

In December 2009, the filmmakers were looking for a big name who could weather the inevitable comparisons to the 1982 Arnold Schwarzenegger version. Then Momoa auditioned for the role of the 7-foot-tall barbarian lord Khal Drogo on HBO's "Game of Thrones" — and inadvertently landed two parts. "I auditioned for 'Game of Thrones' and that was a very, very hard audition for me, and there was a casting director in the room who was casting for Conan, Kerry Barden, and he's like, 'holy s— I've got your Conan,' " says Momoa. George R.R. Martin, who wrote the books "Game of Thrones" is based on, was at that fateful HBO audition. The author came away a believer after witnessing Momoa perform a Maori Haka — the aboriginal war dance that the New Zealand rugby team performs to intimidate their opponents. "He may not be 7 feet tall, but he's certainly a very tall and imposing man

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