

# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **District 9**



Library Image

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## Information

Release Title: District 9 –4<sup>th</sup> September 2009 United Kingdom

From:

AKA: Detonator

Release date: United States

Origin: USA .

Genre: Action, Sci-Fi, Thriller

Disc Nos. - 1

Certification: 15

Duration: 1h 52m

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English, Nyanja, Afrikaans, Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho

Filming Locations: Johannesburg, South Africa

Sound mix: Dolby Digital Atmos

Aspect ratio: 1:85:1

Colour: PAL

**District 9**

Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Neill Blomkamp
Written by	Neill Blomkamp Terri Tatchell
Based on	<i>Alive in Joburg</i> <sup>[a]</sup> by Neill Blomkamp
Produced by	Peter Jackson Carolynne Cunningham
Starring	Sharlto Copley Jason Cope David James Vanessa Haywood Mandla Gaduka Kenneth Nkosi Eugene Khumbaniyiwa Louis Minnaar William Allen Young
Cinematography	Trent Opaloch
Edited by	Julian Clarke
Music by	Clinton Shorter <sup>[1][2]</sup>
Production companies	QED International WingNut Films TriStar Pictures
Distributed by	Sony Pictures Releasing <sup>[3]</sup>
Release dates	13 August 2009 (New Zealand) 14 August 2009 (United States) 28 August 2009 (South Africa)
Running time	112 minutes <sup>[4]</sup>
Countries	New Zealand <sup>[5]</sup> United States <sup>[5]</sup> South Africa <sup>[5]</sup>
Language	English
Budget	\$30 million <sup>[3]</sup>
Box office	\$210.8 million <sup>[3]</sup>

## Storyline

In an alternate 1982, a giant extra-terrestrial spaceship arrives on Earth and hovers over the South African city of Johannesburg. After three months of inactivity, human investigators find over one million malnourished aliens (called "prawns") inside, and the South African government relocates them to a terrestrial camp called District 9. However, over the years, it has turned into a slum, and locals from Earth often complain that the aliens are filthy, ignorant lawbreakers who bleed resources from humans.

28 years later, in 2010, following unrest between the aliens and locals, the government hires Multinational United (MNU), a huge weapons manufacturer, to relocate the aliens to a new camp outside the city. Piet Smit, an MNU executive, appoints MNU employee and his son-in-law Wikus van de Merwe to lead the relocation. Meanwhile, three aliens, Christopher Johnson, his young son CJ, and Christopher's friend Paul, search a District 9 garbage dump for alien fuel in Prawn technology, which Christopher has had them spend the last twenty years synthesizing enough of to enact his plan. They finally finish in Paul's shack, but when Wikus comes to the shack to serve Paul a relocation notice, Wikus finds the hidden container with the fuel and accidentally sprays some of it in his face while confiscating it. Paul is killed by Koobus Venter, a cruel leader of the MNU mercenaries.

Wikus begins mutating into a Prawn, starting with his left hand, which was injured after the fuel exposure and wrapped in bandages and put in a cast. After playing down his symptoms (vomiting, nosebleed, headache, and fingernail loss), he passes out during a party celebrating his promotion. He is taken to a hospital, where his left hand is now discovered to have become a prawn claw, and transferred to the MNU lab, where researchers perform brutal experiments. They find out his chimeric DNA grants him the ability to operate Prawn weaponry, which only works with the aliens' biology. Wanting to capture this human/alien hybrid before Wikus fully transforms, Smit orders Wikus's body to be vivisected and harvested for its properties. Wikus overpowers the lab personnel and escapes. While Koobus Venter's forces hunt for him, a smear story is broadcast on television, one that reaches Tania, Wikus' wife and Smit's daughter, claiming Wikus is a wanted fugitive who has contracted a contagious disease from copulating with aliens.

Wikus takes refuge in District 9, accidentally finding Christopher and the mother spaceship's concealed command module dropship underneath his slum house. Christopher explains to Wikus that the confiscated fuel is crucial to his plan of reactivating the dropship. If he can get them in the dropship to the mothership, he can cure Wikus and reverse his physical transformation. Wikus attempts to acquire weapons from the district 9 Nigerian arms dealer Obesandjo, who wants to eat Wikus's alien arm because he believes it will grant him alien abilities. Wikus, however, seizes an alien weapon and, able to use it, escapes with a collection of weapons he and Christopher can use to attempt the retrieval of the alien fuel.

Wikus and Christopher then force their way through MNU to the lab and retrieve the fuel. However, after seeing the barbaric experiments MNU has performed on his people in the lab (including a dissected Paul), Christopher tells Wikus he must return home as fast as possible for help and cannot undo Wikus' mutation until he returns in three years, due to the limited supply of the fuel. Enraged, Wikus knocks Christopher down and attempts to fly the dropship module to the mothership himself, but Koobus Venter's forces shoot it down. Venter captures Wikus and Christopher, but Obesandjo's gang ambushes the MNU convoy, seizes Wikus, and brings him to Obesandjo, who prepares to chop off Wikus' prawn arm.

