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Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2Read these comics starring Star-Lord, Mantis, Ego and all of your favorite Guardians!Explore Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Jump toSummaries (5)Synopsis (1)EditSuggest an edit or add missing contentYou have no recently viewed pages This article contains spoilers for Guardians of The Galaxy Vol. 2 and the wider MCU. This article comes from Den of Geek UK. Guardians of The Galaxy Vol. 2 sits in a slightly odd position – narratively, chronologically, critically, geographically… (If a movie that takes place partly inside one of the main characters doesn't strike you as geographically odd, you lead a more interesting life than we do!) Guardians of The Galaxy Vol. 2 was released about halfway through Phase 3 of the MCU, in between Doctor Strange and Spider-Man: Homecoming. However, if you've paid close attention to the movie, you'll know that it sits much earlier in the timeline. Guardians 2 takes place only a couple of months after Guardians 1, while Baby Groot is still a baby, only 34 years after Peter's parents met. If you're watching the MCU movies in internal chronological order, Guardians 2 comes immediately after Guardians 1 and before Avengers: Age Of Ultron. The film actually benefits from this viewing order. Guardians of the Galaxy was one of the best received films of Phase 2, with only Captain America: The Winter Soldier and the rather late-to-the-party Ant-Man offering it any real competition in that respect. It was fresh and funny, and it offered up a significant milestone in terms of the on-going story, as it was the film that actually explained to a non-comic-reading audience what the Infinity Stones were. Buy Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 on Blu-ray Here Guardians 2, on the other hand, was probably the least well-received film of Phase 3, which has become something of a golden age for the MCU. Unlike the first film, it doesn't contribute in any significant way to the on-going story, despite being released during the three year build up to the (presumably) climactic events of Avengers: Endgame. Where the first one felt completely different to anything we'd seen before, the second basically does more of the same – and by the time audiences were partway through Phase 3 and had just been introduced to wizards, they were ready for something different. Watching Guardians 2 immediately after its predecessor, though, highlights a lot of its better qualities. It may have felt like more of the same when watched some time after Vol. 1 – compared to the ructions of Captain America: Civil War or the later Thor: Ragnarok, it obviously doesn't shake things up in the same way, and most of the other Phase 3 films (except Ant-Man & The Wasp) introduce new characters entirely. However, watching the two Guardians films back to back highlights the fact that there are subtle differences between them, and the second does, in fact, do something a little different – it just isn't quite so far removed from its origins as its immediate neighbours. This is a deeper film than Guardians of the Galaxy, fleshing out the characters of Rocket and Yondu in particular. The overall plot is a little messier, but individual sequences stand out even more, helped by even more great music choices. Underneath all the color and spectacle, it's a dark story – one of the standout sequences features a main character enjoying murdering a large group of people in spectacular fashion, and the climax revolves around the revelation that Peter's father killed his mother. Most of all, though, this is a film about fatherhood and about fathers and sons, culminating in a music choice (Yusaf Islam's "Father And Son") that is no less emotionally affecting for being entirely predictable. Like the first film, the emotional climax features some beautiful final words from a main character that are guaranteed to break your heart into a million pieces: in this case, "He may have been your father, boy, but he wasn't your daddy". Get the best of Den of Geek delivered right to your inbox! read more – Complete Guide to Marvel Easter Eggs in Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Guardians 2 suffers a bit from middle volume syndrome, as Part 2s often do. Some of it is busy tying up loose ends from Vol. 1 (resolving Gamora and Nebula's relationship – which it was required to do to set up Infinity War – showing Baby Groot growing into Teenage Groot, explaining who Peter's biological father was, and resolving Peter and Yondu's relationship). Some of it is busy setting up Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 – Elizabeth Debicki's Ayesha pops up several times without any real resolution, to reappear in Vol. 3, which will presumably also see a clearer resolution to Quill and Gamora's relationship – the events of Infinity War notwithstanding – and Groot Junior will mature to adulthood. Vol. 2 is held together, however, by Kurt Russell's Ego, who largely belongs to this film and to this film alone. This is the story of how Peter found – and lost – his dad and, as such, it stands on its own two feet, despite the amount of work it's doing linking in to at least three other films. There's so much to enjoy here – the excellent de-ageing work on Kurt Russell, more great cameos (Hasselhoff! Stallone! Yeoh!), more great music and colorful space opera. Watched back to back with Guardians 1, Guardians 2 reveals itself as not only "more of the same," but as a deepening and further exploration of the characters introduced in Vol. 1 – which is exactly what a sequel is supposed to do. Standout scene: How to choose? Yondu killing the deeply unpleasant mutineers with his arrow to "Come A Little Bit Closer" is a delight, and Rocket asking everyone if they have tape in the middle of a crisis is genius. But, just like the first Guardians film, this movie's signature scene plays during the opening credits and it's even better and more elaborate. Baby Groot dancing to "Mr. Blue Sky" while everyone else battles a giant tentacled monster sums up everything that's joyously bonkers about the Guardians of The Galaxy franchise. Best quip: It's possibly even harder to choose just one great quip from this movie than it was for the first one, and never would we have guessed the line, "I'm Mary Poppins y'all!" would be both so funny and so touching. But perhaps the film can be best summed up by Groot and Rocket's joint welcome; "He says welcome to the frickin' Guardians of the Galaxy – only he didn't use 'frickin.'" First appearances: Ego the living planet has officially come and gone from the MCU. The universe is expanding, as we meet Ayesha and the gold-skinned inhabitants of the Sovereign. The credits stings also reveal that Ayesha has created a being called "Adam" – this is certainly Adam Warlock, a comics character with multiple ties to Gamora, Thanos and the Infinity Stones, but who is unlikely to reappear in the MCU until the delayed Guardians of The Galaxy Vol. 3. We wrote more about the history of Adam Warlock right here. So long, farewell: Phase 3 of the MCU has been much more trigger-happy and willing to kill off main characters than earlier phases (even apart from Infinity War) and predictably, parents and mentors get the worst of it (T'Chaka, The Ancient One, Odin). Guardians 2 gets in on the theme in a big way by depriving poor Peter Quill of not one, bur two fathers. No one is likely to miss Ego much, as he was clearly a villain, but Yondu's death hurts. We also say goodbye to all the Ravagers that were loyal to Yondu, followed shortly after by all the mutineering Ravagers except for Kraglin. It's all connected: Howard the Duck obviously managed to escape The Collector and got himself to a brothel. Of all the MCU films, this is by far the least connected to the overall narrative. The first Guardians film revolved around an Infinity Stone and featured several characters connected to the wider MCU (Thanos, Ronan, Korath, The Collector). This film, however, deals with Peter's birth father Ego and explores the Guardians characters themselves in more depth. It fleshes out the world of the Guardians' story in ways that will doubtless play into future Guardians films – we learn a lot more about the Ravagers, for example, and we're introduced to the Sovereign. The only real links to the wider MCU, though, are the conversations Gamora and Nebula have about Thanos. Having said that, there are a few connections here: Mantis, Kraglin, and Nebula are added to the Guardians of the Galaxy team. Nebula goes off on her own mission to kill Thanos, but her relationship with Gamora is repaired and that particular goal will inevitably bring her back into the story. We learn why Peter was able to hold an Infinity Stone for a short time – though since he seems to have lost that power this isn't overly useful going forward. Gamora acknowledges the "unspoken thing" between herself and Peter which will… have consequences in Avengers: Infinity War. Jeff Goldblum appears in character as the Grand Master, his character from Thor: Ragnarok, in the 80s yearbook-style credits. Stan Lee's cameos get an in-universe explanation that ties all the films of the MCU together (see below). Credit check: This film appears to be trying to break some kind of record for credit stings – there are five of them! Immediately post the "will return": We see Kraglin trying to learn how to fly Yondu's arrow. Mid-credits: The Ravagers get back together as a team – the original Guardians of the Galaxy from the 1960s comic books – to "steal some shit." Hopefully (considering they include Sylvester Stallone and Michelle Yeoh in full Mirror Universe Empress mode, a glorious combination) this will play in to Guardians 3. read more: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Post Credits Scenes Explained Second mid-credits: The High Priestess has created a "more powerful, more beautiful" thing specifically to destroy the Guardians of the Galaxy, unoriginally called "Adam." This is Adam Warlock from the comics, and will presumably form a plot point in Guardians 3. Nearly at the end credits: Teenage Groot plays computer games all day and won't tidy his room. He even says "I am Groot" in classic teenage boy grunts. Final end credits: Earlier in the movie, we'd seen another fun development of the wider MCU. Audiences knew by now to look out for cameos from the late, great Stan Lee but this one was a bit special, because it implied that in all the other Stan Lee cameos, he was, in fact, playing the same character – an alien Watcher called Uatu who was assigned to observe and record Earth's history. It's a lovely little addition to the mythology for those in the know. In Guardians 2's final credits sting, we see Stan Lee – or Uatu – asking the Watchers how to get out of there (they appear to be hanging around a random asteroid) because they were supposed to be his lift home. It's funny if you don't know the comics context, but it's even funnier if you do. What are your thoughts on Guardians of The Galaxy Vol. 2? Have we missed your favorite moment or reference? Let us know in the comments below… Director: James Gunn Genre: Action, Adventure, Comedy, Sci-Fi, Superhero Release year: 2017 Runtime (length): 2h 16min IMDb rating: 7.6/10 (785K votes) Rotten Tomatoes: 85% Space dads are bad, space sisters need therapy, and Baby Groot is still the cutest thing since sliced bread, all set to a killer mixtape. The Guardians of the Galaxy, now renowned heroes, are hired by the Sovereign, a genetically engineered race, to protect valuable batteries from an inter-dimensional monster. After successfully defeating the monster with a bit of quirky teamwork, the Guardians are betrayed when the Sovereign discover that Rocket Raccoon has stolen some of the batteries for himself. This act of theft sets off a chain of events that puts the Guardians in the crosshairs of the vengeful Sovereign and their armada of drones. As the Sovereign's drones attack the Guardians' ship, a mysterious figure intervenes, destroying the drones but causing the Guardians to