

CREED II RETURNS TO THE RING AS PRODUCTION BEGINS IN PHILADELPHIA FOR METRO GOLDWYN MAYER PICTURES AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES



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Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson reprise their roles

Ryan Coogler comes on board as executive producer

Los Angeles (April 2, 2018) – Production begins today in Philadelphia on Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures (MGM) and Warner Bros. Pictures' *Creed II*, starring Michael B. Jordan and Sylvester Stallone, reprising their roles of Adonis Creed and Rocky Balboa respectively. *Creed II* is the continuation of the *Rocky* saga and sequel to the 2015 critically acclaimed and crowd-pleasing 2015 hit *Creed*, which took in more than \$170 million at the worldwide box office. Ryan Coogler (*Black Panther*), who directed the first film, returns to the franchise as an executive producer on *Creed II*. The new film is being directed by Steven Caple Jr., who helmed the acclaimed 2016 drama *The Land*.

"When I wrote and directed *Creed*, I wanted to tell a human story about a family from a new perspective, while also paying homage to the Rocky characters we've all grown up knowing and loving. I've known Steven was an amazing filmmaker since our days at USC film school together, so I can't wait to see what he, Sly, Mike and Tessa bring to this next chapter," said Coogler.

Caple Jr. said, "It's an honor to be a part of the franchise and work with such a thoughtful team. I got involved because I've always been a Rocky fan and I enjoy stories with heart and substance. But when Ryan put his touch on *Creed* I felt another level of connection to the franchise. It started to feel personal for many different reasons. This next *Creed* is a tale beyond the boxing ring and dives deep into family, legacy, and fears. I'm excited to share my view and collaborate with the talented cast and crew."

"Ryan and Steven are voices for their generation and their shared vision for *Creed* has brought the Rocky franchise to an entirely new audience. We know audiences will continue to embrace the legacy that Sly created so many years ago," said producer Irwin Winkler.

Life has become a balancing act for Adonis Creed. Between personal obligations and training for his next big fight, he is up against the challenge of his life. Facing an opponent with ties to his family's past only intensifies his impending battle in the ring. Rocky Balboa is there by his side through it all and, together, Rocky and Adonis will confront their shared legacy, question what's worth fighting for, and discover that nothing's more important than family. *Creed II* is about going back to basics to rediscover what made you a champion in the first place, and remembering that, no matter where you go, you can't escape your history.

Also reprising their roles from the first film are Tessa Thompson as Bianca, Phylicia Rashad as Mary Anne, Wood Harris as Tony 'Little Duke' Burton, and Andre Ward as Danny 'Stuntman' Wheeler. The new cast is rounded out with Florian "The Big Nasty" Munteanu as Viktor Drago, Dolph Lundgren returning to the role of Ivan Drago, and Russell Hornsby as Buddy Marcelle. *Creed II* will be distributed theatrically in the U.S. by MGM on November 21, 2018, and Warner Bros. Pictures will distribute the film internationally.

Cagle Jr. directs from an original screenplay written by Stallone based on characters from the *Rocky* franchise. The film is produced by Irwin Winkler, Charles Winkler, William Chartoff, David Winkler, Kevin King-Templeton and Stallone. Coogler, Jordan and Guy Riedel will executive produce.

Collaborating with Cagle Jr. is a creative team led by director of photography Kramer Morgenthau (*Thor: The Dark World*, *Game of Thrones*); production designer Franco Carbone (*The Expendables*, *Billionaire Boys Club*); costume designers Lizz Wolf (*A Single Man*, *Dreamgirls*); art director Jesse Rosenthal (*Black Panther*, *Trumbo*); fight coordinator Daniel Hernandez (*Avengers: Infinity War*, *The Fate of the Furious*); technical boxing advisor Robert Sale (*Grudge Match*, *Ali*); special effects coordinator Patrick White (*Baby Driver*, *Deepwater Horizon*) and VFX producer Crystal Dowd (*Straight Outta Compton*, *Pitch Perfect 2*). Filming will take place primarily in Philadelphia with additional locations in New Mexico.

Creed, directed by Coogler, was released by Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures, Warner Bros. Pictures and New Line Cinema in November 2015 and went on to garner many honors for Stallone, including a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture, and an Academy Award nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role.

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