

# Aquaman

## Aquaman

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Aquaman is a superhero appearing in American comic books published by DC Comics. Created by Paul Norris and Mort Weisinger, the character debuted in More Fun Comics #73 (November 1941). Initially a backup feature in DC's anthology titles, Aquaman later starred in several volumes of a solo comic book series. During the late 1950s and 1960s superhero-revival period known as the Silver Age, he was a founding member of the Justice League. In the 1990s Modern Age, writers interpreted Aquaman's character more seriously, with storylines depicting the weight of his role as king of Atlantis.

The son of a human lighthouse keeper and the queen of Atlantis, Aquaman is the alias of Arthur Curry, who also goes by the Atlantean name Orin. Others to use the title of Aquaman include a short-lived human successor, Joseph Curry; his protégé Jackson Hyde; and the mysterious Adam Waterman, who was briefly active during World War II. Aquaman's comic books are filled with colorful undersea characters and a rich supporting cast, including his mentor Nuidis Vulko, his powerful wife Mera, and various sidekicks such as Aqualad, Aquagirl, and Dolphin. Aquaman stories tend to blend high fantasy and science fiction. His villains include his archenemy, Black Manta, and his half-brother, Ocean Master.

Aquaman's original 1960s animated appearances left a lasting impression, making him widely recognized in popular culture and one of the world's most recognized superheroes. Jokes about his wholesome, weak portrayal in Super Friends and perceived feeble powers and abilities have been staples of comedy programs and stand-up routines, leading DC several times to attempt to make Aquaman edgier or more powerful in the comic books. Modern comic book depictions have tried to reconcile these various aspects of his public perception, with many versions often casting Aquaman as serious and brooding, weighed down by his public reputation, his responsibilities as king, and the complex world of Atlantean politics.

Aquaman has been featured in several adaptations, first appearing in animated form in the 1967 The Superman/Aquaman Hour of Adventure and then in the related Super Friends program. Since then he has appeared in various animated productions, including prominent roles in the 2000s series Justice League and Justice League Unlimited and Batman: The Brave and the Bold, as well as several DC Universe Animated Original Movies. Actor Alan Ritchson also portrayed Aquaman in the live action television show Smallville. In the DC Extended Universe, actor Jason Momoa portrays the character in the films Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, Justice League and its director's cut Zack Snyder's Justice League, Aquaman, the HBO Max series Peacemaker, The Flash, and Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom.

## Aquaman (film)

*Aquaman is a 2018 American superhero film based on the DC character of the same name. Co-produced and distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, it is the*

Aquaman is a 2018 American superhero film based on the DC character of the same name. Co-produced and distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, it is the sixth film in the DC Extended Universe (DCEU). Directed by James Wan from a screenplay by David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick and Will Beall, it stars Jason Momoa as Arthur Curry / Aquaman, who sets out to lead the underwater kingdom of Atlantis and stop his evil half-brother, King Orm (Patrick Wilson) from uniting the seven underwater kingdoms to destroy the surface world. Amber Heard, Willem Dafoe, Dolph Lundgren, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, and Nicole Kidman also star in supporting roles.

Development began in 2004 but did not gain traction until *Man of Steel* was released in 2013. In August 2014, Beall and Kurt Johnstad were hired to write competing scripts. Wan signed on as director in April 2015, and in July 2016, the film moved forward with Beall's screenplay. The main cast was confirmed through 2016 and early 2017. Principal photography began in Australia in May 2017, taking place at Village Roadshow Studios on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, with additional production teams in Canada, Italy, and Morocco. Filming concluded the following October. Several vendors provided visual effects and animation, ranging from high-detail hair simulations to the creation of CGI animals and locations.

*Aquaman* premiered in London on November 26, 2018, and was released in the United States on December 21. While the film received mixed reviews from critics, it grossed \$1.152 billion worldwide, making it the highest-grossing DCEU film, the highest-grossing film based on a DC Comics character, the fifth-highest-grossing film of 2018, and (at the time of its release) the 20th highest-grossing film of all time. A sequel, *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*, was released on December 22, 2023, while a non-canonical animated miniseries, *Aquaman: King of Atlantis*, is set after the events of this film and was released in October 2021.

## Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom

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*Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* is a 2023 American superhero film based on the DC Comics character *Aquaman*. Directed by James Wan from a screenplay by David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick, it is the sequel to *Aquaman* (2018) and the 15th and final film in the DC Extended Universe (DCEU) produced by DC Films. Jason Momoa stars as Arthur Curry / *Aquaman*, who must work with his half-brother Orm (Patrick Wilson) to prevent Black Manta (Yahya Abdul-Mateen II) from killing his family and using the cursed Black Trident to overheat the world while searching for the lost seventh kingdom of the seas. Amber Heard, Randall Park, Dolph Lundgren, Temuera Morrison, Martin Short, and Nicole Kidman also star in supporting roles.

