



It's often said that the best things come in small packages, and Marvel Studios' "I Am Groot" is further proof of the old adage. The collection of five original shorts stars everyone's favorite little tree, Baby Groot, from the "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise.

Baby Groot takes center stage in his very own collection of shorts that explore his glory days growing up—and getting into trouble—among the stars.

"Groot is a fan-favorite character," says executive producer Brad Winderbaum. "In the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' series, we see him grow up because of the way the story unfolds. We wanted to revisit the character and tell stories about the period in his life when he was a little kid. This idea of self-discovery, of a little kid learning their world, felt like exciting new territory for us."

"I Am Groot" stars Vin Diesel as the voice of Baby Groot with appearances by Bradley Cooper as the voice of Rocket and James Gunn in a special voice cameo.

The shorts were written and directed by Kirsten Lepore ("Hi Stranger," "Marcel the Shell with Shoes on"). Executive producers are Brad Winderbaum, Kevin Feige, Louis D'Esposito, Victoria Alonso, James Gunn and Lepore. With music by Daniele Luppi, all five "I Am Groot" shorts will be available exclusively on Disney+ Aug. 10, 2022.



## GROOT'S ROOTS

### How Groot Became a Fan Favorite in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU)

Groot first appeared on screen in 2014's "Guardians of the Galaxy," the irreverent, epic space adventure with Peter Quill aka Star-Lord and his gang of eccentric characters who patrol and protect the universe. The wise, old, humanoid tree creature embedded himself in the heart of audiences around the world using just three little words: "I am Groot." At the end of the film, Groot makes the ultimate sacrifice for his friends, and Baby Groot—a seedling about 10 inches tall—is born from the splinters.

"In the first film, Groot leaves us in such a heroic fashion that there's a real melancholy at the end of that movie, even though the good guys win and save the galaxy," explains Winderbaum. "I think seeing that little branch that Rocket took grow into new life really meant a lot to people. The fact that it became this adorable little character was something that audiences immediately invested in."

In "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," Baby Groot was the ultimate scene stealer, an adorable sapling with anger issues who further endeared himself to audiences. "Baby Groot is beloved by fans not only because he's adorable, but because he's imperfect," explains Winderbaum. "Imperfect in the way that we all are, and we all were as children. We see it in our own kids. He doesn't always make the right choices, but he learns from his mistakes. He can be a bit of a rascal sometimes, but it's fun to watch him try things. It's fun to watch him fail, and it's even more fun to watch him succeed."

## BRANCHING OUT

### Kirsten Lepore Tapped to Write and Direct "I Am Groot"

In late 2020, executive producer Brad Winderbaum selected a director for "I Am Groot": Kirsten Lepore, an Emmy Award®-winning director and animator known for stop-motion and short-form content. "Brad sent me a brief for 'I Am Groot,' and I was especially excited that it was Groot because I'm a huge plant enthusiast," says Lepore. "So, it seemed like the perfect fit. They wanted shorts that had little-to-no dialogue, and in my personal work, I generally tend to do stuff without dialogue anyway. It was all very much my wheelhouse and very character-driven as well, which I love."

"Kirsten has a long history of making short-form content—really fun, artistic, experimental, entertaining short films with different animation styles and mixed media," says Winderbaum. "All the little subtleties in the expressions of Groot and other characters, and how their environment

interacts with them, comes from her stop-motion experience. She was able to apply that to the photorealistic CG style we made the shorts in. She's one of the most fun collaborators I've ever worked with at the studio, and I think you can see her heart and soul in every frame of 'I Am Groot.'"

Lepore credits Winderbaum as the main reason she signed on to direct "I Am Groot." "You hear Marvel, and you think it's a massive company that dominates the market, so it could be this cold, impersonal thing. But Brad was just so welcoming and has been so supportive of my ideas. I felt like I was kind of an unlikely pick to direct anything Marvel, and I really have to hand it to Brad. He's the one that brought in Taika Waititi to do 'Thor: Ragnarok,' which brought such an incredible humor and flavor into the MCU. I'm very grateful that he has an eye for weirdos, like me."

Lepore also collaborated with executive producer James Gunn, who created the character of Groot in the "Guardians of the Galaxy" films. "I had a few meetings with James from the very start to get an essence of what the character of Baby Groot should be," says Lepore. "I remember him describing Groot as a 'bad baby', but also as 'an emoji guy' — meaning he can capture a whole emotion or mood with just a simple facial expression. I really took that to heart and thought about it constantly while creating the show."

## TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT

### Production and Perfection of "I Am Groot" Shorts

"Once we realized that 'I Am Groot' was a collection of shorts about these small, standalone experiences that Groot has, it all came together," says Winderbaum. "Kirsten and her storyboard team created these little stories that, even in an animatic form, were wildly entertaining and so fun to watch."

No matter the length, the creative process takes time, and Lepore and team were determined to perfect each short. "We've been working on the shorts for about a year and a half," says Lepore. "It's fifteen minutes total but obviously animation takes time. We also rewrote a few shorts several times to make sure we really landed in a place that we were happy with."

Lepore adds, "I think our biggest challenge was how to tell a really fun, compelling story in just three minutes. But I come from the world of shorts, so I knew we'd be able to pull it off. When we were working on the storyboards and animatics, everything was coming out to about five minutes. We worked really hard and edited very carefully, and I think, honestly, they're better at three minutes."

Of course, filmmakers faced another added challenge in 2020. “Working through the pandemic was extremely challenging on many fronts,” says Winderbaum. “But in the world of animation, we were able to get up and running in a virtual way very quickly. In fact, being able to figure out how to produce ‘I Am Groot’ virtually taught us a lot of lessons for the live-action shows as well.”

## TOT IN A POT

### Toddler Tales Inspire Baby Groot’s Adventures

Undoubtedly, Marvel Studios’ youngest viewers will get a kick out of Baby Groot and his extraterrestrial exploits—but the shorts appeal to all ages, stirring childhood memories and reminding parents of their own attempts to encourage and safeguard curious, endlessly energetic toddlers.

Lepore was inspired by her personal experience with parenting. “I have a three-year-old, so I thought, ‘This is perfect. I’m going to pull some real-life anecdotes and try to infuse some of that into this mischievous little toddler.’”

“As parents, Kirsten and I would discuss what it was like raising kids, especially when they’re at that just post-toddler age, when they can really start manipulating their environment with intention,” says Winderbaum. “It’s funny to watch our kids get into mischief. You just find yourself shaking your head and smiling at the ridiculous things they get up to.”

Winderbaum adds, “In a way, when you’re watching these short films, you have that parental perspective a little bit where you think, ‘Oh, no. Don’t do that!’ You’re looking through your fingers, hoping that he’ll take a different path, which he doesn’t.”

## I AM GROOT

### Vin Diesel Returns to Voice the Feisty, Adorable Sapling

Vin Diesel joined the MCU nearly a decade ago and has provided the voice for Groot, at all ages, in five MCU films, including “Guardians of the Galaxy,” “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,” “Avengers: Infinity War,” “Avengers: Endgame” and “Thor: Love and Thunder.” In addition to “I Am Groot,” he recently voiced Groot for “The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special,” arriving on Disney+ in December, and “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3,” releasing May 2023.

While Baby Groot himself may be slight, Diesel’s commitment and contribution to the character is sizeable. “Vin is as invested in playing Groot as any of our actors are in playing their characters in the MCU,” says Winderbaum. “He’s extremely passionate about it. He thinks about the

intention behind every scene and how to deliver the line and create the perfect inflection for those three words to convey what the scene needs.”

Lepore concurs, “I was really blown away by Vin in the recording session. He just stepped up to the plate and nailed it. He would run through the whole short after seeing it only once. He’s a fantastic actor and he gave a subtly different performance with every ‘I Am Groot’ on every read. He brought so much life to Baby Groot.”

“It’s easy to think to yourself, ‘Oh, it’s just three words. Anyone can do it,’” says Winderbaum. “Well, I’ll tell you, anyone *can’t* do it. When we’re animating, we’ll have temp recordings plugged in there. But it’s really not until you get Vin’s voice that the character comes to life. It’s really uncanny.”

## BABY GROOT’S GROOVE

### Early Electro and a Daniele Luppi Score Flavor Shorts

Music plays a central role in the “Guardians of the Galaxy” franchise, and the tradition continues with “I Am Groot.” Lepore explains, “From the start, I was really excited about playing with a specific era in music. We used ‘60s/’70s music, which colors the ‘Guardians of the Galaxy’ soundtrack, but instead of using music popular in the U.S. where Peter Quill grew up, we looked at world music.”

