# The Legend of Kingdom Come documentary redefines the legacy of a superhero classic



As a film that situates itself at the crossroads of nostalgia and critical evaluation, **The Legend of Kingdom Come** serves not only as a testament to the legacy of a pivotal graphic novel but also as an essential narrative in the broader history of comic book storytelling. Nearly three decades ago, artist Alex Ross and writer Mark Waid crafted a work that provided a vital commentary on the changing landscape of superhero narratives. This documentary delves into the profound impact of *Kingdom Come*, a graphic novel that emerged at a time when traditional portrayals of heroes were often overlooked in favour of gritty antiheroes and morally ambiguous figures.

The significance of *Kingdom Come* cannot be overstated. Its release in the mid-1990s coincided with a period marked by a deconstructive approach to comics, epitomised by works such as Frank Miller's *The Dark Knight Returns* and Alan Moore’s *Watchmen*. These masterpieces suggested a more cynical view of heroism, critiquing the simplistic morality of earlier ages. What set *Kingdom Come* apart was its embrace of these ideals while simultaneously arguing for their relevance through the return of classic characters like Superman and Wonder Woman. The documentary captures this duality, highlighting the stark contrasts between the past and present attitudes toward heroism.

The resonance of *Kingdom Come* is vividly illustrated through interviews with not only Waid and Ross but also notable figures in the industry such as Todd McFarlane and Paul Dini. These discussions reveal the collaborative nature of the creative process and the artistic transformations Ross underwent—from traditional mediums to digital innovations—that helped define his iconic style. Such insights make the film approachable for casual viewers while enriching the experience for die-hard fans.

However, the documentary has faced some criticism for the disproportionate focus on Ross as an individual rather than solely on the narrative and its broader implications. While Ross’s artistry is undoubtedly celebrated—his hyperrealism serving to elevate the emotional stakes in the story—the balance between the narrative’s critical examination and acknowledgment of artistic merit can feel uneven. Some critics suggest that those seeking a deeper dive into the creative process may find better insights in supplementary features that accompany the film, where extended interviews and technical discussions provide context to the storytelling craft.

Nevertheless, *The Legend of Kingdom Come* achieves its ultimate goal of contextualising the graphic novel within the ongoing dialogue about the nature of heroism in contemporary culture. The film underscores how the themes explored in *Kingdom Come* remain strikingly relevant, with its characters embodying both the potential for moral greatness and the inevitable flaws that make them relatable. As the documentary neatly articulates, every era in comic book storytelling builds on the last, revealing rich tapestries of allegory that resonate with audiences across generations.

In the current landscape, where superheroes dominate film and television, the ideals espoused in *Kingdom Come* remind audiences that the narratives can be both timeless and urgent. Viewers also learn that the struggles faced by these iconic characters reflect broader societal issues, and as such, the relationship between the audience and these figures becomes a continual source of exploration.