Momoa pitched a story for an *Aquaman* sequel during the first film's production. Wan did not want to rush a sequel after the first film's commercial success but agreed in January 2019 to oversee development. Johnson-McGoldrick signed on to return as screenwriter a month later, and Wan was confirmed to be returning as director in August 2020. He said the film would expand on *Aquaman*'s worldbuilding, have a more serious tone, and feature themes such as climate change. It is a buddy comedy between *Aquaman* and Orm, and was inspired by the Silver Age of Comic Books with a retro science fiction vibe similar to the works of animator Ray Harryhausen and the horror films of the 1960s, specifically *Planet of the Vampires* (1965). Wan announced the sequel's title in June 2021, and principal photography began later that month and concluded in January 2022. Filming took place in the United Kingdom, Hawaii, Los Angeles, and New Jersey, with additional filming in New Zealand. Several reshoots took place between July 2022 and June 2023 to alter the storyline while some actors' roles were reduced, including Heard's whose involvement was the subject of controversy during production.

*Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* premiered at a fan event at the Grove, Los Angeles on December 19, 2023, and was released in the United States on December 22. The film received negative reviews from critics and grossed \$440 million worldwide against a production budget of \$205–215 million.

## Aquaman (disambiguation)

*Aquaman* is a DC Comics superhero. *Aquaman* may also refer to: *Aquaman (film)*, a 2018 American film *Aquaman (soundtrack)*, a soundtrack album from the film

Aquaman is a DC Comics superhero.

Aquaman may also refer to:

## Jason Momoa

*2016, Momoa has appeared in various DC Comics media, first portraying Aquaman in the DC Extended Universe (2016–2023). He has also played Duncan Idaho*

Joseph Jason Namakaeha Momoa (; born August 1, 1979) is an American actor. He made his acting debut as Jason Ioane on the syndicated action drama series *Baywatch: Hawaii* (1999–2001), which was followed by portrayals of Ronon Dex on the Syfy science fiction series *Stargate Atlantis* (2005–2009), and Khal Drogo in the first two seasons of the HBO fantasy drama series *Game of Thrones* (2011–2012). He went on to play the lead roles in the Discovery Channel historical drama series *Frontier* (2016–2018) and the Apple TV+ science fiction series *See* (2019–2022).

Since 2016, Momoa has appeared in various DC Comics media, first portraying Aquaman in the DC Extended Universe (2016–2023). He has also played Duncan Idaho in the science fiction film *Dune* (2021), and has starred in the action film *Fast X* (2023) and the fantasy adventure comedy film *A Minecraft Movie* (2025).

## DC Extended Universe

*Peacemaker, a television series for HBO Max. The DCEU's 15th and final film, Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom, was released in 2023. The DCEU is the ninth-highest-grossing*

The DC Extended Universe (DCEU) is an American media franchise and shared universe centered on a series of superhero films distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures. It is based on characters that appear in American comic books published by DC Comics. The DCEU also includes comic books, short films, novels, and video games. Like the original DC Universe in comic books, the DCEU is established by crossing over common plot elements, settings, cast, and characters.

Warner Bros. began trying to bring various DC Comics superheroes together in films in 2002, when Wolfgang Petersen was to direct a crossover of the Superman and Batman film franchises. A planned Justice League film was put on hold in 2008. Initial universe plans were scrapped after the 2011 film *Green Lantern* was a critical and commercial failure. Warner Bros. finally established its shared universe with the 2013 film *Man of Steel* and 2016's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*. This was followed by 13 films and the first season of *Peacemaker*, a television series for HBO Max. The DCEU's 15th and final film, *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*, was released in 2023.

The DCEU is the ninth-highest-grossing film franchise and the fifth-highest-grossing superhero film franchise, having grossed more than \$7 billion at the global box office. The highest-grossing DC Comics-based film is *Aquaman* (2018), which earned more than \$1.15 billion worldwide, while several of the franchise's films failed to break even theatrically, being considered box-office bombs. Reception to the franchise was generally mixed among critics and fans.

A new rebooted franchise of films and television series, the DC Universe (DCU), was released in 2024 and was created by James Gunn and Peter Safran, who were appointed co-chairmen and co-CEOs of DC Studios in a late-2022 restructuring. Certain DCEU characters, such as *Peacemaker*, Amanda Waller, and Blue Beetle, will be played by the same actors in the DCU, while the second season of *Peacemaker* will take place in the new universe.

