# Melina Juergens Returns as Senua in 'Senua's Saga: Hellblade II'



**Melina Juergens Returns in ‘Senua’s Saga: Hellblade II’**

Melina Juergens reprises her role as Senua in "Senua's Saga: Hellblade II," developed by Ninja Theory. Juergens, initially a video editor, was cast in 2012 during performance capture experiments for the first game, "Hellblade: Senua’s Sacrifice." Released in 2017, the game garnered critical acclaim, selling one million copies in ten months and earning Juergens a BAFTA for her portrayal of the psychosis-stricken warrior.

"Senua’s Saga: Hellblade II," out on May 21, 2024, for Xbox Series X/S and PC, follows the Celtic warrior as she seeks revenge against Northmen raiders in 10th-century Iceland. The sequel features significant enhancements, including 70 days of motion-capture sessions and hyperrealistic visuals shaped by extensive field recordings from Iceland, Scotland, and Wales.

Juergens hopes the game fosters empathy for those with mental health issues, showcasing Senua’s evolution in managing her psychosis. The Cambridge-based studio, now under Microsoft since a $117 million acquisition in 2018, has expanded to a team four times larger than for the original game, maintaining its independent spirit alongside increased resources.