“We licensed a couple songs,” says Lepore. “For example, the Jimmy Cliff song ‘You Can Get It If You Really Want’ that plays over ‘Magnum Opus’ and the dance-off song ‘Ran Kan Kan’ by Tito Puente in ‘Groot’s Pursuit.’ The piece you hear in the first short, ‘Groot’s First Steps,’ is ‘In the Hall of the Mountain Queen,’ very early electronic music by Raymond Scott. I think it gives the short this really weird flavor, this spacey, early electro feel that was our palette from the beginning.”

Lepore wanted to achieve a similar “strange” sound with the score, so composer Daniele Luppi joined the project. Luppi is an Emmy®-nominated composer, record producer and arranger, whose has scored for both film and television. His TV projects include the main theme for Netflix’s “Marco Polo,” and the score and main titles for STARZ’s “Magic City,” both of which earned him a Primetime Emmy nomination for Outstanding Original Main Title Theme Music.

“I knew that we didn’t want a normal orchestral score,” says Lepore. “Daniele Luppi was the perfect choice as our composer. He has done so much work with that early electronic sound. He’s able to do music that sounds like it came out of a spaghetti western with the same kind of patina

on it from that era. He's using old microphones and keyboards—analog instruments that really give it an authentic, more organic sound.”

“The music is incredible,” says Winderbaum. “I think it has a really special quality. The score lends to the uniqueness of these shorts. It's like no other sound we've had in the MCU before, and it's 100 percent Baby Groot.”

## SHORT AND SWEET

### Baby Groot Explores His Universe in Five Original Shorts

#### Short 1: “Groot's First Steps”

Baby Groot discovers he's not the only plant being pampered aboard his space ship. A happy accident convinces Groot to try taking his first steps out of his pot—only to learn you have to walk before you can run.

“I thought it would be really cool to start the whole series having Groot grow out of his pot, sort of like a loose version of a plant-growing time-lapse,” says Lepore. “That was melded with this idea I had of ‘Groot vs. Tree’— where Groot, a sentient tree, goes up against a non-sentient tree. We really played up the Buster Keaton-esque style of physical comedy in which the inanimate object always wins.”

#### Short 2: “The Little Guy”

It's hard to be the little guy, but when Baby Groot accidentally uncovers a civilization of miniature blue aliens, the tables are turned. At first intimidated by the seemingly enormous tree toddler, the Grunds soon discover he's the hero they've been waiting for.

“More than any other characters in the shorts, the Grunds are the super-duper simple type of character I personally like to design,” says Lepore. “I enjoy the challenge of pulling out as much expression as you can in the subtlety of just black dots and a mouth.” She adds, “There's also that childlike experience of discovering an anthill, and you want to be nice and friendly, but you're also really curious and start poking around and messing things up.”

#### Short 3: “Groot's Pursuit”

Baby Groot investigates a spooky noise that's been haunting the Quadrant, the massive Ravager ship that he calls home. In doing so, he comes face-to-face with Iwua, an intelligent, shapeshifting alien who assumes his form. The best way to resolve who actually *is* Groot: a dance-off.

“The seed of the idea for this short came from the childhood game of mimicking, when someone starts copying you and you get really ticked off,” says Lepore. “Groot gets so ticked off to the point that, instead of fighting, they do a dance battle. Basically, let's see if this guy can keep up.”

“Groot’s Pursuit” also features a voice cameo by executive producer and “Guardians of the Galaxy” franchise director, James Gunn. “He was the voice of the wrist watch/headlamp, which Groot smacks when it’s malfunctioning,” says Lepore. “I remember he was in the middle of shooting and on his lunch break, and was ushered into a trailer to record all these lines for us. He’s just a very generous guy.”

#### **Short 4: “Groot Takes a Bath”**

Everybody needs some alone time to relax and wash up, but things go quite differently when you’re a Flora Colossi toddler. When Groot’s bath concoction results in epic leaf growth, he takes his haircut into his own hands and gets inventive with styling.

“From the very beginning, I was very interested in Groot’s physical abilities: the fact that he can sprout leaves and his limbs can grow super long,” says Lepore. “In this short, he accidentally creates this magic potion that’s like Miracle-Gro for the whole body. It’s like Groot as a Chia Pet, which was a very fun arena to play in.”