Finally, *The Legend of Kingdom Come* is set to reach audiences wider than ever before, with its initial North American premiere scheduled at Chicago's Music Box Theatre in May 2025, shortly followed by an international appearance at the Lake Como Comic Art Festival. The film not only celebrates the monumental achievements of its creators but also aims to galvanise further discussions about the significance of comic books in both artistic and societal contexts. Ultimately, it paints a compelling portrait of an art form that, despite its struggles for recognition, continues to inspire and challenge the boundaries of storytelling.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.cbr.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/), [[4]](https://www.superherohype.com/movies/597018-alex-ross-documentary-legend-kingdom-come-theatrical-release-date)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.cbr.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/), [[2]](https://www.supermanhomepage.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.supermanhomepage.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/), [[5]](https://www.axios.com/local/chicago/2025/05/07/alex-ross-kingdom-come-documentary-music-box), [[7]](https://www.supermanhomepage.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.cbr.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/), [[2]](https://www.supermanhomepage.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/), [[3]](https://www.legendofkingdomcome.com/), [[6]](https://www.superherohype.com/movies/597018-alex-ross-documentary-legend-kingdom-come-theatrical-release-date)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.cbr.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/), [[7]](https://www.supermanhomepage.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[5]](https://www.axios.com/local/chicago/2025/05/07/alex-ross-kingdom-come-documentary-music-box), [[6]](https://www.superherohype.com/movies/597018-alex-ross-documentary-legend-kingdom-come-theatrical-release-date)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.cbr.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.supermanhomepage.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/> - This review praises 'The Legend of Kingdom Come' documentary for its comprehensive exploration of the 'Kingdom Come' graphic novel. It highlights the film's in-depth interviews with creators Mark Waid and Alex Ross, as well as industry figures like Todd McFarlane and Paul Dini. The documentary delves into Ross's artistic process, emphasizing his transition from traditional to digital mediums. It also examines the novel's impact on superhero storytelling and its enduring relevance in modern pop culture. The review notes the film's appeal to both dedicated fans and newcomers to the medium.
3. <https://www.legendofkingdomcome.com/> - The official website for 'The Legend of Kingdom Come' documentary provides detailed information about the film's production, featuring insights into Alex Ross's artistic vision and the making of the 'Kingdom Come' graphic novel. It includes a trailer, information on the documentary's release, and details about the creative team involved. The site also offers options to purchase the documentary and access bonus features, catering to both fans of the original graphic novel and newcomers interested in its creation and impact.
4. <https://www.superherohype.com/movies/597018-alex-ross-documentary-legend-kingdom-come-theatrical-release-date> - This article announces the premiere dates for 'The Legend of Kingdom Come' documentary, detailing its North American premiere at Chicago's Music Box Theatre on May 10, 2025, followed by an international premiere at the Lake Como Comic Art Festival in Italy on May 17, 2025. It highlights the film's focus on Alex Ross's influence on the comic book industry, featuring interviews with creators like Mark Waid and Todd McFarlane. The article also mentions the filmmakers' plans to share the documentary with live audiences throughout the year.
5. <https://www.axios.com/local/chicago/2025/05/07/alex-ross-kingdom-come-documentary-music-box> - This article discusses the 'The Legend of Kingdom Come' documentary, emphasizing Alex Ross's impact on the comic book industry. It highlights Ross's hyperrealistic painting style and his acclaim for the 'Kingdom Come' series. The film, directed by Remsy Atassi, focuses on Ross's traditional artistic methods in an increasingly digital medium. The article also mentions the documentary's screening at Chicago's Music Box Theatre and an upcoming exhibition titled 'Alex Ross: Heroes & Villains' at the Dunn Museum in Libertyville.
6. <https://www.superherohype.com/movies/597018-alex-ross-documentary-legend-kingdom-come-theatrical-release-date> - This article announces the premiere dates for 'The Legend of Kingdom Come' documentary, detailing its North American premiere at Chicago's Music Box Theatre on May 10, 2025, followed by an international premiere at the Lake Como Comic Art Festival in Italy on May 17, 2025. It highlights the film's focus on Alex Ross's influence on the comic book industry, featuring interviews with creators like Mark Waid and Todd McFarlane. The article also mentions the filmmakers' plans to share the documentary with live audiences throughout the year.
7. <https://www.supermanhomepage.com/the-legend-of-kingdom-come-documentary-review/> - This review praises 'The Legend of Kingdom Come' documentary for its comprehensive exploration of the 'Kingdom Come' graphic novel. It highlights the film's in-depth interviews with creators Mark Waid and Alex Ross, as well as industry figures like Todd McFarlane and Paul Dini. The documentary delves into Ross's artistic process, emphasizing his transition from traditional to digital mediums. It also examines the novel's impact on superhero storytelling and its enduring relevance in modern pop culture. The review notes the film's appeal to both dedicated fans and newcomers to the medium.