crash-land on a nearby planet. The figure reveals himself to be Ego, Peter Quill's long-lost father. Ego, a Celestial being, invites Peter, Gamora, and Drax to his home planet, a paradise he created. Meanwhile, Rocket and Groot stay behind to repair the ship and guard Nebula, Gamora's estranged sister, who is their prisoner. On Ego's planet, Peter learns about his Celestial heritage and begins to develop his own powers. However, as Peter delves deeper into his past, he uncovers Ego's sinister plan. Ego reveals that he has planted seedlings on thousands of worlds, which can only be activated by the combined power of two Celestials, with the goal of terraforming these worlds into extensions of himself. He admits to causing the death of Peter's mother to eliminate the distraction she posed. If you plan to watch the movie first, watch here and come back to this section afterward. The Guardians Unite to Stop Ego Learning of Ego's genocidal plan, Peter turns against his father. Rocket, Yondu, Groot, and Kraglin arrive on Ego's planet to assist. The reunited Guardians fight their way to Ego's brain at the planet's core, battling the Sovereign's drones along the way. Rocket creates a bomb using the stolen batteries, which Groot plants on Ego's brain. Peter battles Ego using his newfound Celestial powers, providing a distraction for the others to escape. Yondu's Sacrifice and Aftermath The bomb explodes, killing Ego and destroying the planet. Yondu sacrifices himself to save Peter, proving himself as Peter's true father figure. The film concludes with a funeral for Yondu, attended by dozens of Ravager ships, who acknowledge his sacrifice and welcome him back into their ranks. Nebula, having reconciled with Gamora, departs to pursue Thanos. The ending underscores themes of found family and the importance of choosing one's own destiny. If you've seen Marvel's space opera Guardians of the Galaxy - "I am Groot!', by the way - you're guaranteed to be interested in its sequel, Guardians of the Galaxy 2. Here, then, is everything you need to know about Chris Pratt's other blockbuster franchise... Details are thin on the ground at the moment, but consider this article (which we'll update as new info drops) your one-stop shop for cast, plot rumours and potential spoilers on Guardians of the Galaxy 2... Related: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 review: Bigger. Better. Grootier It's officially called Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 Marvel Studios The first Guardians featured one heck of a mixtape, the gloriously titled Awesome Mix Vol 1. Now, echoing said worn-out cassette, the name of the sequel itself will reference Star-Lord's much-loved musical mash-up. The actual Awesome Mix Vol 2 already exists, incidentally: "It's already in my head, and every song is in the script, just as I did on the first movie," director James Gunn revealed on Facebook. "I pick every song myself," Gunn added. "There has never been any input from anyone else." Related: 10 things we learned from Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2's first trailer Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 cast: Quill and the gang are back for more Marvel / Disney Chris Pratt's Peter Quill/Star-Lord, Zoe Saldana's Gamora, Dave Bautista's Drax, Vin Diesel's Groot and Bradley Cooper's Rocket Racoon are all officially back, back, back for the sequel, as confirmed by Gunn on his ever-reliable Facebook page. Michael Rooker's Yondu Udonta is rocking a new hairdo (or whatever that thing is on his head) and will graduate to official member of the Guardians, and the director's brother Sean Gunn will reprise his roles as Yondu's pal Kraglin AND the motion capture actor for Rocket. Benicio Del Toro's creepy character the Collector seems to be the only surviving major player not lined up to return at the moment. Marvel Studios Karen Gillan is returning as Thanos's un-favourite daughter Nebula too, with Gunn promising that she's going to be a huge character in the film. According to Saldana she'll be even more "resentful and bitter" than before. Then there are the newcomers, with just one fresh face confirmed so far. Say hello to Pom Klementieff, a French actress best known in Hollywood for her role in Spike Lee's Oldboy remake. After much debate and rumour, Gunn has confirmed that she will play Mantis - a psychic woman born the prophesied saviour of a race of alien trees, because comics. Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige described her to ComicBook.com as someone "who has never really encountered other people and other humans before, humanoids before, and makes Drax look like the most world-savvy person there is". Marvel Studios The director also confirmed another rumour: that Kurt Russell will be in the movie. He has been confirmed as both Star-Lord's father AND Ego the Living Planet. He is literally an intelligent planet with a face, a beard and big dreams of conquest, and we won't have long to wait in the film until he puts in an appearance. We're not quite ready to speculate how he knocked up poor Momma Quill, but we do know that Russell was suggested by Pratt. (Also, it turned out that Fox actually controlled the film rights to Ego, with the studios proving they can get along by agreeing to a swap that allowed Deadpool to alter the powers of one its characters.) Marvel Studios The Man from UNCLE's Elizabeth Debicki will play a lesser-known cosmic character, Ayesha – who has some beef with the Guardians – with The Knick's Chris Sullivan and Sons of Anarchy's Tommy Flanagan added to the lineup in mysterious roles. And Sylvester Stallone will have a cameo, and in a "very, very key important role" no less. He was seen interacting with Yondu in the Comic-Con footage, and the unconfirmed rumour is that he will play the superhero Starhawk – a figure connected to the original comic-book Guardians team. Marvel Studios A surprise, last-minute addition to the cast in Smallville's Michael Rosenbaum, taking on an unknown role somehow linked to Stallone's. That's a lot of actors, but we're still sad to hear that Nathan Fillion's cameo has apparently been cut. The director has hinted that there may be a gay character in the mix. Could it be one of the above? Gunn is returning both on megaphone-waggling and writing duties. He tweeted back in June that he'd completed his first draft, with more, of course, to follow. Soon after Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2's announcement at San Diego Comic-Con 2014, he hinted at newcomers to the team, saying that "at least one more Guardian from the comics" would appear in his script. With over a dozen potential candidates, from the gloriously-named Aldrif Odinsdottir (aka Angela, for a less impressive moniker) to the equally gloriously-named Phyla-Vell, there's a lot of conjecture to be made. Fingers crossed for more Cosmo the Space Dog. Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 plot: Get ready for emotion and daddy issues Gunn revealed that the movie is set only two months after the first film, which presumably places the events before the Avengers-dividing events of Captain America: Civil War. Speaking with Collider, he said: "It's both a bigger movie and a smaller movie because we focus more intensely on some of the characters." Referring to Peter Quill's near-mythological dad hinted at at the end of the first film, he added: "We get to learn a lot more about fathers in the second movie, [So] we focus a lot on that." Gunn has also said on this topic that Quill's father will not be the same character as the one in the original comics, the goofy-sounding (and looking) Prince J'son of Spartoi. We now know that he's actually the aforementioned Ego the Living Planet, which Gunn assures us isn't a spoiler. "Ego is a living planet who is able to manifest himself in different ways," Gunn told Complex. "He's been alone for millions of years and he's learned how to control the molecules around him in such a way as to create avatars of themselves, such as Kurt Russell. "I think Ego was a very lonely character out there by himself and went off in search of love, and perhaps found it in Quill's mother." View full post on Youtube What's more, Chris Pratt told Digital Spy that reading the script for the sequel "brought tears to his eyes". We don't know if that's directly related to finding out that he has tectonic plates and magma in his family tree. And Kurt Russell is pretty happy "It might be one of the best names of a character I ever got a shot at," he said. Marvel Studios Guardians 2 will be charting the rollercoaster of emotions Star-Lord feels about his newly revealed pops, as well as exploring the family relationships forged between the team in the first film. It looks like he might have been changed physically somehow by his exposure to the Orb/Power Stone in the battle with Ronan. Marvel Studios It looks to have one of the biggest female casts in a Marvel movie yet (not exactly a huge feat) and Gunn has promised that it will "run all over" the Bechdel Test, offering well-developed characters of all genders. "Sometimes I think giving women roles in movies isn't about just making them more powerful or stronger or smarter," he told Yahoo! Movies. View full post on X Groot, meanwhile, will have a smaller role (so to speak), with Baby Groot very much still around, having not grown fully by the time we next see him. But he might not be the Groot we remember *sob*. We also know that it won't be a story revolving around one of the two missing Infinity Stones, and that Josh Brolin's Thanos won't be showing up again. In fact, Gunn has said that he's been left to operated pretty much free of MCU continuity. Superhero Adam Warlock (who was teased in the first movie) was considered for a role in Guardians 2, but was eventually left out. Gunn has promised he'll show up in the third film. View full post on X The film will split the team in two, as confirmed by producer Jonathan Schwartz to Screen Rant. "Part of the meta-arc of the movie is what's going to happen to the Guardians family," he said. "Are they going to stay together? So there is a big split that happens relatively early in the movie. Actually, whether they're going to get back together or remain as a family is, very much, one of the big plots, or themes." View full post on Youtube As for an Avengers team-up, we'll probably have to wait until Infinity War, although part of the film (without the Guardians stars) will be set on Earth. Gunn has announced explicitly that "[the Guardians of the Galaxy] will not team up with Hulk", something that's been echoed from the other side of the Marvel coin, with Hawkeye himself, Jeremy Renner, adding: "There's already a lot of people in the Avengers, you want more?! Chris Pratt, I love that guy. I love what they did with Guardians actually, I thought that was one of the funniest movies I've seen in a long time." Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 villains: Old faces (and probably some new) Marvel Studios With plot details still on the light side, not much is known about the Guardians big bad in volume 2. It's likely though Elizabeth Debicki's Ayesha will be at least one of the threats the gang have to deal with. We caught our first glimpse of her in the Superbowl trailer, and James Gunn describers her: "Ayesha is the golden High Priestess of a genetically-perfect people called the Sovereign. She's not a woman to be screwed with – she, and her entire world, are extraordinarily deadly." Gillan's Nebula, shamefully underused in the first film, is now set to take centre stage in the sequel, with Gunn saying, "Nebula is an important character," and Gillan herself promising we will see "a much more human side" to the... uh... alien cyborg. As already noted, the MCU's big bad Thanos (now portrayed by Josh Brolin) won't have another cameo in the new film ahead of his Avengers: Infinity War starring role. Marvel Studios "First of all, it's about two sisters," Gunn told ComicBook.com. "It's not about the sisters and their father. It's about two sisters and what were the sisters' problems with each other. And yeah, some of those things were caused by being raised by the ultimate abusive father, but it really isn't about Thanos, and frankly I just wasn't inspired to put him in the movie. "I kind of go with my gut on these things and it just wasn't what I wanted to do. It wasn't the most fun part of the movie last time for me, and I just didn't really want to do it this time." Marvel Comics As for Quill's dad – in the comics he's always been portrayed at the very least as a pain in the butt, and at his worst a dangerous megalomanic. Gunn is mixing up his identity, but he might still retain his villainous ways – which would certainly be a blow for our little orphan Star-Lord. Gunn has said he would love to feature Marvel villains Annihilus (evil space bug) and Kang the Conqueror (smug time-travelling ne'er-do-well) – but unfortunately, the first is definitely a Fantastic Four villain and therefore a Fox property, and Gunn thinks that Kang is too. He's more an Avengers character as far we're aware, but he probably knows best. It's also been revealed who turned down a role - the villain role, no less - with Matthew McConaughey saying "I am Groot" (meaning "no") to Marvel. Still, imagine if he'd said yes - because that would have been amazing... Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 release date: It's action time @Marvel//Twitter Guardians 2 will be released in the UK on April 28, 2017, and in the US on May 5, 2017. Filming has wrapped on the movie, with Pratt posting pictures of himself (and his body double) all over Instagram in celebration. Instagram Instagram Word from early test screenings is also very positive. What's more, a sequel to the sequel is also on the cards, with Gunn recently announcing on Facebook (yet again) that "if the second one does well [there will be a third]. You guys will have to go and see the second one." "There's a lot of other Marvel cosmic properties that I'd be interested in helping usher to the screen," he added. "I talk about it a lot but, if I said too much, Marvel might track me down and shoot me." Instagram But don't worry, he's not going to be going anywhere other than space when it comes to Marvel: "As long as I'm working with Marvel, I'll probably be working on Guardians and Guardians-related projects." Groot! Sorry, woot! Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2 soundtrack: Feat David Hasselhoff A prominent feature of the first Guardians movie was its '80s-tastic soundtrack, and the second movie will not disappoint on that score. Here is the full track listing for Awesome Mix Vol 2: ELO - 'Mr. Blue Sky Sweet - 'Fox on the Run' Aliotta Haynes Jeremiah - 'Lake Shore Drive' Fleetwood Mac - 'The Chain' Sam Cooke - 'Bring it On Home to Me' Glen Campbell - 'Southern Nights' George Harrison - 'My Sweet Lord' Looking Glass - 'Brandy You're a Fine Girl' Jay and the Americans - 'Come a Little Bit Closer' Silver - 'Wham Bang Shang-A-Lang' Cheap Trick - 'Surrender' Yusuf / Cat Stevens - 'Father and Son' Parliament - 'Flashlight' The Sneepers featuring David Hasselhoff - 'Guardians Inferno' Hugh ArmitageHugh Armitage is Movies Editor at Digital Spy. Movie: Directed by James Gunn. Inciting Event: After Rocket steals the Sovereign people's priceless batteries, the Guardians are saved by a mysterious man riding his own spaceship. This man (Ego) will drive the main conflict, ergo his appearance is the first brush with that conflict. Meanwhile, protagonist Peter Quill's old boss Yondu (who has been kicked out of the Ravagers for trafficking in children) is hired by the Sovereign to fulfill their bounty on the Guardians. First Plot Point: After crashing their ship, Peter and the other Guardians meet Ego—who reveals himself as the father Peter never met (this is the Key Event). At Gamora's urging, Peter takes her and Drax with him to visit Ego's home planet (which Ego himself created). Meanwhile, Rocket and Baby Groot stay behind to repair the ship and are captured when Yondu's crew mutinies and Gamora's vendetta-driven sister Nebula takes over. First Pinch Point: And… this is where the structure largely falls apart. It grazes over its Pinch Points and Midpoint, but it becomes increasingly busy and scattered between its two plotlines (Peter's and Rocket's). It has a ton going on (Peter's relationship with his dad, Rocket and Yondu trying to escape, Nebula coming after Gamora, Mantis hinting to Drax that something deeply sinister is really going on, the Sovereign out for vengeance), but the plotlines don't tie together seamlessly. Peter's plotline with his dad is definitively the main conflict and yet because of Ego's incognito facade as a "nice guy" for most of the movie, there isn't much conflict. Peter's only goal is to learn about Ego; the only nominal obstacle to that goal is Gamora's insistence there's something creepy about Ego. The only true pinch at this point in the story is Yondu's loyal crew members being ejected into space—which raises the stakes for what happens to Rocket (and Yondu—although viewers haven't yet been given a true reason to care about him). In Peter's plotline, there isn't really much of a pinch at all. He arrives on Ego's planet, effectively completing the First Plot Point by entering the Adventure World of the Second Act. However, he doesn't yet have any idea that Ego is a threat. Ego explains who he is and how he met Peter's mother—which will take on a sinister meaning later, but at this point is not a turning point that emphasizes the antagonistic force. Midpoint: Peter learns that, as a half-Celestial, he has the ability to tap into Ego's "planet power." He creates a ball of light and finally realizes his childhood dream of playing catch with his dad. This is a Moment of Truth that turns the plot on the larger scale, but Peter's realization of his power prompts no immediate new goal within the plot. He's pretty much just content to play around, while Gamora tries to convince him something is wrong just because she can't raise Rocket on the com. Meanwhile, Rocket and Yondu once again get the more heavy-duty scene when they engineer an escape and kill off the mutineers. Second Pinch Point: Ego finally reveals his plan to Peter when he tells him he intends to take over the universe by physically inhabiting every planet. However, he requires Peter's powers to augment his own. Mantis confesses to Drax and Gamora that Ego has killed thousands of his own children looking for the one who could tap into the Celestial power. Yondu and Rocket don't experience a "pinch" so much as a late Moment of Truth/mirror moment in which Yondu insists he and Rocket are alike—afraid they will be rejected by the people they love. Third Plot Point: Ego confesses he was the one who implanted the deadly tumor in the brain of Peter's mother. This provides Peter the strength to blast his way through Ego's hypnosis—but only briefly before Ego forces him to become a "battery" that will augment his own power. The rest of the Guardians, including Rocket, finally arrive to temporarily rescue Peter. They to fight their way to the planet core to destroy Ego's brain. Climax: After the Guardians are once again attacked by the Sovereign fleet, they are pushed back onto the defensive by Ego's powers. Peter and Ego battle it out, one on one. Climactic Moment: Peter destroys Ego, and Yondu sacrifices himself to save Peter. Resolution: The Guardians give Yondu the Ravager funeral he always wanted. Notes: Thematically, there is so much great material here. The movie does an excellent job making every single plotline hark back to its main theme of what it really means to be family. That's the saving grace of what is, otherwise, one of the messiest entries in the series. The main conflict is basically a nonstarter for two full acts, right up until Ego actually reveals himself to be the antagonist (up until that point he and Peter do not have any conflicting goals and therefore generate no conflict). Rocket and Yondu's plotline, although arguably the best part of the film, is ultimately extraneous and could have been almost completely yanked from the film without changing the outcome—as could the character of Nebula altogether. The whole framing conflict with the Sovereign at least gets points for coming full circle, but it is also pretty ancillary (although I suspect it's also setup for the next film). The timing's a mess, and the structural beats are weak to nonexistent in places. Objectively, it's not a good movie. But it survives because its parts are significantly better than the whole, with its heaping doses of heart, heroics, and humor. 2017 Marvel Studios film This article is about the 2017 film. For the second volume of the comic book series, see Guardians of the Galaxy (2008 team) § Volume 2 (Abnett and Lanning). "Guardians 2" redirects here. For similar topics, see Guardian II (disambiguation). Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2Theatrical release posterDirected byJames GunnWritten byJames GunnBased onGuardians of the Galaxyby Dan AbnettAndy LanningProduced byKevin FeigeStarring Chris Pratt Zoe Saldaña Dave Bautista Vin Diesel Bradley Cooper Michael Rooker Karen Gillan Pom Klementieff Sylvester Stallone Kurt Russell CinematographyHenry BrahamEdited by Fred Raskin Craig Wood Music byTyler BatesProductioncompanyMarvel StudiosDistributed byWalt Disney StudiosMotion PicturesRelease dates April 10, 2017 (2017-04-10) (Tokyo) May 5, 2017 (2017-05-05) (United States) Running time136 minutes[1]CountryUnited StatesLanguageEnglishBudget$200 million[2]Box office$869 million[2][3] Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 is a 2017 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team Guardians of the Galaxy, produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. It is the sequel to Guardians of the Galaxy (2014) and the 15th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Written and directed by James Gunn, the film stars an ensemble cast featuring Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldaña, Dave Bautista, Vin Diesel, Bradley Cooper, Michael Rooker, Karen Gillan, Pom Klementieff, Sylvester Stallone, and Kurt Russell. In the film, the Guardians travel throughout the cosmos as they help Peter Quill (Pratt) learn more about his mysterious parentage. The film was officially announced at the 2014 San Diego Comic-Con before the theatrical release of the first film, along with Gunn's return as writer and director from the first film, with the title of the sequel revealed a year later in June 2015. Principal photography began in February 2016 at Pinewood Atlanta Studios in Fayette County, Georgia, with many crew changes from the first film due to other commitments. Filming concluded in June 2016. Gunn chose to set the sequel shortly after the first film to explore the characters' new roles as the Guardians, and to follow the storyline of Quill's father established throughout that previous film. Russell was confirmed as Quill's father in July 2016, portraying Ego, a departure from Quill's comic father. Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 premiered in Tokyo on April 10, 2017, and was released in the United States on May 5, 2017, as part of Phase Three of the MCU. It grossed more than $869 million worldwide, making it the eighth-highest-grossing film of 2017, while also outgrossing its predecessor. The film received praise for its visuals, direction, soundtrack, action sequences, humor, and performances, though some critics deemed it inferior to the original. It received a nomination for Best Visual Effects at the 90th Academy Awards. A sequel, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3, was released on May 5, 2023, preceded by the Disney+ special The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special in November 2022. In 2014, Peter Quill, Gamora, Drax, Rocket, and Baby Groot are renowned as the Guardians of the Galaxy. High Priestess Ayesha of the Sovereign race has the Guardians protect valuable Anulax batteries from an Abilisk, an inter-dimensional monster, in exchange for Nebula, Gamora's estranged sister, who was caught attempting to steal the batteries. After Rocket steals the batteries for himself, the Sovereign attacks the Guardians' ship with a fleet of drones. A mysterious figure destroys the drones and the Guardians crash-land on nearby planet Berhert. The figure reveals himself as Ego, Quill's father, and he introduces Mantis, his naïve empath servant. Ego invites Quill, Gamora, and Drax to his home planet, while Rocket and Groot remain behind to repair the ship and watch Nebula. Ayesha hires Yondu Udonta and his crew, who have been exiled from the greater Ravager community by Ravager leader Stakar Ogord for child trafficking, to recapture the Guardians. They capture Rocket, but when Yondu hesitates to turn over Quill, whom he raised, his lieutenant Kraglin Obfonteri questions his objectivity, and Taserface, another lieutenant, leads a mutiny, aided by Nebula, who shoots Yondu. Taserface executes Yondu's loyalists, and imprisons him and Rocket aboard Yondu's ship. Nebula leaves to find and kill Gamora, whom she blames for the torture inflicted on her by Thanos, their adoptive father. Kraglin, who is remorseful and never signed up for a mutiny, helps Groot free Rocket and Yondu, and while escaping, the group set the ship to self-destruct using Yondu's arrow. Taserface informs the Sovereign before being killed by the explosion. Ego, a god-like Celestial that manipulated the matter around his consciousness to form his "home" planet, explains that he projected a humanoid guise to travel the universe and discover a purpose, eventually falling in love with Quill's mother Meredith. Ego hired Yondu to collect the young Quill after Meredith's death, but the boy was never delivered, and Ego has been searching for him ever since. He teaches Quill to manipulate his inherited Celestial power, while Mantis grows close to Drax and tries to warn him of Ego's plans. Nebula arrives at Ego's planet and tries to kill Gamora, but the pair reconcile and reach an uneasy alliance, soon discovering a cavern filled with skeletal remains. Ego brainwashes Quill and reveals that in his travels, he planted seedlings on thousands of worlds that can terraform into new extensions of himself, but only the power of two Celestials can activate them. He adds that he impregnated countless women and hired Yondu to collect their offspring but killed them all when they failed to inherit his Celestial power. When Ego admits that he gave Meredith the brain tumor that killed her, an infuriated Quill breaks out of his brainwashing and violently attacks him. Ego then parasitically draws Quill's energy to activate the seedlings, which begin to consume the worlds on which they are planted. Rocket, Yondu, Groot, and Kraglin arrive, and together with Mantis, Drax, Nebula and Gamora, they rescue Quill. The reunited Guardians travel to Ego's brain at the planet's core, where Yondu reveals that he kept Quill to spare him from Ego. As the Sovereign's drones return and attack, Rocket makes a bomb using the stolen batteries, which Groot plants on Ego's brain. Quill uses his newfound Celestial powers to fight Ego, distracting him long enough for the other Guardians and Mantis to escape. The bomb explodes, killing Ego and disintegrating the planet, but also draining Quill of his Celestial powers. Yondu sacrifices himself to save Quill by letting himself die in the vacuum of space. Despite having reconciled with Gamora, Nebula chooses to leave and resume her quest to kill Thanos. The Guardians, with Mantis as a new member, hold a funeral for Yondu as dozens of Ravager ships arrive, having heard of Yondu's sacrifice and accept him as a Ravager again. In a series of mid-and post-credit scenes, Kraglin takes up Yondu's telekinetic arrow and control-fin; Ogord reunites with his ex-teammates and fellow Ravager captains; Ayesha creates Adam, a new artificial being with whom she plans to destroy the Guardians;[a] and Groot grows into a teenager.[b] From left to right: Rooker, Pratt, Saldaña, Gillan, Klementieff, Bautista, Debicki, and Russell promoting the film at the 2016 San Diego Comic Con Chris Pratt as Peter Quill / Star-Lord:The half-human, half-Celestial leader of the Guardians of the Galaxy who was abducted from Earth as a child and raised by a group of alien thieves and smugglers called the Ravagers.[8][9] Pratt, who returns as part of a multi-film contract with Marvel,[10] said Quill is now famous throughout "the galaxy for having saved so many people... He feels like he's part of this group, a leader of this group. He's a little more responsible and trying to stay out of trouble, but not necessarily doing the best job."[11] Pratt stated that working on the film forced him to come to terms with the death of his own father.[12] Wyatt Oleff once again portrays a young Quill.[13] Zoe Saldaña as Gamora:A member of the Guardians and an orphan from an alien world who seeks redemption for her past crimes. She was trained by Thanos to be his personal assassin.[9] Saldaña described Gamora's role in the team as "the voice of reason", saying, "She's surrounded by all these dudes who are so stupid half the time,"[14] and added that she is the "Mom" of the team, saying that she is "just a meticulous, detailed, professional individual."[15] Regarding Gamora's relationship with Nebula, Saldaña described it as "volatile" and added, "we're starting somewhere very crazy but appropriate given where we had ended things off in the first installment".[16] Dave Bautista as Drax the Destroyer:A member of the Guardians and highly skilled warrior.[9] Bautista waited for the final version of the script to not take "away from the magic", which he felt had happened when he read early drafts of the first film.[17] He added that "I wasn't crazy about my part [in Vol. 2, initially]. It went a different direction than what I thought they were going to go with Drax," noting he did not "think Drax was that significant in the film". The part "clicked" for Bautista after the table read with the other cast.[18] Bautista called Drax "more funny, driven" than in the first film,[19] and having "a sense of innocence and heartbreak about him",[14] despite "most people's first perception of Drax [that] he's just a big, muscly brute".[19] Bautista's makeup took only 90 minutes to apply, down from four hours for the first film. He would have to sit in a sauna at the end of the day to get the makeup off, after his makeup test was found to be too "abrasive".[15] Vin Diesel as Baby Groot:A member of the Guardians who is a tree-like humanoid and the accomplice of Rocket.[20] The character began growing from a sapling at the end of the first film, with James Gunn intending for him to be fully grown by the sequel. Gunn eventually decided to keep him as "Baby Groot", which was one of the reasons the film is set only a few months after the first.[21] Gunn described Baby Groot as the son of Groot from the first film,[22] with Diesel explaining that "we're going to see this goofy, adorable, baby Groot [just] kinda learning as he goes."[23][24] Prop master Russell Bobbitt created a 1:1 scale model of the 10-inch (25 cm) Baby Groot for filming, to use as a lighting reference and sometimes as a puppet for the actors to interact with.[25] As Groot only communicates with the phrase "I am Groot" in different inflections, Gunn created a "Groot Version" of the script for himself and Diesel, which contains each of Groot's lines in English.[26] Diesel used a higher register of his voice for Baby Groot, which was pitched up by seven to nine semitones depending on the take. He also delivered lines slowly to avoid any time stretching issues.[27] Diesel recorded Groot's voice for sixteen foreign-language releases of the film (up from six in the first film).[28] Sean Gunn provided on-set reference for adolescent Groot in the post-credit sequence.[29] Bradley Cooper as Rocket:A member of the Guardians who is a genetically engineered raccoon-based bounty hunter, mercenary, and master of weapons and battle tactics.[9] Sean Gunn once again served as the stand-in for the character during filming,[30] with Cooper's performance also referenced.[29] Sean Gunn said that "Rocket has the same sort of crisis of faith [that he had in the first film] about whether or not he belongs in this family",[31] with James Gunn adding, "this is really about Rocket coming to terms with accepting his place within a group of people, which probably seemed like a good idea" when they were heroes together at the end of the first film, but now "he's just not very comfortable with the idea". Feige stated that the relationship between Rocket and Groot has changed, saying, "Groot was Rocket's protector in the first movie, [and now] Rocket is Groot's protector."[15] Michael Rooker as Yondu Udonta:A blue-skinned buccaneer of the Ravagers who is a fatherly figure to Quill and member of the Guardians. He is also the former deputy to Ayesha.[32][33] Yondu has a larger head fin in the film, to look closer to his comic counterpart,[34] and Rooker worked with the prosthetic department to add gaps to his prosthetic teeth, "just like real teeth", to aid him in whistling as the character.[35] Rooker explained that, for the sequel, Gunn "wanted people to experience more in-depth what Yondu was thinking and how he's feeling—a more serious Yondu." Rooker noted the complex relationship between Yondu and Quill where "we don't agree on things...they are constantly at each other's throats [but] Yondu truly cares about this kid."[36] Gunn was reluctant to kill Yondu in the film, but ultimately felt that "this is a story about a father's love for his son, his ultimate love, so much love that he sacrifices himself for that, and that's what Yondu is. He is 100 percent Peter Quill's father" despite Ego being Quill's biological father.[37] Before the release of Vol. 2, Rooker spent time on the set of Avengers: Infinity War (2018) to counteract rumors that the reason his character would not appear in that film was that he would die in this one.[38] Karen Gillan as Nebula:An adopted daughter of Thanos who was raised with Gamora as sisters and a former enemy of the Guardians.[16] Gillan stated the film would further explore the sisterly relationship between Nebula and Gamora,[39] including their backstory "and what happened to these two girls growing up and actually how awful it was for them and how it has ruined their relationship",[15] adding "we're [also] going to start to see how much pain [Thanos] actually caused [Nebula]... we really start to see the emotional crack in her character".[40] While Gillan had to shave her head for the first film, she only had to shave half of her head for the sequel, taking away the underneath part and leaving the top.[40] Gillan's makeup took two and a half hours to apply, down from five hours for the first film.[25] Pom Klementieff as Mantis:A mantis-like creature and member of the Guardians with empathic powers who lives with Ego.[15][41] Executive producer Jonathan Schwartz said the character "has never really experienced social interaction", and learns about "social intricacies" from the other Guardians.[42] Klementieff added, "She was really lonely and by herself, so it's a completely new thing to meet these people and to discover new things", comparing this to a child making awkward mistakes in social situations. Mantis and Drax have an "interesting" relationship in the film due to both being "complete odd balls".[15] Steve Englehart, Mantis' co-creator, was disappointed with the character's portrayal, saying, "That character has nothing to do with Mantis ... I really don't know why you would take a character who is as distinctive as Mantis is and do a completely different character and still call her Mantis."[43] Sylvester Stallone as Stakar Ogord:A high-ranking Ravager who holds a grudge against Yondu.[44] Stallone likened his character's relationship with Yondu to a father-son relationship, and called the confrontation they have in the film "pretty intense".[36] For Stakar's acceptance of Yondu as a Ravager at the end of the film, Gunn asked Stallone to channel the "That'll do, pig" line from the film Babe (1995).