#### **Short 5: “Magnum Opus”**

Groot sets out to paint a family portrait of himself and the Guardians, and goes to great lengths to collect art supplies and forge his masterpiece. Rocket stumbles upon Groot’s efforts and quickly discovers just how messy—and disastrous—the artistic process can be.

“Groot’s the lone toddler on the ship, trying to figure out what his art materials are,” says Lepore. “He doesn’t have an art store to go to, so he’s just going around stealing things from others.” Rocket, the cybernetically and genetically augmented woodland creature voiced by Bradley Cooper, makes an appearance in this short, and according to Lepore, “He can be a bit of a scolding parent but also a buddy with a soft heart when it comes to Groot.”

Winderbaum ventures, “Rocket is an unlikely parent. There was a partnership—maybe a big brother-little brother dynamic—with Rocket and Groot from the first film, but Rocket’s relationship with Baby Groot is quite different. He feels very responsible for him. That comes through in Bradley’s performance and in his cameo in the last short of this batch.”

## **LEAFING AN IMPRESSION**

### **Filmmakers Aim to Bring Joy and Laughter to Viewers**

“In a world where there’s a lot going on and a lot to digest, I love bringing some wonderful light joy that hopefully makes people laugh and inspires them to embrace their weird side,” says Lepore. “I consider these shorts some of the more comedic things that Marvel Studies has done,

and it's fun to be part of that comedy. I hope it brings a smile to people's faces and reminds them of their kids or their own childhood."

Winderbaum shares Lepore's sentiments: "I just think about people sitting down at their couch watching these shorts on TV, maybe with their kids, and just having something to laugh with each other about. That's honestly the thing that gets me up in the morning, and that's something that I think these shorts really deliver."

## THE FAMILY TREE

### About the "I Am Groot" Team

**VIN DIESEL (voice of Baby Groot)** is a prominent actor, producer and filmmaker who has been honored with a Hand & Footprint Ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre, and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He is most widely known as Dominic Toretto in the "Fast and Furious" film series, Richard B. Riddick in the "Chronicles of Riddick" series, and Xander Cage in the "xXx" series, as well as the voice of Groot in the "Guardians of the Galaxy" films and "Avengers: Infinity War."

Most recently, Diesel, a native New Yorker, reprised his role as Dominic Toretto in the ninth installment of "The Fast and the Furious" franchise, which he starred in and produced. The record-breaking franchise film was one of the biggest box office hits of 2021. The eighth installment had the largest international release of all time, grossing over \$1.2 billion worldwide. He also wrote and directed the original short film "Los Bandoleros," which tells the backstory of the characters and events in the franchise.

Prior to "F9: The Fast Saga," Diesel was seen in Sony's "Bloodshot," starring as Ray Garrison, a soldier recently killed in action and brought back to life as the superhero Bloodshot by the RST corporation.

Diesel also led the star-studded ensemble cast in the highly anticipated "xXx: Return of Xander Cage." He reprised his role of Baby Groot in "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" and Groot in "Thor: Love and Thunder," and appeared in "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk," directed by Ang Lee. In 2015, he starred in and produced "The Last Witch Hunter" for Lionsgate, opposite Sir Michael Caine.

Another endeavor in Diesel's entrepreneurial rise was the launch of his successful video game company, Tigon Studios, which recently created and produced the multi-platform "Riddick: The Merc Files" as well as 2004's top-selling Xbox game, "The Chronicles of Riddick: Escape from Butcher Bay."



Diesel previously starred alongside Michelle Yeoh in Twentieth Century Fox's "Babylon A.D." and was also seen in the courtroom drama "Find Me Guilty," directed by Sidney Lumet.

In 2005, Diesel starred in his first comedy feature, "The Pacifier," which was a huge box-office success for Walt Disney Pictures. In the highly anticipated science-fiction feature "The Chronicles of Riddick," Diesel reprised the title role. Produced by his production company, One Race Films, it was the follow-up to the cult favorite "Pitch Black."

Early in his career—in his first foray into filmmaking—Diesel wrote, produced, directed and starred in the independent short "Multi-Facial," which explored the experience of being multiracial in today's society. The film follows Diesel, whose biological mother is Caucasian and biological father is African American, on several auditions in which he is told that he is either too black or too white for the part. It was after seeing "Multi-Facial" at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival that Steven Spielberg created the role of Private Adrian Caparzo in "Saving Private Ryan" specifically for Diesel, for which he was nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award®.

