the Latin representation is onscreen in Wakanda Forever.

"We are here now, and we are not going anywhere," Mejía says.