[45] Gunn described Stakar as "very important to the Marvel Universe",[46] and said that "it's our plan to see more of Stallone" in future MCU films, though he was not sure then if that would include Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (2023).[47] Kurt Russell as Ego:An ancient Celestial who is Quill's father.[34][48] Russell portrays an avatar of Ego who is more traditionally seen in the comics in his "Living Planet" form. Pratt suggested Russell for the role,[49] and Russell appreciated why he was wanted after seeing Pratt's performance in the first film, feeling, "That's my kinda guy. I know where that kind of goof comes from". He added, "I bring the right things [from previous roles]... I connected the dots from some of the things I've done in the past".[50] Pratt felt Quill would know what Kurt Russell looks like and should point out that Ego looks like Russell, but Gunn rejected the idea.[51] Ego replaces Quill's original comic book father J'son,[52] and was allowed to be used in the film after 20th Century Fox reached a deal with Marvel Studios to return Ego's film rights in exchange for changing the power set of Negasonic Teenage Warhead, whom Fox wanted to use in Deadpool (2016).[53] Gunn originally thought Marvel held the rights to Ego and stated that, had the deal with Fox not been made, there was "no back up plan, and it would [have been] nearly impossible to just drop another character in" given the extensive work done surrounding the character.[54] For the film's opening sequence, set in 1980 Missouri, Aaron Schwartz served as facial reference for the young Ego.[55][56] Elizabeth Debicki appears as Ayesha, the golden High Priestess and the leader of the Sovereign people,[48][57][58] a genetically engineered race who are "gold and perfect and wanting to be physically and mentally impeccable". Gunn was "very specific" when writing the character, and after casting director Sarah Finn suggested Debicki, Gunn "knew right away that she was the one". Gunn highlighted the actress' beauty and 6 ft 3 in (1.91 m) height. Debicki wore platform shoes to increase her height to 6 ft 7 in (2.01 m).[36] Chris Sullivan portrays Taserface, the leader of a mutinous group of the Ravagers.[48][58] Gunn originally posted a photo of the comic book character on his social media after landing Guardians of the Galaxy, calling him "the dumbest character of all time" and saying he would never feature the character in a film. After eventually deciding to use the character in the sequel, Gunn felt the character had given himself the name Taserface and is "a real dumbass".[59] Sullivan's makeup took two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half hours to apply each day.[60] Sean Gunn appears as Kraglin Obfonteri, Yondu's second-in-command in the Ravagers.[61] Kraglin has an expanded role compared to the previous film—Sean Gunn explained, "In the first film he did a lot of just saying yes and being at Yondu's side, but in this movie things take a little bit of a different turn as Kraglin has a little bit of a crisis of conscience and has to decide whether he's going to stick with Yondu or join forces with the growing faction of mutineers."[36][62] Additionally, reprising their roles from the first film are Laura Haddock as Meredith Quill, Gregg Henry as her father Jason, Seth Green as the voice of Howard the Duck, and canine actor Fred as Cosmo.[56][63][64] Members of Yondu's Ravager crew appearing in the film include Evan Jones as Retch, Jimmy Urine as Half-Nut, Stephen Blackehart as Brahl,[58] Steve Agee as Gef,[58][65] Mike Escamilla as Scrote,[66] Joe Fria as Oblo, Terence Rosemore as Narblik,[58] and Tommy Flanagan as Tullk,[58][67][68] as well as Charred Walls of the Damned drummer and Howard Stern Show personality Richard Christy in a cameo appearance.[69] The other members of Stakar and Yondu's old team, based on the comic's original incarnation of the Guardians of the Galaxy, include Michael Rosenbaum as Martinex, Ving Rhames as Charlie-27, and Michelle Yeoh as Aleta Ogord.[47][64] Also included in the team are the CG characters Krugarr and Mainframe, with the latter voiced, in an uncredited cameo, by Miley Cyrus.[47][70] Rosenbaum had previously auditioned to play Peter Quill in Vol. 1.[71] Gunn cast Yeoh because of his love of 1990s Hong Kong films,[72] and Cyrus after admiring "the tone of her voice" while watching her as a coach on The Voice.[70] He added that the team would return in future MCU films alongside Stallone's Stakar.[47] Stan Lee appears as an informant to the Watchers, discussing previous adventures that include his cameos in other MCU films; he specifically mentions his time as a FedEx delivery man, which connects to Lee's cameo as a FedEx delivery man in Captain America: Civil War (2016).[73] This acknowledged the fan theory that Lee may be portraying the same character in all his cameos,[74] with Gunn noting that "people thought Stan Lee is a Watcher and that all of these cameos are part of him being a Watcher. So, Stan Lee as a guy who is working for the Watchers was something that I thought was fun for the MCU."[73][74] Feige added that Lee "clearly exists, you know, above and apart from the reality of all the films. So the notion that he could be sitting there on a cosmic pit stop during the jump gate sequence in Guardians...really says, so wait a minute, he's this same character who's popped up in all these films?"[75] Lee filmed several different versions of the scene, including an alternative where he references his role in Deadpool, which would have been the first acknowledgment of the X-Men film series by an MCU film.[74] Gunn later admitted that the Civil War reference is a continuity error, given Vol. 2 is set before the events of Civil War, saying, "I screwed up; I wasn't thinking. But I'm going to say that probably Stan Lee used the guise of a FedEx guy more than one time."[73] David Hasselhoff makes a cameo appearance as himself, when Ego shape-shifts to his likeness,[13] while Rob Zombie once again has a Ravager voice cameo.[56][76] Footage of Jeff Goldblum dancing as the Grandmaster from the set of Thor: Ragnarok (2017) is used briefly during the end credits, with Feige explaining that Marvel "thought it would be fun to put it in there" especially since the comic version of Grandmaster is the brother of the Collector, who appeared in the first Guardians film.[77] Ben Browder, the star of the series Farscape, of which Gunn is an avid fan, cameos as a Sovereign Admiral.[78] Molly Quinn appears as Howard the Duck's date.[13] Jim Gunn Sr. and Leota Gunn, parents of James and Sean Gunn, also make cameo appearances in the film as an elderly couple on Earth.[79] Jimmy Kimmel Live!'s Guillermo Rodriguez has an uncredited cameo appearance as a police officer on Earth when the seedling was terraforming.[80][81] "There are general ideas for what the sequel is and where it goes and who's involved and what happens and what we find out about our characters. So it's very general and that could change ... but I know a lot about who these characters are and where they came from and where they're going. I'm excited by the possibility of creating a sequel because we had to do a lot of setup in [the first] movie and with a sequel we don't have to do that setup which will make it so much easier for me." —James Gunn, writer and director of Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2, on the state of the sequel in August 2014[82] In May 2014, Disney CEO Bob Iger stated he felt the first Guardians of the Galaxy film (2014) had "strong franchise potential".[83] He added that their goal was to create "another Avengers (2012)".[84] James Gunn, who directed and co-wrote the first film, said that he would like to return for a sequel, and that he was contractually obligated to if asked.[85] The next month, producer Kevin Feige said there are "places we can take [the franchise] and we have ideas of where we'd like to go" based on the wide array of characters, worlds and storylines from the comics.[86] In July 2014, Guardians of the Galaxy co-screenwriter Nicole Perlman confirmed a sequel, saying it was "going to happen" due to the positive internal response to the first film at Disney, and that Gunn would write and direct.[87][88] At San Diego Comic-Con soon after, the sequel was given a release date of July 28, 2017.[89] Gunn had begun work on the film within a month, and said it would include at least one new Guardian from the comics.[90][91] In October, Gunn confirmed that all five original Guardians would return for the sequel, along with other supporting characters,[92] and the release date was moved up to May 5, 2017.[93] In the following months, Michael Rooker said he would return as Yondu Udonta, and was looking forward to exploring new areas of the character.[32][94] Chris Pratt, who played Peter Quill/Star-Lord in the first film, confirmed the sequel would be one of his next projects.[8] Bradley Cooper expressed interest and excitement when asked if he would return as Rocket.[95] Vin Diesel also confirmed he would return as Groot.[20] In March 2015, Gunn revealed that filming would take place in Atlanta, Georgia with "major crew changes" from the first film, and that his brother, Sean Gunn, would return as Kraglin Obfonteri alongside Karen Gillan as Nebula.[61][96] He explained his relationship with Marvel Studios, saying the company "let me go and do my thing, and I truly listen to their notes and ideas. I've never been told to put in any character or plot element at all... When they trust you they give you a wide berth... we just fit".[96] In May, Gunn said the sequel would feature fewer characters than the first film, and that he had planned to introduce two major new characters in the script—Mantis and Adam Warlock.[5][9] Talks had begun with an actor Gunn had in mind to portray Mantis,[97] while he had decided to remove Warlock due to the film "getting too busy", explaining, "one of the main things with Guardians of the Galaxy is not to add a bunch of characters, not to make it bigger in that way but to go deeper with the characters... and getting to know them more emotionally... everything is just getting too sprawling and too crazy for me in these superhero comic book movies".[9] Gunn added, "I adored what we had done with him. I think we did something really creative and unique with Adam Warlock. But it was one character too many and I didn't want to lose Mantis and Mantis was more organically part of the movie anyway".[5] He noted that Warlock could appear in future Guardians films, and is considered "a pretty important part" of the cosmic side of the Marvel Cinematic

