

## Superhero Film ‘Hancock’ With No Superhero Ancestry Proves Bold But Deadly Decision

Submitted by [HollywoodChicago.com](http://www.hollywoodchicago.com) [1] on July 2, 2008 - 3:35am

- [Adam Fendelman](#) [2]
- [Charlize Theron](#) [3]
- [Film](#) [4]
- [Hancock](#) [5]
- [Hellboy II: The Golden Army](#) [6]
- [HollywoodChicago.com Content](#) [7]
- [Iron Man](#) [8]
- [Jason Bateman](#) [9]
- [Movie Review](#) [10]
- [Peter Berg](#) [11]
- [Punisher: War Zone](#) [12]
- [The Dark Knight](#) [13]
- [The Incredible Hulk](#) [14]
- [Vince Gilligan](#) [15]
- [Vincent Ngo](#) [16]
- [Will Smith](#) [17]

CHICAGO – With superhero films as hot in 2008 as psychedelics were in the 1960s, the new blockbuster superhero film “Hancock” fits in with the label but without any of the ancestry.



While 2008 superhero films such as “Iron Man,” “The Incredible Hulk,” “The Dark Knight,” “Hellboy II: The Golden Army” and “Punisher: War Zone” (along with “X-Men Origins: Wolverine” coming in 2009) are all based on previous stories with a previously ravenous fan base, “Hancock” with an alcoholic and listless Will Smith and Charlize Theron – who hides a surprise bombshell – literally comes from nowhere.



[Read Adam Fendelman’s full review of “Hancock” in our reviews section.](#) [18]



[View our full, high-resolution “Hancock” image gallery.](#) [19]

In fact, “Hancock” is the only 2008 superhero film not derived from a previously established comic book.

The original script for “Hancock,” which was inked by Vincent Ngo in 1996 and called “Tonight, He Comes,” was shuffled through the Hollywood director’s circuit until director Peter Berg (“The Kingdom,” “Friday Night Lights,” “The Rundown”) finally ate it up in Oct. 2006. Filming began in July 2007.

Its truly original origin could have either been its golden savior or its deadly assassin. The decision ultimately proved treacherous as everything it tried to do to be different just made it the same.

Its originality actually might not seem so novel, too, once you consider the 1983 film “The Return of Captain Invincible”. In that film, Alan Arkin plays Captain Invincible and Christopher Lee plays his nemesis (Mr. Midnight). Captain Invincible is asked to return from retirement to the superhero battlefields, but this time around, he’s a raging alcoholic. Sound familiar? Uh huh.

*“Hancock,” which features Will Smith, Charlize Theron, Jason Bateman and director Michael Mann in a small acting role, opened everywhere on July 2, 2008.*



[Continuing reading for Adam Fendelman’s full “Hancock” review.](#) [18]



Charlize Theron (left) and Will Smith in “Hancock”.

*Photo credit: Sony Pictures Entertainment*



Will Smith (center) “Hancock”.

*Photo credit: Sony Pictures Entertainment*



[Continuing reading for Adam Fendelman’s full “Hancock” review.](#) [18]

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[3] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/charlize-theron>

[4] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/film-0>  
[5] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/hancock>  
[6] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/hellboy-ii-the-golden-army>  
[7] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/hollywoodchicagodotcom-content>  
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[16] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/vincent-ngo>  
[17] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/will-smith>  
[18] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/reviews/3011/superhero-film-hancock-with-no-superhero-ancestry-proves-bold-but-deadly-decision>  
[19] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/image/tid/3603>