# Robert Downey Jr. voices concerns over AI recreation of Tony Stark role



**Robert Downey Jr. Voices Concerns Over AI Recreation of Tony Stark Role**

Hollywood actor Robert Downey Jr. has publicly expressed his apprehension about the potential use of artificial intelligence to recreate his iconic portrayal of Tony Stark, also known as Iron Man, in future Marvel projects. The Oscar-winning actor addressed these concerns during a recent appearance on the "On With Kara Swisher" podcast, highlighting the growing debate over AI in the entertainment industry.

Downey, who has become synonymous with the Iron Man character since its inception in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, stated emphatically that he would pursue legal action against any future Marvel executives who might decide to produce an AI-generated version of his likeness. "I intend to sue all future executives," Downey declared, noting that even if such actions were taken posthumously, his legal representation would continue to challenge it.

The actor elaborated that he trusts the current executives at Marvel Studios not to take such a step without his involvement. However, he acknowledged the possibility of leadership changes that could alter this outlook. "You’re right," Downey conceded to Swisher's suggestion about the potential change in executives. "But my law firm will still be very active."

This discourse surfaces at a time when the industry is grappling with significant concerns over the implications of AI technology, particularly in the wake of multiple strikes. Earlier this year, the Hollywood video game performers' strike began following unsuccessful negotiations over protections against AI with major game industry companies. The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) has consistently voiced the gravity of AI-related issues, describing them as an existential threat to performers.

The talk of AI creating digital replicas of actors has been a contentious topic, spurring last year's film and television strikes organized by the union. The strikes, lasting four months, concluded with SAG-AFTRA securing an agreement that mandates productions to obtain informed consent from actors before using their digital likenesses.

Adding a layer of irony to Downey's concerns is his recent Broadway debut in the play "McNeal," penned by Ayad Akhtar. The play navigates themes such as artificial intelligence, artistic integrity, plagiarism, and copyright infringement, echoing the very issues Downey discussed in the podcast. In "McNeal," Downey portrays Jacob McNeal, a celebrated novelist confronting alcoholism and mental health challenges, and the role marks a notable expansion of Downey's artistic repertoire beyond film.

The podcast episode with Swisher delved into broader reflections on the intersection of truth and power amidst the rise of AI, questioning the existence of a "social contract" pertaining to the deployment of this technology.

Moreover, fans of Downey can look forward to his return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, albeit in a different capacity. The actor is set to take on the role of Doctor Doom in the upcoming film "Avengers: Doomsday," slated for release in 2026. This development signifies Downey's enduring connection to the Marvel franchise, even as questions about AI and digital recreations continue to loom over the industry.

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

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