Universe.[5][98] The character's future introduction is hinted at in one of the film's mid-credits scenes.[4] Gunn noted that Marvel gave him "some blowback" for including the Warlock teaser because they felt fans would believe the character would be appearing in Avengers: Infinity War (2018) and Avengers: Endgame (2019), which was not the case. By including the scene, Gunn promised Marvel he would use his social media presence to clarify for fans that the character would not be seen in either of the Avengers films.[99] After the film's announcement, Gunn said he knew "a lot of where I want to go [in the sequel]",[100] having written the backstory of Peter Quill, his father and his history with Yondu during the making of the first film with the intention of exploring them in a future film.[21] Gunn's earliest idea for a Guardians sequel involved Rocket and Groot starring as the main characters in a story fleshing out the former's origin story, but Gunn felt that he had to flesh out Peter Quill's origins first.[101] Gunn wanted to give the sequel a different structure from the first film, since "one of the reasons people like Guardians is because it's fresh and different, so the second one will be fresh and different from the first one".[102] Before starting on the script, Gunn hoped to further explore Drax, Nebula, Kraglin and the Collector and expand on Xandarian, Kree, Krylorian and Ravager culture.[100][103] He also hoped to introduce more female characters in the sequel, though wanted to avoid including "earthlings" such as Carol Danvers,[104] as well as Novas Richard Rider or Sam Alexander, saying, "I think Quill being the only earthling is important. That serves the entire movie-going audience and not just the handful of Nova [and Carol Danvers] fans".[105] The character Darkhawk had also been considered for the film.[106] Feige said exploring Quill's father "would certainly be part of a next Guardians adventure", adding "I think there's a reason we seeded it at the very end of the [first] film like that".[107] Gunn also stated that he wanted to make sure "Yondu's place in everything made sense" in regards to his relationship to Quill and his father, and also revealed Quill's father would not be J'son as in the comics.[52] Gunn "was less confident [Marvel] was going to buy in on Baby Groot than" including Ego, since "adult Groot was the most popular character from the first film and I didn't think they'd want to risk a good thing". However, by changing Groot, Gunn felt it "opened the film up" creatively, allowing Gunn to bring out "new aspects of our other characters".[108] Gunn said Thanos would only appear in the sequel "if he helps our story and he will not show up at all if not. Thanos is not the most important thing in Guardians 2, that's for damn sure. There's the Guardians themselves and other threats the Guardians are going to be facing that are not Thanos".[52] Feige later confirmed that Thanos would not appear in the sequel, as he was being saved for a "grander" return.[109][110] When asked about how the film would connect with the other Phase Three films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Gunn said, "I don't feel beholden to that stuff at all. I think it's really about the Guardians and what they are doing".[111] Gunn set the film two to three months after the first film[98][112] "because he felt the group are just such fragile egos and he didn't think this story could start years later".[98] Major planets visited in the film include Sovereign, Berhart and Contraxia. Feige also stated two or three other worlds would be seen, as well as "a little bit of Earth in this film, but it's not these characters going to Earth".[15] In December 2014, Gunn revealed the story for the film was written, saying, "It's [still] constantly shifting, but I feel like it's pretty strong. I'm excited about it".[113] By early February 2015, Gunn was "a few short weeks" away from submitting a full story treatment to Marvel, and said that when he first presented his idea for the sequel to the company they thought it was "risky". He described it as "not really based on anything" from the comics, being mainly an original story.[114][115] Gunn later referred to the full treatment as a "scriptment", "a 70-page combination of a script and a treatment and it goes through every beat of the movie".[9] By April, he was preparing to write the screenplay,[114] and in May he was hoping to complete the script before he began work on The Belko Experiment (2016) in June 2015.[97] As he developed the story, Gunn considered to have Gamora killed off due to Zoe Saldaña's original expectations to only play the role in the first film.[116] As he knew that Saldaña did not wish to play Gamora for a few years, Gunn considered to have Gamora sacrifice herself at the end of the film to save Peter so he could learn about himself, but Feige and Louis D'Esposito talked Gunn out from taking that decision because it did not work well with the story, in addition to their plans to have Gamora die in Infinity War instead as the Russo brothers informed Gunn during months of planning Vol. 2.[117] After discussing it with Marvel and realizing that it would be better for Gamora to die in the third Avengers film,[118] Gunn ultimately concluded that the story naturally progressed in a way that insisted that Yondu Udonta should be the one to die at the end to rescue Quill despite Gunn's initial reluctance in killing off Michael Rooker's character due to their friendship, but in retrospective, Gunn felt that the story worked out in a perfect way to set up Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (2023).[117] Gunn promoting Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 at the 2016 San Diego Comic-Con On June 2, 2015, Gunn announced on social media that he had completed the first draft of the screenplay, and that the film's title would not simply be Guardians of the Galaxy 2.[119] The same week, he confirmed the return of Saldaña, Dave Bautista and Cooper as Gamora, Drax and Rocket, respectively.[9] At the end of the month, Gunn announced the film would be titled Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,[120] saying he "came up with a LOT of titles for Vol. 2. But because 'Guardians of the Galaxy' is already so wordy, it seemed strange to add another bunch of words after it. I liked Vol. 2 the best, so that's what I stuck on the cover of the screenplay—and, fortunately, [Marvel] liked it".[121] In September 2015, Gunn said in a Facebook post that he wanted to use Sneepers, an alien race that first appeared in Marvel Comics in 1964, as background characters in the film, but was advised against it by Marvel's legal department because the name was too similar to snípur, the Icelandic word for clitoris.[122] The Marvel legal department later cleared the use of Sneepers in the film, in part because of all the media coverage Gunn's initial post received.[123] At the end of the month, Feige stated casting announcements would be made before the end of 2015,[124] and by the end of October, Pom Klementieff was cast as Mantis.[41][125] Also, it was reported that Matthew McConaughey had recently turned down the role of "the villain" in the film,[126] in favor of The Dark Tower (2017). McConaughey felt he would have been "an amendment" in Vol. 2 in "a colorful part [made] for another big-name actor".[127] In December, Gunn said that he was corresponding with John C. Reilly about him reprising his role as Nova Corpsman Rhomann Dey,[128] while Kurt Russell entered early talks to play Quill's father.[129] After the death of David Bowie in January 2016, Gunn said that there had been discussions for Bowie to appear in the film as a member of Yondu's original crew.[130][131] Gunn also stated that he had completed the final draft of the script.[132] Benicio del Toro, who portrayed the Collector in the first film, expressed interest in portraying the character again, despite Marvel not contacting him about the sequel;[133] Gunn explained that the Collector "just didn't fit" into Vol. 2.[134] In early February, comedian Steve Agee was revealed to be in the film.[65] Prop master Russell Bobbitt had difficulty finding the cassette decks that had been used in the first film, and all of the Sony Walkman headsets they sourced for the sequel were broken. Sony also did not have any headsets available for filming, while three pairs Bobbitt found on eBay cost around $1,800 and were not the exact model. Bobbitt eventually created six from scratch for Vol. 2. Other props he created for the film included two sets of blasters for Quill, with removable blaster cartridges, and "steampunk-looking weapons and belts" for the Ravagers;[25] Bobbitt explained that four different weapons were designed for the latter group, and then 15–20 versions of those were produced to be used by the various Ravager actors (there could be up to 85–95 Ravagers per scene). For their belts, the props team cut the leather themselves rather than buying existing belts, and then parts from different electronic devices such as radios and cell phones were glued together to make each belt "a unique piece of art". The prop department also made edible props for certain scenes: a prop of a stinkbug-inspired insect was made from chocolate and injected with black honey so it could be eaten on screen and "when he bit down the honey poured out of his mouth"; similarly, a "yarrow root" was designed based on enlarged images of pollen, and then created with non-dairy white chocolate to be eaten onscreen.[36] Pre-shooting began on February 11, 2016,[135] at Pinewood Atlanta Studios in Fayette County, Georgia,[136] under the working title Level Up,[98] with Henry Braham serving as cinematographer and Scott Chambliss as production designer.[9][137] Gunn noted that many of the crew from the first film, such as cinematographer Ben Davis and production designer Charles Wood, signed on to work on Doctor Strange (2016), and due to a late change in production schedule for that film, were unable to work on Vol. 2.[138][139] Principal photography began on February 17,[48] with Marvel confirming that Russell had joined the cast, and revealing that Elizabeth Debicki and Chris Sullivan had also been cast, all in undisclosed roles.[48] The production used all 18 stages at Pinewood Atlanta Studios, an increase in stage space from what was used for the first film. Gunn said the sequel required more sets than the first and "our sets are very large, even though a lot of the film is CGI. I like to have as many practical sets as we can and make the environments as real as possible so it balances out the CGI elements". Despite this, Gunn noted that there were less locations featured in the sequel, with the focus instead on being more specific and detailed with fewer places shown. Sets constructed for the film included several for the Sovereign planet, for which Chambliss used a "1950s pulp fiction variation on 1930s art deco design aesthetic"; the Ravager's main ship in the film, the Eclector, which was constructed in sections to provide a complete 360-degree view of the ship as well as the ability to move sections around and portray different areas of the ship; and the Iron Lotus establishment on the "pleasure planet" of Contraxia, which Chambliss wanted to feel like it had been put together from "a whole yard of repurposed junk where old spaceships are cast away and industrial materials that aren't of use anymore are just left to rot", creating a "kind of neon jungle in its own way and covered in ice and snow". Interiors for other ships were also constructed, to limit the amount of blue screen the actors had to interact with;[36] this includes the cockpit of Quill's ship that had been built for the first film before being stored in London which was transported to Atlanta for the sequel.[140] Originally shot was a scene featuring Star-Lord and Gamora kissing, establishing themselves as a couple, but Gunn ultimately cut the scene due to feeling that the kiss happened in a "weird time". He would later beg the Infinity War filmmakers to include the kiss there.[118] Vol. 2 was the first film to be shot with an 8K resolution camera, the Red Weapon 8K.[141] Braham had wanted to use a different camera than the Alexa 65 that had been used for several other Marvel films, because he found it to be a "very big and heavy camera". He wanted a camera that could deliver equivalent image quality to the Alexa 65, and tested multiple options. He eventually met with Red employees, whom he had a positive experience with working on The Legend of Tarzan (2016), and they introduced him to an early prototype for the Weapon 8K. He, Gunn, and Marvel decided to use the camera in September 2015, when only that single prototype existed, and spent three months working with Red to get the camera ready for filming.[140] For the sequence where Rocket and Yondu escape from the Ravagers, a Phantom Camera was used to film scenes up to 2,000 frames per second, with the footage able to be moved from slow-motion to high-speed within a single shot. Each shot using the camera had to be carefully set up and choreographed.[142] Additional scenes were also shot in IMAX and its aspect ratio.[98] Braham filmed almost 85 percent of the film using a stabilizing technology he had contributed to called Stabileye, which he called "a handheld dolly" which allowed "a spontaneity to the way the camera moves that is different and that feel appropriate for this movie". For filming the cockpits of spaceships, Braham surrounded the practical sets with video panels and other light sources that he could use to create realistic lighting no matter the environment outside the ship. Exteriors of the ships were filmed with the camera on a technocrane, but any shots inside the cockpits again used the Stabileye which is "so small that you can get it in there next to the actors".