'Descendants 2' Gets Greenlight at Disney Channel





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<u>Disney Channel</u> has given the greenlight to "<u>Descendants</u> 2," a sequel to the network's hit original movie, *Variety* has learned. Original stars Dove Cameron, Cameron Boyce, Booboo Stewart, Sofia Carson and Mitchell Hope will return, with new addition <u>China Anne</u> <u>McClain</u> joining the cast as Ursula's daughter Uma in the follow-up. Casting will be announced soon for additional new characters, including the progeny of villains Captain Hook and Gaston.

Kenny Ortega will once again direct, executive produce and choreograph the film, which follows the teenage sons and daughters of Disney's most infamous villains. The telepic is set to begin production this summer for a 2017 premiere, it was announced Friday by Gary Marsh, president and chief creative officer, Disney Channels Worldwide.

"Just when you thought 'Happily Ever After' had come to the land of Auradon, 'Descendants 2' turns the page to reveal a whole new level of mystery and surprise," Marsh said in a statement.

The original "Descendants" was the top-rated TV movie of 2015 and the fifth highest-rated original movie ever on U.S. cable TV in Total Viewers.

The sequel will once again be written by Sara Parriott and Josann McGibbon, and the duo will also executive produce with Wendy Japhet. "Descendants" costume designer Kara Saun and production designer Mark Hofeling are also signed on for the sequel. Tony Testa will join the creative team as choreographer with Ortega, and Shawn Williamson will join as producer.

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