Meanwhile, remaining hidden in the dropship, CJ remotely activates the mothership and a large mechanized battle suit located in Obesandjo's base. The suit guns down the Nigerians, and Wikus enters the suit and rescues Christopher from the mercenaries. Heading to the dropship, the two come under heavy human weapons fire, and Wikus stays behind to fend off the mercenaries, buying time for

Christopher, who promises to return after three years and heal Wikus, to leave. After all of the other mercenaries are killed, Venter finally cripples the suit and is about to execute Wikus when slum aliens attack and dismember him alive. Christopher makes it into the dropship with CJ, and the dropship is levitated via a tractor beam back into the mothership, which Christopher then uses to leave Earth.

Humanity is left to speculate whether or not Christopher will return to take all the remaining aliens back to their home world, or whether he will return to declare war on Earth. MNU's experiments on the alien population are exposed by Wikus' former trainee Fundiswa, who is awaiting trial for exposing the programme, and the aliens are moved to the new camp, named District 10. Tania finds a metal flower on her doorstep, giving her hope that Wikus is still alive, and a now fully-transformed Wikus is shown in a junkyard crafting the flower for his wife.

## **Cast**

Sharlto Copley as Wikus van de Merwe, a mild-mannered, bumbling, awkward bureaucrat at the MNU Department of Alien Affairs, who becomes infected with an alien fluid, slowly turning him into one of the "prawns". This was the first time acting professionally in a feature film for Copley, a friend of director Blomkamp.

Jason Cope as Christopher Johnson, a District 9 prawn who assists Wikus in fighting MNU.

Cope also performed the role of Grey Bradnam, the UKNR Chief Correspondent and all the speaking aliens, as well as for the cameraman Trent

David James as Colonel Koobus Venter, an aggressive, sadistic, and xenophobic PMC mercenary-soldier sent to capture Wikus. He is shown as taking pleasure in killing the aliens and responding brutally to anyone who opposes him.

Vanessa Haywood as Tania Smit-van de Merwe, Wikus's wife

Mandla Gaduka as Fundiswa Mhlanga, Wikus's assistant and trainee during the eviction

Eugene Wanangwa Khumbanyiwa as Obesandjo, a paralyzed psychopathic Nigerian gang leader who believes that eating alien body parts will enable him to operate their weapons

Louis Minnaar as Piet Smit, managing director of MNU South Africa and Wikus's father-in-law

Kenneth Nkosi as Thomas, an MNU security guard and good friend of Wikus

William Allen Young as Dirk Michaels, the CEO of MNU

Nathalie Boltt as Sarah Livingstone, a sociologist at Kempton Park University

Sylvaine Strike as Katrina McKenzie, a doctor from the Department of Social Assistance

John Sumner as Les Feldman, a MIL engineer

Nick Blake as Francois Moraneu, a member of the CIV Engineer Team

Jed Brophy as James Hope, an officer with the SAPS Alien Crimes Unit

Vittorio Leonardi as Michael Bloemstein, MNU Department of Alien Civil Affairs

Johan van Schoor as Nicolaas van de Merwe, Wikus's father

Marian Hooman as Sandra van de Merwe, Wikus's mother

Jonathan Taylor as the Doctor

Stella Steenkamp as Phyllis Sinderson, MNU Alien Relations

Tim Gordon as Clive Henderson, an entomologist at WLG University

Nick Boraine as Lieutenant Weldon, Colonel Venter's right-hand man

Robert Hobbs as Ross Pienaar, an MNU mercenary

Trevor Coppola as MNU Mercenary

Morne Erasmus as MNU Medic

## **Certification**

Argentina:16 Australia:MA15+ Austria:16 Brazil:14 Canada:14A (Alberta/Manitoba/Ontario) Canada:18A (British Columbia) Canada:13+ (Quebec) Canada:14+ (TV rating) Denmark:15 Egypt:Not Rated Finland:K-16 France:Tous publics avec avertissement Germany:16 Hong Kong:III (DVD rating) Hong Kong:IIB (cut) Iceland:16 India:A India:UA (TV rating) Ireland:15A Ireland:15 (DVD) Israel:16 Italy:T Japan:PG12 Malaysia:18SG Mexico:B15 Netherlands:16 New Zealand:R16 Peru:14 Philippines:PG-13 (MTRCB, cut) Poland:16 (self-applied) Portugal:M/16 Russia:14+ Singapore:NC16 Singapore:M18 (cut) South Africa:16 South Korea:18 South Korea:15 (cut) Spain:13 Sweden:15 Switzerland:14 (canton of Geneva) Switzerland:14 (canton of Vaud) Taiwan:12+ Turkey:15+ United

Kingdom:15 United Kingdom:15 (DVD) United States:TV-MA (cable rating) United States:R (certificate #45478)

United Arab Emirates:15+

Sex & Nudity

Mild

Violence & Gore

Severe

Profanity

Severe

Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking

Mild

Frightening & Intense Scenes

Severe

MPAA Rated R for bloody violence and pervasive language

