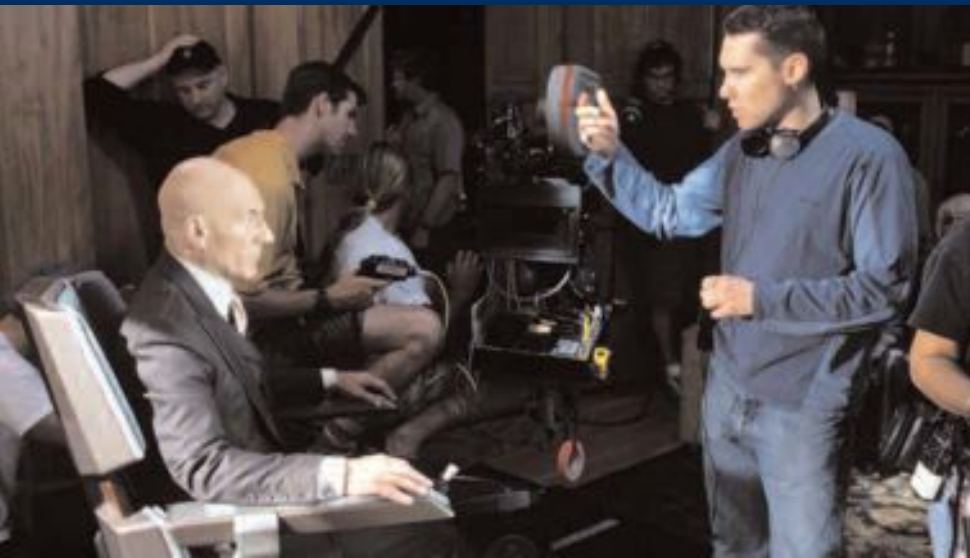




## THE FILM

People loved the first X-Men film, and director Bryan Singer and his team now had a difficult job. They wanted to make the second X-Men film even better. They did it! It opened in May 2003 in 3,741 cinemas in the USA – more than any other film before that time.



The director Bryan Singer with Patrick Stewart (Professor X)

### WRITING THE FILM

The director worked with the writers on the story for the film. They knew one thing from the start – this time the bad guys were going to be humans, not mutants.

They were already filming when Bryan Singer decided on the ending with Jean Grey. This was like a story about Jean in the X-Men comics, and it continues in the third X-Men film.

### MAKING THE FILM

*X-Men 2* has over 800 special effects. The film-makers made a lot of these on computers, but not all of them:

- President McKenna's office is a copy of the office in the real White House. The copy of the President's desk took two months to make.
- When Bobby Drake makes a wall of ice between Stryker and Logan, the ice is real.
- There was no snow when they were filming outside in Canada. They had to make snow!

## THE X-MEN COMIC

The X-Men was a comic long before it was a film. The film makers included some special things for fans of the comic:

- When Mystique looks at Stryker's computer, a lot of the names on the screen are from the X-Men comics.
- In one scene there is part of a TV news show. A man called Hank McCoy is talking about 'the mutant problem'. Hank McCoy was one of the first team of X-Men in the comics – and he appears in the third film.



Storm in the X-Men comic

### NOT IN THE FILM...

The director wanted to include some scenes in 'The Danger Room' in the film. In this secret room in Professor X's school, the X-Men practise their special powers. But in the end, they didn't have enough money to film these scenes.

They filmed some scenes but cut them out later. In one scene, Professor X and Cyclops escape from Stryker's base and fly back to the school in Westchester. When they are there, we learn that this is just another of Jason Stryker's tricks. They didn't really escape at all.

Have you seen any of the X-Men films? Which one did you like best? Why?

The film changes some things from the X-Men comic:

- In the comic, William Stryker kills his wife and son when he learns the boy is a mutant.
- Yuriko Oyama isn't a mutant in the X-Men comics. She is half-human, half-machine, but she does have long claws like Logan.
- In the comic, Mystique is Nightcrawler's mother!

What do these words mean?

You can use a dictionary.

director special effect fan  
screen scene cut