Diesel is currently in production as star and producer for "Fast X," and he will also reprise his role as Xander Cage in "xXx 4" and serve as producer alongside returning director DJ Caruso.

Nine-time Oscar® nominee **BRADLEY COOPER (voice of Rocket)** is currently in production on "Maestro." Cooper co-wrote the story alongside Josh Singer and is directing, producing and starring in the film alongside Carey Mulligan. "Maestro" tells the complex love story of Leonard Bernstein (Cooper) and Felicia Montealegre (Mulligan) a story that spans over 30 years—from the time they met in 1946 at a party and continuing through two engagements, a 25-year marriage and three children: Jamie Bernstein, Alexander Bernstein and Nina Bernstein Simmons. The film will be released by Netflix in 2023.

Previously, Cooper starred in and produced Guillermo del Toro's "Nightmare Alley," which was released in Dec. 2021 by Fox Searchlight. Cooper also had a supporting role in Paul Thomas Anderson's "Licorice Pizza," which was released in Nov. 2021 in which he was nominated for a SAG Award® for outstanding performance by a male actor in a supporting role. Both "Nightmare Alley" and "Licorice Pizza" were nominated for the best picture Academy Award® for the 2021 season.

Cooper made his directorial debut with the Oscar®-nominated film "A Star Is Born," which he co-wrote, produced and starred. "A Star is Born" was nominated for eight Academy Awards®.

Additional film credits include: Clint Eastwood's "The Mule," Oscar®-nominated films "American Sniper," "American Hustle" and "Silver Linings Playbook"; Derek Cianfrance's "The Place Beyond

the Pines”; “The Hangover” trilogy by Todd Phillips; “Limitless”; “Avengers: Endgame”; “Avengers: Infinity War”; “Guardians of the Galaxy”; “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2”; “Thor: Love and Thunder”; “War Dogs”; David O’Russell’s “Joy”; “Wedding Crashers”; and “Wet Hot American Summer.”

In 2015, Cooper garnered critical acclaim and a Tony nomination for his portrayal of John Merrick in the five-time, Tony-nominated revival of “The Elephant Man” on Broadway, directed by Scott Ellis. Other theater credits include Joe Mantello’s production of “Three Days of Rain” (2006, Broadway debut) and the critically acclaimed Theresa Rebeck play “The Understudy” (2008, Williamstown Theatre Festival). Television credits include: “Wet Hot American Summer: First Day of Camp,” “Alias,” “Nip/Tuck,” “Kitchen Confidential,” “Jack & Bobby” and “Sex and the City.”

Born in Philadelphia, Cooper graduated with honors in the English program at Georgetown University. After moving to New York City, he obtained his masters in the fine arts program at The Actors Studio Drama School.

In 2013, Bradley Cooper started One Family Foundation to help make a difference in the lives of patients with cancer. Through launching patient navigator programs, working to shift perceptions, and exploring innovations in the field, One Family Foundation aims to improve patients’ experience with cancer throughout their treatment. By elevating the importance of patient navigation, the Foundation hopes to redefine what it means to receive holistic cancer care. Cooper has been a longtime partner to Stand Up to Cancer and numerous veteran’s organizations throughout his career.

**KIRSTEN LEPORE (Writer/Director/Executive Producer)** is a Los Angeles-based director and animator, and alumna of CalArts. Her viral hit “Hi Stranger” garnered upwards of 200 million views online, and her stop-motion episode of “Adventure Time” won a 2016 Emmy® Award and Annie Award. Lepore recently animation directed “Marcel the Shell with Shoes on,” which premiered at Telluride and has maintained a 99 percent critics score on Rotten Tomatoes since its June 24 release by A24. Her other films have taken top prizes at SXSW, Slamdance and many other international festivals. She has worked with clients such as Google, MTV, Mini Cooper, Silk, Skippy, Nestle, and many more. Lepore has given talks everywhere from Pixar to Portugal and has also been featured in Juxtapoz, Shots, and was named one of the 50 most creative people by Creativity Magazine.

