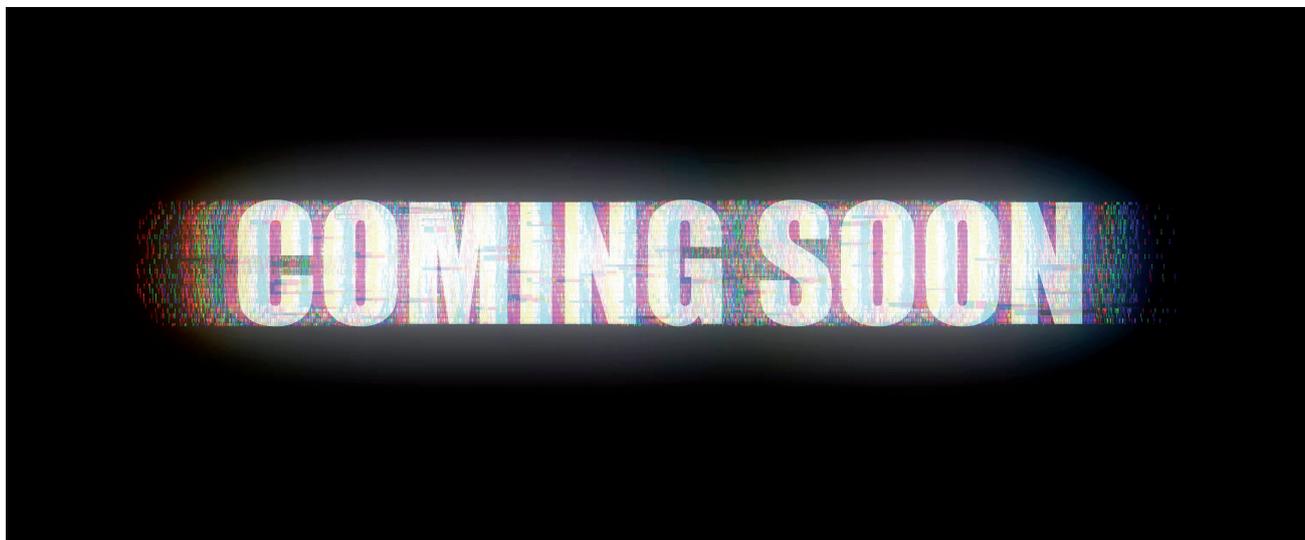### 2020: "Sonic the Hedgehog", famous for being a "development hell" movie, was released (US)



## The most famous "development hell" movies

Sometimes, movie productions don't go as planned: in those cases, the movie industry uses the expression "development hell". Here are some examples of movies that encountered many issues before being released:

– *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote* by Terry Gilliam (2019) is probably the most famous example. Its production started in 1989, but Gilliam began filming in 2000 only after he managed to raise enough money and gather the actors and actresses he wanted. A flash flood destroyed some footage, and some actors didn't show up or had health issues. The film wasn't completed until 2017 and was released in 2019 in the US (as rights issues held back its release…).

– *The Dark Tower* by Nikolaj Arcel (2017) is an adaptation of a series of books by Stephen King. Its production started in 2007, but the option on the rights ran out, other directors declared they wanted to make their own version of King's series, actors were recruited and replaced… It was finally released in 2017 but critics considered it a failure.

– *Mad Max, Fury Road* by George Miller (2015) is one of the last movies of the *Mad Max* film series which started in 1979. Miller completed his budget in 2003 but crazy rumours about creating an animated version of Heath Ledger to have him feature in the movie despite his recent death, as well as bad weather on the shooting delayed the production. However, when the film was released, the public loved it and some critics even considered it one of the best movies of the year.

## Teaching ideas

★★☆ **CYCLE 4** - Form groups, then give each group one movie that went through development hell. Ask pupils to present their movie to the class and have them vote for the most nightmarish development hell movie.

**Extrait du Carnet de bord des professeurs d'anglais**