[140] In April 2016, Gunn revealed that Reilly would not be part of the film, and stated that there were many other characters he could not include in the film due to rights issues, saying that 20th Century Fox "owns so many awesome cosmic villains and minor characters that I'd love to play around with" such as Annihilus and Kang the Conqueror.[134] Gunn also planned on filming scenes with Glenn Close, reprising her role as Nova Prime Irani Rael from the first film.[21]:4 When filming Stan Lee's cameo, Gunn also filmed two other cameo appearances with Lee including one for Doctor Strange, to limit the amount of travel Lee had to do.[79][143] Additional filming for Vol. 2 took place in Cartersville, Georgia,[144] a state park north of Portland, Oregon,[29] and in St. Charles, Missouri.[145] The Georgia International Convention Center served as additional soundstage space after pre-production on Spider-Man: Homecoming (2017) began at several Pinewood Atlanta Studios soundstages.[98] Principal photography wrapped on June 16, 2016.[146] At San Diego Comic-Con in 2016, Russell and Debicki were revealed to be playing Ego, Quill's father, and Ayesha, respectively.[34] Sylvester Stallone was also revealed to be in the film,[34] with his role later revealed as Stakar Ogord.[44] Gunn also introduced multiple actors who were playing Ravager characters, since the Ravagers have a larger presence in the film.[58] On the decision to reveal Russell as Ego and Quill's father when he did, Gunn felt that since "people were going to figure it out eventually [...] it was better that we took the reins in our own hands" and make the reveal. Gunn also felt that this would move the focus of audiences from wanting to discover who Quill's father is to "the story and the relationship that these characters have".[147] In August 2016, Gunn confirmed the film would feature a post-credits scene,[112] later stating there would be five in total, with four mid-credits scenes and one post-credits.[148][149] Gunn also planned a sixth scene, where the Ravager Gef is found "mortally wounded" on the ship, but "it ended up being a little confusing".[150] In November, Gillan revealed that the film was undergoing reshoots.[151] That February, it was reported that the film had scored a perfect 100 in test screenings, the highest for any Marvel Studios film. The Hollywood Reporter noted this score could not necessarily be compared to any non-Marvel movies due to Marvel's specific testing process that selects its audience "from a more select pool of recruits, what it terms 'friends and families screenings'".[152] In March 2017, Gunn revealed that Michael Rosenbaum would appear in the film,[46] and that Gunn would provide reference for Baby Groot's dancing "in a much bigger way [than the first film]. I actually had to do like a full day's worth of dancing to get Groot's dance down this time. Last time it was me in front of an iPhone, and this time it's me dancing on a huge soundstage and shooting it from five different angles".[153] Fred Raskin and Craig Wood returned from the first film to serve as editors.[48] On scenes that were cut from the film, Gunn said Nathan Fillion, who had had a voice cameo in the first film, was going to appear as Simon Williams in a sequence that would have shown several movie posters for films starring Williams, including films in which he portrays Arkon and Tony Stark.[154][155] Gunn chose Williams for Fillion's cameo because he wanted Fillion to have a bigger role in the MCU at some point and so did not want to give him a role that could prevent him from taking a more substantial one later. Gunn still considered Fillion's cameo canon to the MCU, despite it being cut.[156] He also confirmed that Close's scenes had been cut from the film, because it felt like he "was trying to cram Nova Prime into the second movie as opposed to having it happen organically".[79] Ego's planet (top) was designed to be "highly geometric" and made extensive use of fractals, including Apollonian gaskets (bottom).[29] Visual effects for the film were created by Framestore, Weta Digital, Trixter, Method Studios, Animal Logic, Scanline VFX, Lola VFX, Luma, and Cantina Creative.[157] Previsualization was done by The Third Floor.[158] Framestore created 620 shots for the film, Weta Digital created 530, Method Studios more than 500, and Animal Logic created 147.[29] Framestore once again created Rocket and Groot,[29][159] with Method Studios, Weta Digital and Trixter also working on Rocket. Framestore rebuilt Rocket "from the ground up" for Vol. 2, giving him an updated fur simulation, new facial shapes and phonemes, as well as a new eye rig, which came from a rig used for the character Gnarlack from Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (2016).[29] Trixter's work on Rocket included when he sets off a trap for the Ravagers, additionally working on the sequence when Rocket, Yondu and Kraglin jump across space.[29] Other work from Framestore included creatures, spaceships,[29] Ayesha's lair, the space chase, the Eclector scenes, and the adolescent Groot post-credit scene.[160] Framestore also created the film's opening sequence.[29] Despite appearing as a single shot, it ultimately was composed of 11 different visual effect shots. Gunn provided reference video for Baby Groot's dancing in the sequence.[158] Framestore animation supervisor Arslan Elver noted that the majority of the opening sequence includes CGI and digital doubles, with three moments (Quill falling on the ground near Baby Groot, Gamora talking to Baby Groot, and Drax rolling behind Baby Groot) consisting of actual photography.[160] As with the first film, Sarofsky created the typography for the opening, using the same style from Guardians of the Galaxy for consistency, "this time in rusty gold and glowing blue neon". Executive Creative Director Erin Sarofsky noted the challenge of placing the credits while the sequence was being refined by Framestore. Sarofsky proposed several different options for the credits, including having "a little hovering character that projected a hologram up on the screen", but Gunn did not want another character in the sequence to deal with. A simpler 2D option was used instead. Sarofsky also worked on the end credits, the first time for the company, integrating the actual credits from company Exceptional Minds with designs inspired by old music album art, taking albums and scanning them for their old textures and scratches.[160] The destruction of the Ravager ship the Eclector was handled by Weta Digital.[161] Weta Digital also handled Ego during his fight with Quill, utilizing a digital double of Russell for many of their shots. Weta also needed to create a digital double for David Hasselhoff for the moment when Ego shifts into Hasselhoff's guise. Guy Williams, Weta's visual effects supervisor, said, "We tried morphing to a live-action Hoff—but it did not hold up as well. The Kurt version looked better than the Hoff version ... and while we had built a very detailed Kurt digi-double ... we didn't want to go to the same level on the Hoff for just two shots. But in the end we did have to do a partial build digi-double of the Hoff. The reason we did the Kurt digi-double in the first place was to make sure all the effects stuck correctly to the body ... so we went with the approach of a full digi-double, the hair, the side of the face everything on Kurt. For the Hoff, we got pretty close, but it is not quite as detailed as for Kurt".[162] Additional work by Weta included the inside of Ego's planet, known as the Planet Hollow, which was inspired by the fractal art of Hal Tenny, who Gunn hired to help design Ego's environment.[159][163] Gunn added that there are "over a trillion polygons on Ego's planet," calling it "the biggest visual effect of all time. There's nothing even close to it".[163] Animal Logic and Method Studios also worked on the various parts of Ego's planet, with Animal Logic focusing on Ego's cathedral, and Method on the arrival sequence and Baby Groot's "not that button" sequence in the Planet Hollow. Animal Logic's work for Ego's cathedral was also based on fractal art. The team at Animal Logic were initially brought on to the film to work on the story vignettes that were used to explain the backstory, which started as oil paintings before evolving to falling sand, and eventually the final plastic sculptures that were used. Method also created the film's final sequence for Yondu's funeral. To make Rocket shedding a tear convincing, Method used in-house footage of Animation Supervisor Keith Roberts "performing the scene for reference, studying the macro facial movements like minor eye darts or blinks, in addition to what was filmed on set and in the sound booth by" Cooper. Additional work included the scenes on the planet Berhart.[29] Lola VFX worked on de-aging Russell, having previously done similar work in other MCU films; they also added to various characters, including Nebula. To achieve the younger Ego, Lola referenced Russell's performance in Used Cars (1980), as "he had a lot of the [facial] action" the visual effects artists were looking for. They also used a younger stand in, Aaron Schwartz, since he had "big broad jaw, chin, and most importantly the way the laugh lines move[d] and crease[d] as he talk[ed]", similar to Russell's.[162] Laura Haddock, reprising her role from the first film of Meredith Quill in the sequence, was also slightly de-aged to play the younger version of that character.[145] Luma worked on the Sovereign people and their world, and Adam Warlock's cocoon.[29] Main article: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (soundtrack) By August 2014, Gunn had "some ideas listed, but nothing for sure" in terms of songs to include in Quill's Awesome Mix Vol. 2 mixtape,[102] for which he felt "a little pressure" due to the positive response to the first film's soundtrack. Gunn added, "But I feel like the soundtrack in the second one is better."[164] By June 2015, Gunn had chosen all of the songs and built them into the script,[9] calling Awesome Mix Vol. 2 "more diverse" than the first one, with "some really incredibly famous songs and then some songs that people have never heard."[165] Tyler Bates was confirmed to score the film by August 2015, returning from the first film.[166] As with Guardians of the Galaxy, Bates wrote some of the score first so Gunn could film to the music, as opposed to Bates scoring to the film.[128] Recording for the score occurred in January 2017 at Abbey Road Studios.[167] Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2: Awesome Mix Volume 2, along with the film score album composed by Bates, were released on April 21, 2017.[168][169] A cassette version of Awesome Mix Volume 2 was released on June 23, 2017, while a deluxe-edition vinyl LP featuring both Awesome Mix Volume 2 and Bates' score was released on August 11, 2017.[170] In June 2016, Marvel announced plans for an expanded merchandising program for the sequel, with Groot playing a central role.[171] Gunn ensured the film's female characters received more representation in the merchandise than in the first.[172] Paul Gitter, senior vice president of licensing at Disney Consumer Products, said they intended to build Guardians of the Galaxy into a tentpole franchise. Partners in the campaign included Hasbro, Lego, Funko, LB Kids,[171] GEICO, Ford Motor Company, Go-Gurt, Hanes, Synchrony Bank, Dairy Queen, M&M's, Screenvision, Sprint Corporation, and Wrigley Company.[173] Additionally, Marvel partnered with Doritos for their Rock Out Loud campaign to create a custom "limited-edition series of Doritos bags featuring a built-in cassette tape deck-inspired player that plays" Awesome Mix Vol. 2 and can be recharged. The custom bags were available to purchase on Amazon.com, with Doritos also hosting Rock Out Loud pop-up recording booths in New York and Los Angeles where fans could sing the songs from Awesome Mix Vol. 2 and have the opportunity to win various prizes, including the custom bags, concert tickets, and free bags of Doritos."