

PREVIEW

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EDITED BY JOHN NUGENT

Back on the hunt

After an eight-year absence, the Predator is back. Is Shane Black the tonic it needs?

THE PREDATORS' HUNTING grounds have ranged from the Central American jungle to (the then) future LA. But few things can have prepared them for the most challenging terrain of all: the suburbs.

Having been on an extended hiatus since Robert Rodriguez' *Predators*, one of the mandibled monsters returns in *The Predator* to stalk the commuter belt: home of ten-year-old Rory McKenna (Jacob Tremblay), who inadvertently draws the creatures' ire after stumbling across an alien artefact. If the Predator's latest quarry seems a little leftfield, it's exactly what we've come to expect from director Shane Black. Working from a script co-written with Fred Dekker, Black saw the film as an opportunity to take a welcome trip down memory lane.

"I wanted to make a movie me and Fred might have stood in line for when we were kids," Black tells us. "To take '80s nostalgia and pack it into one place."

With an advanced Predator that has harvested its prey's DNA to perfect itself, a rag-tag squad of ex-military misfits, plus whip-smart dialogue, *The Predator* is far more than just another big game hunt.

"There's more a sense of espionage thriller to this one," he explains. "The Predators have attracted attention now, and the global intelligence community is involved." Spy thrills and shady conspiracies, then, *plus* an extra-terrestrial hunter out to take your skin — this is *Predator*, Shane Black style. **JAMES DYER**



THE PREDATOR IS IN CINEMAS FROM
14 SEPTEMBER

Empire spoke to Shane Black in-between shots on the Vancouver set of *The Predator*, on 17 April 2017.



The Predator (centre) has Quinn (Boyd Holbrook) in his grip. Will Casey (Olivia Munn) save the day? **Below:** Quinn with fellow Predator hunters Williams (Trevante Rhodes), Coyle (Keegan Michael-Key), Baxley (Thomas Jane) and Nettles (Augusto Aguilera).