**KEVIN FEIGE (Executive Producer)**, producer, president of Marvel Studios and chief creative officer of Marvel, is the driving creative force behind several billion-dollar franchises and an unprecedented number of blockbuster feature films, all connected within the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

A hands-on producer, Feige oversees Marvel Studios' feature film productions, with 29 film releases that have all opened No. 1 at the box office and collectively grossed more than \$26 billion worldwide. Ten of the MCU films have crossed the \$1 billion threshold at the global box office, including "Avengers: Endgame," which garnered almost \$2.8 billion at the worldwide box office and was the fastest film in cinematic history to reach \$2 billion, and "Spider-Man: No Way Home" was the highest-grossing film of 2021.

The Marvel Cinematic Universe is currently the highest grossing film franchise of all time. Feige is building on that success with a host of new series that streamed on Disney+ in 2021, including "WandaVision," "The Falcon and The Winter Soldier," "Loki," "What If...?" and "Hawkeye." Two Disney+ series have premiered thus far in 2022: "Moon Knight," starring Oscar Isaac and Ethan Hawke, and "Ms. Marvel," starring Iman Vellani as Kamala Khan. Upcoming original series for 2022 include "She-Hulk" and the second season of "What If...?".

In 2022 thus far, "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" has garnered more than \$954 million in box office globally, and on July 8, "Thor: Love and Thunder" premiered at No. 1 at the box office. This year will also see the release of "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

"An Academy Award® nominee for "Black Panther," Feige was honored with the 2019 David O. Selznick Achievement Award from the Producers Guild of America, as well as the Albert R. Broccoli Britannia Award for Worldwide Contribution to Entertainment from BAFTA (British Academy Film Awards).

Feige is a graduate of the University of Southern California, School of Cinematic Arts.

Marvel Studios Co-President **LOUIS D'ESPOSITO (Executive Producer)** served as executive producer on the blockbuster hits "Iron Man," "Iron Man 2," "Thor," "Captain America: The First Avenger," "Marvel's The Avengers," "Iron Man 3," "Thor: The Dark World," "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," "Guardians of the Galaxy," "Captain America: Civil War," "Avengers: Age of Ultron," "Ant-Man," "Doctor Strange," "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," "Spider-Man: Homecoming," "Thor: Ragnarok," "Black Panther," "Avengers: Infinity War," "Ant-Man and The Wasp," "Captain Marvel," "Avengers: Endgame," "Spider-Man: Far From Home," "Black Widow," "Shang-Chi and The Legend of The Ten Rings," "Eternals," "Spider-Man: No Way Home," "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," and most recently, "Thor: Love and Thunder."

D'Esposito also served as executive producer on the Disney+ shows "The Falcon and The Winter Soldier," "Loki," "What If...?," "Hawkeye," the Emmy® award-winning "WandaVision," "Moon Knight" and "Ms. Marvel."

Upcoming productions, on which D'Esposito is collaborating with Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige, include the feature films "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania," "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," "The Marvels" and "Blade," as well as the Disney+ shows "She-Hulk," "Armor Wars," "Ironheart" and "Secret Invasion."

As co-president of the studio and executive producer on all Marvel Studios features and streaming shows, D'Esposito balances running the studio with overseeing each project from its development stage to distribution. In addition to executive-producing Marvel Studios' films and shows, D'Esposito directed the Marvel One-Shot "Item 47," which made its debut to fans at the 2012 San Diego Comic-Con International and was featured again at the LA Shorts Fest in September 2012. The project was released as an added feature on the "Marvel's The Avengers" Blu-ray disc. D'Esposito also directed the second Marvel One-Shot, "Agent Carter," starring Hayley Atwell, which premiered at the 2013 San Diego Comic-Con to critical praise from press and fans, and is an added feature on the "Iron Man 3" Blu-ray disc. The One-Shot's popularity led to development of the TV series "Marvel's Agent Carter." D'Esposito began his tenure at Marvel Studios in 2006.

Prior to Marvel, D'Esposito's executive-producing credits include the 2006 hit film "The Pursuit of Happyness," starring Will Smith; "Zathura: A Space Adventure"; and the 2003 hit "S.W.A.T.," starring Samuel L. Jackson and Colin Farrell.

A native of Buenos Aires, **VICTORIA ALONSO (Executive Producer)** moved to the U.S. on her own at the age of 19. She worked her way up through the industry, beginning as a PA before working at the VFX powerhouse Digital Domain. She served as VFX producer on a number of films, including Ridley Scott's "Kingdom of Heaven," Tim Burton's "Big Fish," Andrew Adamson's "Shrek" and Marvel's "Iron Man." She won the Visual Effects Society (VES) Award for outstanding supporting visual effects/motion picture for "Kingdom of Heaven," with two additional shared nominations (best single visual effects, outstanding visual effects/effects driven motion picture) for "Iron Man."