## Aquaman: King of Atlantis

*Aquaman: King of Atlantis is an American animated superhero comedy television miniseries produced by James Wan for the streaming service HBO Max, based*

**Aquaman: King of Atlantis** is an American animated superhero comedy television miniseries produced by James Wan for the streaming service HBO Max, based on the DC Comics character Aquaman. The series is produced by Atomic Monster, DC Entertainment and Warner Bros. Animation. It is set after the events of Wan's 2018 DC Extended Universe (DCEU) film *Aquaman*, but is not canonical to the DCEU.

The miniseries began on October 14, 2021, and subsequent episodes were released on a weekly basis. It also aired as a feature-length film on Cartoon Network on May 14, 2022; the movie version was later released on DVD on June 21. It was originally set to air as part of the ACME Night block.

The miniseries was removed from HBO Max in August 2022.

## Aquaman (TV pilot)

*Aquaman is an American superhero unsold television pilot developed by Smallville creators Alfred Gough and Miles Millar for The WB Television Network*

Aquaman is an American superhero unsold television pilot developed by Smallville creators Alfred Gough and Miles Millar for The WB Television Network, based on the DC Comics character of the same name. The pilot show was produced by both DC Comics and Warner Bros. Television Studios, with the cooperation of Tollin/Robbins Productions. Millar Gough Ink, who was also known from producing the Superman prequel hit series, *Smallville*, also produced the film. Gough and Millar wrote the pilot, which was directed by Greg Beeman. Justin Hartley starred as Arthur "A.C." Curry, a young man living in a beachside community in the Florida Keys who learns about his powers and destiny as a monarch and protector of the underwater kingdom of Atlantis.

The Aquaman pilot was expected to debut in the fall schedule of 2006, but following the merger of the WB and UPN, the resulting CW Network opted not to buy the series. After they passed on the pilot, it was made available online through iTunes in the United States on July 25, 2006 and became the number-one most downloaded television show on iTunes. It received generally favorable reviews, was later released on other online markets, and aired on Canada's YTV.

In the pilot, Aquaman's mother Atlanna is kidnapped by a mythological siren. A decade later, Aquaman learns that he and his mother are exiled Atlanteans, and that he is the legitimate prince of Atlantis. He faces the siren Nadia in a battle to the death, and then starts training under a new mentor.

## Black Manta

*character first appeared in Aquaman #35 (September 1967). He has since endured as the archenemy of the superhero Aquaman. Black Manta has had numerous*

Black Manta (David Milton Hyde) is a supervillain appearing in American comic books published by DC Comics. Created by writer Bob Haney and artist Nick Cardy, the character first appeared in *Aquaman* #35 (September 1967). He has since endured as the archenemy of the superhero Aquaman.

Black Manta has had numerous origin stories throughout his comic book appearances, having been a young boy kidnapped and enslaved by pirates on their ship; an orphan subjected to cruel experiments in Arkham Asylum; and a high-seas treasure hunter caught in a mutual cycle of vengeance with Aquaman over the deaths of their fathers. Despite these different versions of his past, Black Manta is consistently depicted as a ruthless underwater mercenary who is obsessed with ruining Aquaman's life. As Aquaman's nemesis, Black Manta has been part of the superhero's defining stories, including the murder of Arthur Curry Jr.—Aquaman's infant son—and numerous attempts to destroy Aquaman's home kingdom of Atlantis. A black armored suit with a large, bug-eyed metal helmet serves as Black Manta's visual motif.

The character has been adapted in various media incarnations. Yahya Abdul-Mateen II portrayed Black Manta in the DC Extended Universe films *Aquaman* (2018) and *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* (2023), while Kevin Michael Richardson, Khary Payton, and others have provided his voice in animation and video games.

Mera (character)

*first appeared in Aquaman #11 (September 1963). Originally portrayed as a supporting character to her husband, the superhero Aquaman, possessing the formidable*

Mera is a fictional superhero appearing in American comic books published by DC Comics. Created by Jack Miller and Nick Cardy, the character first appeared in *Aquaman* #11 (September 1963).

Originally portrayed as a supporting character to her husband, the superhero Aquaman, possessing the formidable hydrokinetic power to create and control water, modern writers have given greater emphasis to her superhuman physical strength. Mera has been depicted as a member of DC Comics' flagship superhero team, the Justice League. Queen Mera's earlier storylines have also portrayed her mental breakdown, as she was faced with crippling loss. The stories explored her attempts at coping with lasting anger and rage. More recent storylines have explored her approach to rulership in comparison to her husband.

The character has been adapted substantially in various media, she was played by Elena Satine on *Smallville* and most notably featured in the DC Extended Universe where Amber Heard portrayed Mera in *Justice League* and its director's cut, reprised the role in *Aquaman* and returned in *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*. The character has also been adapted in the animated *Young Justice* television series.

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