

Ron Howard on "DARK TOWER" delays, scope

Written by Samuel Zimmerman
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Ron Howard, director and champion of an ambitious adaptation of Stephen King's epic DARK TOWER series, has given an update regarding his expectations and just why it needs to be as huge as it's planned to be.

Speaking to [Deadline](#) about his career and partnership with Brian Grazer, talk led to the upcoming DARK TOWER films and television series and just what's happening with it all. Hugely enthused, Howard discussed the risk of the project saying, "It's impossible to live with ourselves if we don't take the swing."

When asked why the stories need to cross platforms, the A BEAUTIFUL MIND helmer simply cited the enormity of the series' world and how it even may branch off into other media: "The universe Steve King created is so dimensional and creative. It blends scope, sweep, and adventure with some very personal compelling stories. We could have tried to force all of it into one or two or three movies. It became clear to me that the medium of TV has become so bold and cool, we could use it to our advantage creatively and really fulfill the possibilities of this universe of characters King gave us to work with. We can use the intimacy of television when that's appropriate, and the scope and scale of the big screen with the bigger fantasy ideas. We discovered elements that would probably never have a home either on the big screen or on TV, but would make fantastic narrative gaming opportunities that won't rehash the movies or TV, but have its own material borne out of the books and graphic novels. We've got gaming designers and there is enthusiasm for that. It's a way to use all the mediums at our disposal to try to fulfill what's possible. Universal sees this as an asset that can benefit the company in a lot of different ways."

Howard also addressed Universal's hesitation and the retooling of the script, saying, "The first version represented a bold attempt to fast track, because of weather concerns. It was a little more dramatic to people on the outside than to us. We'd have liked to move forward on that fast track, but it was always Phase One. There was an understanding that if we couldn't answer all the questions in a way that made sense to all the partners involved, then we would operate on a slightly more traditional timetable. Even if we go in March, that's still moving quickly for something of this scale. I'm producing it with Akiva Goldsman, who wrote it to be sensitive to cost and is rewriting it to be more so. Without putting a number on it, the cuts aren't that deep or that radical."

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As far as Javier Bardem's role in the proceedings, Howard says the actor is interested and hopes he'll be available when production gets underway.