Alonso joined Marvel as the company's executive vice president of visual effects and post production, doubling as co-producer on "Iron Man," a role she reprised on "Iron Man 2," "Thor" and "Captain America: The First Avenger." In 2011, she was upped to executive producer on the blockbuster hit "Marvel's The Avengers," a role she has maintained on all Marvel Studios' releases since then, including "Iron Man 3," "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," "Captain America: Civil War," "Thor: The Dark World," "Avengers: Age of Ultron," "Ant-Man," "Guardians of the Galaxy," "Doctor Strange," "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," "Spider-Man: Homecoming," "Thor: Ragnarok," "Black Panther," "Avengers: Infinity War," "Ant-Man and the Wasp," "Captain Marvel," "Avengers: Endgame," "Spider-Man: Far From Home," "Black Widow," "Shang-Chi and

The Legend of The Ten Rings,” “Eternals,” “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness,” and most recently “Thor: Love and Thunder.”

During her tenure at the studio, Marvel films have amassed over \$26 billion in global box office. In addition to executive producer, Alonso also serves as the studio’s President, Physical and Post Production, Visual Effects, and Animation Production. Upcoming projects for which Alonso serves as executive producer include the feature films “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” and “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3,” as well as a slate of programming for Disney+, including “She-Hulk” and “Ironheart.” Most recently, Alonso is an executive producer on the original series “Ms. Marvel,” which debuted on Disney+ on June 8. In 2021, Alonso received multiple Emmy® nominations in a variety of categories for both “The Falcon and The Winter Soldier” and “WandaVision.”

Alonso has become an important voice in Hollywood as a producer, a Latina and a senior female executive. She was honored with the Visionary Award at the 2021 Outfest Legacy Awards. For the last three years, she has been named one of People en Español Magazine’s top “Poderosa” Most Influential Hispanic Women. On multiple occasions, she has been named to Variety’s Power of Women L.A. Impact Report and The Hollywood Reporter’s Women in Entertainment Power 100.

Alonso was honored in 2015 with the Muse Award for Outstanding Vision and Achievement from the New York Women in Film & Television. She was also the first woman to be presented with the Harold Lloyd Award from the Advanced Imaging Society, which is given to a filmmaker who has created a body of work and specific achievements in 3-D that advanced the motion picture art form. In 2017, she was the first woman to be honored with the Visionary Award at the 15th Annual VES Awards for her advancement of unforgettable storytelling through visual effects.

**BRAD WINDERBAUM (Executive Producer)** is the head of streaming, television and animation for Marvel Studios. Joining the Marvel universe during the production of the company’s first theatrical release “Iron Man,” he went on to become an executive producer on such projects as “Thor: Ragnarok,” “Black Widow,” “Hawkeye” and “Moon Knight.” Winderbaum created the studios’ first animated production, the Disney+ series “What If...?” on which he is executive producer. Most recently, he served as producer on “Thor: Love and Thunder.” Winderbaum is an executive producer on forthcoming Disney+ series “She-Hulk,” “Secret Invasion,” “Ironheart,” “Armor Wars,” “Echo,” “Agatha: Coven of Chaos” and animated series “X-Men ‘97,” “Spider-Man: Freshman Year” and “Marvel Zombies.”

During his history with Marvel Studios, Winderbaum co-produced the original “Ant-Man” film and created the Marvel One-Shot program of shorts, acting as executive producer on “Team Thor,” “Team Thor: Part 2,” “All Hail the King,” “Agent Carter,” “Item 47,” “The Consultant” and

“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Thor’s Hammer.” During Phase 1 of the MCU, he developed the universe’s first interlocking timeline and produced behind-the-scenes documentaries and interactive campaigns for “Iron Man 2,” “Thor,” “Captain America: The First Avenger” and “Marvel’s The Avengers.” Winderbaum is also an executive producer on the “Assembled” series of behind-the-scenes Disney+ specials.

Before joining Marvel Studios, Winderbaum was a pioneer of early online storytelling, receiving both an Emmy® Award for outstanding broadband drama and a Webby People’s Voice Award for an interactive series he wrote and directed entitled “Satacracy 88.” He received a master of fine arts in film production from the University of Southern California and a bachelor of fine arts in studio art from New York University, where he staged underground theater productions and created countless surreal illustrations. When Winderbaum was a freshman in high school, he designed the school district logo in Clarkstown, New York, where he grew up.

**JAMES GUNN (Executive Producer)** is the prolific filmmaker behind some of pop culture’s most notable feature films.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Gunn began his filmmaking career at the age of twelve by making a zombie movie with an eight-millimeter camera and an actor, his brother Sean.

Thirty years later, Gunn brought to life what is now one of the most memorable franchises in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, “Guardians of the Galaxy.” The film, which Gunn wrote and directed in 2014, had the biggest August opening weekend of all-time, earning \$94 million in the U.S., and went on to garner over \$770 million at the worldwide box office. “Guardians of the Galaxy” also received impressive reviews from top film critics around the world, won the Critics’ Choice Award for best action movie, earned two Academy Award® nominations and garnered Gunn a WGA Award nomination for best adapted screenplay.

Gunn personally chose every song on the “Guardians of the Galaxy” soundtrack. The album, which featured pop songs from the 1960s & ’70s, was highly praised by critics as being a secondary character in the film and is the first soundtrack comprised entirely of previously released songs to reach the No. 1 spot on the Billboard charts. The album has gone on to certified Platinum status and received a GRAMMY® nomination for best compilation soundtrack for visual media.

In 2017, Gunn followed that success with “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,” which amassed over \$863 million at the worldwide box office. The soundtrack was also nominated for a GRAMMY®.

Also in 2017, fans had a chance to see Gunn’s horror feature, “The Belko Experiment,” which he wrote and produced. The film premiered during Midnight Madness at the 2016 Toronto

International Film Festival and was immediately acquired by Blumhouse's BH Tilt and Orion and released on March 17, 2017.

Most recently, Gunn created for television, wrote and directed "Peacemaker," a HBO Max series based on a DC Comics superhero and starring John Cena, which picks up from where his 2021 film, "The Suicide Squad" leaves off. He also wrote the screenplay for "Wile. E. Coyote," which is filming.

Gunn's love for the comedy and horror genres coalesced in the humorous horror film "Slither," released by Universal in 2006. Gunn wrote the film, which was his feature film directorial debut, and it stars Nathan Fillion and Elizabeth Banks. The film is currently featured on Rotten Tomatoes as one of the top ten all-time best-reviewed horror films. It was named the best horror film of 2006 by Rue Morgue Magazine, and Gunn won a Saturn Award and a Fangoria Chainsaw Award for his work on the film.

Additionally, Gunn wrote and directed the independent feature film "Super," starring Rainn Wilson, Ellen Page, Liv Tyler and Kevin Bacon. "Super" was an official selection at the Toronto Film Festival, was picked up by IFC Films, and is IFC's top-selling film ever on On Demand.

Gunn also wrote the live action "Scooby-Doo" movie, which grossed over \$300 million worldwide, and, in March of 2004, he became the first screenwriter in history to write back-to-back #1-for-the-weekend box office hits, with the critically acclaimed, re-imagined "Dawn of the Dead" on March 19, 2004 and "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed" on March 26, 2004.

Gunn got his start in the industry while attending Columbia University. He applied for a part-time job filing papers at famed B-movie studio Troma Entertainment but was paid \$150 to write the screenplay for the feature "Tromeo & Juliet" instead. In 1997, "Tromeo" became a cult hit, playing in theaters around the world, including over a year of midnight screenings in Los Angeles.

Gunn left Troma to write and star (along with Rob Lowe, Thomas Haden Church, and Jamie Kennedy) in the 2000 feature film "The Specials," about a group of superheroes on their day off. In the same year, Bloomsbury Press released Gunn's critically acclaimed novel "The Toy Collector," the story of a hospital orderly who sells drugs to finance his escalating toy collecting addiction. He also wrote, with Lloyd Kaufman, the non-fiction book "All I Need to Know About Filmmaking I Learned from the Toxic Avenger," currently in its fifth printing.

In 2012 Gunn released his first video game, "Lollipop Chainsaw," with Suda 51 and Warner Bros., on Xbox and Playstation 3. In 2008 he created Xbox Live's first original content, producing seven comedy shows by horror directors, and creating his own, "Sparky & Mikaela." Gunn also hosted the reality show "Scream Queens" for VH1.