[174] In July 2016, Gunn, Pratt and other members of the cast attended San Diego Comic-Con to promote the film,[175] showing footage and revealing additional character information.[34] On October 19, a "sneak peek" teaser was released ahead of the first full teaser trailer. Ethan Anderton of /Film felt the teaser was strong, despite not showing any of the new characters or relying on Baby Groot,[176] while The A.V. Club's Esther Zuckerman called it "an immediate crowd-pleaser".[177] According to media-measurement firm Comscore and its PreAct service, the teaser was the top trailer for the week it released, generating 108,000 new social media conversations.[178] In early December, before Gunn revealed the first teaser trailer at Comic Con Experience 2016,[179][180] he said that finding scenes and moments to showcase in the trailer without revealing too much of the film resulted in hard choices, since "people really go through every single little shot and try to figure out what the movie's about. And there's a lot of mysteries in Guardians 2."[181] Describing the teaser trailer, Jacob Hall of /Film noted that the trailer was able to succeed without giving too much away as it focused on character interactions rather than plot.[182] The teaser trailer received 81 million views in 24 hours, becoming the second-most viewed teaser behind Beauty and the Beast and largest Marvel Studios teaser ever. Additionally, Sweet's "Fox on the Run" reached number one on the iTunes Rock Chart after featuring in the teaser.[183] A second trailer aired during Super Bowl LI. Germain Lussier for io9 called it "hilarious",[184] while Anderton said it was "one hell of a" Super Bowl spot, "one that probably overshadows the game itself for people like me... There's plenty of badass cosmic action, the humor we all love, a stellar soundtrack, and some great new footage from the sequel."[185] The spot generated the most Twitter conversation volume during the game with 47,800 conversations, according to Comscore, who measured the volume of trailers that aired during the game from the time it aired through the end of the game. The film also topped a Fandango survey of fans' favorite film trailer during the Super Bowl.[186] An additional trailer debuted on February 28, 2017, on Jimmy Kimmel Live!. Haleigh Foutch at Collider felt the trailer added "hype" to the film, and was "just an all-around wonderful trailer, lit up with the wacky humor and irreverent charm that made the first film such a hit, with an extra dose of visual splendor."[187] Pratt and Saldaña appeared at the 2017 Kids' Choice Awards, where they debuted an exclusive clip.[188] In mid-July, Marvel created a 1980s-inspired infomercial and an 800 number to promote the film's home media release.[189] Premiere of Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 made its world premiere in Tokyo on April 10, 2017,[190] and its Hollywood, Los Angeles, premiere on April 19 at the Dolby Theatre.[191] The film began its international release on April 25, in Australia, New Zealand, and Italy,[192] alongside a total of 37 markets in its first weekend, with 176 IMAX screens in 35 of those markets.[193] Its North American release on May 5 took place in 4,347 theaters, of which over 3,800 were in 3D,[194] 388 in IMAX and IMAX 3D,[194][195] 588 premium large-format, and 194 D-Box locations.[194] The film's opening in China was in 400 IMAX theaters, the largest ever for the country.[196] On May 4, 2017, 550 theaters in the United States had a special RealD Guardians of the Galaxy double feature event before preview screenings of Vol. 2. Guests who attended received an exclusive mini poster and a set of souvenir collectible buttons.[197] Vol. 2 was originally intended to be released on July 28, 2017.[89] The film is part of Phase Three of the MCU.[198] Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 was released on digital download by Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment on August 8, 2017, and on Blu-ray, Blu-ray 3D, Ultra HD Blu-ray, and DVD on August 22.[199][200] The Ultra HD Blu-ray version is the first Disney home media release in 4K resolution.[201] The digital and Blu-ray releases include behind-the-scenes featurettes, audio commentary, deleted scenes, a blooper reel, and a music video for the song "Guardians Inferno". The digital release also exclusively features the breakdown of three scenes, from their initial ideas to their completed versions, and a behind-the-scenes look at the Guardians of the Galaxy – Mission: Breakout!, an accelerated drop tower dark ride attraction at Disney California Adventure.[199] The 1970s-style music video for "Guardians Inferno" was directed by David Yarovesky and features Hasselhoff alongside James Gunn, Pratt, Saldaña, Bautista, Klementieff, Gillan, Rooker, and Sean Gunn. Stan Lee and Guillermo Rodriguez also make cameo appearances in the video.[202][203] The digital release of the film had the most digital downloads and largest opening week of any Marvel Studios film.[204] The physical releases in its first week of sale were the top home media release, selling "nearly three times as many discs as the rest of the top 10 sellers combined", according to NPD VideoScan data. The Blu-ray version accounted for 83% of the sales, with 10% of total sales coming from the Ultra HD Blu-ray version.[205] In its second week, the film was once again the top home media release.[206] As well, total sales of Vol. 2 in the United Kingdom were more than the other films in the top 40 combined; it was also the top film in the country.[207] The IMAX Enhanced version of the film was made available on Disney+ beginning on November 12, 2021.[208] Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 grossed over $389.8 million in the United States and Canada, and over $473.9 million in other countries, for a worldwide total of $863.8 million.[2] The film had earlier surpassed the first film's gross ($773 million) by Memorial Day weekend, three weeks after release, with $783.3 million worldwide,[209] and became the fifth-highest-grossing MCU film a week later.[210] Deadline Hollywood calculated the film's net profit as $157 million, accounting for production budgets, marketing, talent participations, and other costs; box office grosses and home media revenues placed it ninth on their list of 2017's "Most Valuable Blockbusters".[211] Since tickets went on sale on April 24, 2017, the film was the number one seller on Fandango, and surpassed the advance sales of Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015) in the similar time frame.[212] Over 80% of sales on MovieTickets.com were for the film ahead of its release.[194] Vol. 2 earned $146.5 million in its opening weekend in the United States and Canada,[213] with IMAX contributing $13 million.[196] The $17 million that came from Thursday night previews was the highest preview amount of 2017.[194] The film had previously been projected to earn upwards of $160 million in its opening weekend,[197][214] with Deadline Hollywood predicting it could reach the $179 million debut of Captain America: Civil War.[215] It remained at number one in its second weekend,[216] and fell to second in its third, behind Alien: Covenant.[217] Vol. 2 remained at number two in its fourth weekend, this time behind Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales, and crossed $337.6 million, surpassing the domestic gross of the first film.[218] By its fifth weekend, the film fell to fourth,[219] and in its next, fell to fifth.[220] Vol. 2 continued to remain in the top 10 for two more weeks, placing ninth in its seventh weekend,[221] and tenth in its eighth weekend.[222] Outside of the United States and Canada, the film earned $106 million in its first weekend from 37 markets, becoming the top film in them all except Portugal, Turkey, and Vietnam. IMAX contributed $5 million to the opening-weekend gross. The film also outperformed the original's opening weekend in all markets except Belgium.[193] In its second weekend, the sequel opened as the top film in South Korea, China, and Russia.[196] It had the highest opening for an MCU film in Austria,[193] the second-highest in Australia ($11.8 million), the Netherlands ($500,000),[192][193] Germany ($9.3 million), and the United Kingdom ($16.9 million),[193] and the third-highest in New Zealand ($400,000), Italy ($1.4 million),[192] and Russia ($11.6 million).[196] The New Zealand and Netherlands openings were also the highest of 2017 for the countries,[192] while Germany and the United Kingdom's were the second-highest.[192][193] In South Korea, it had the biggest opening day ($3.3 million) and second-best opening weekend ($13.3 million) of 2017, the latter surpassing the original's entire earnings in the country. It also had the biggest May opening day and the third-highest opening day for an MCU film there.[196][223] Ukraine had the second-largest opening ever, while in Puerto Rico, the film had the largest IMAX opening.[196] More markets saw their gross for Vol. 2 surpass the total gross from the first film in its third weekend,[224] with China following in its fourth.[225] The next weekend saw Vol. 2's gross outside the United States and Canada ($451.1 million) surpass the international gross of the first film ($440 million).[209] Vol. 2's three biggest markets in total earnings were: China ($99.3 million), the United Kingdom ($51.3 million), and Germany ($28 million).[210] The review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes reported an approval rating of 85%, with an average score of 7.3/10, based on 425 reviews. The website's critical consensus reads, "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2's action-packed plot, dazzling visuals, and irreverent humor add up to a sequel that's almost as fun—if not quite as thrillingly fresh—as its predecessor."[226] On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 67 out of 100, based on 47 critics, indicating "generally favorable" reviews.[227] Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A" on an A+ to F scale, while PostTrak reported filmgoers gave it a 93% overall positive score and a 77% "definite recommend".[194] Owen Gleiberman of Variety called the film "an extravagant and witty follow-up, made with the same friendly virtuosic dazzle... and just obligatory enough to be too much of a good thing." He cautioned that "this time you can sense just how hard [Gunn] is working to entertain you. Maybe a little too hard."[228] Writing for Rolling Stone, Peter Travers described the film as a "blast" and gave it three stars out of four, praising the film for its tone and fun, soundtrack, and characters. He noted that "Vol. 2 can't match the sneak-attack surprise of its predecessor...[but] the followup, while taking on some CGI bloat and sequel slickness, hasn't lost its love for inspired lunacy.[229] Chicago Sun-Times' Richard Roeper also gave the film three stars, calling it not "quite as much fun, not quite as clever, not quite as fresh as the original—but it still packs a bright and shiny and sweet punch." Roeper continued that "even with all the silliness and all the snarkiness, the Guardians can put a lump in your throat", and praised the cast, especially Rooker, with "one of the best roles in the movie".[230] In his review for RogerEbert.com, Brian Tallerico gave the film three stars out of four, describing it as "a thoroughly enjoyable summer blockbuster" that does not take itself seriously, avoiding "many of the flaws of the first movie, and [doing] several things notably better. It's fun, clever and a great kick-off to the summer movie season."[231] At The Washington Post, Michael O'Sullivan gave the film four stars, praising it as being "funnier, nuttier, and more touching" than the first film. O'Sullivan felt it avoided usual sequel problems by building on the original film rather than repeating it, and also noted the use of music as well as "dazzling" visuals throughout, describing the film as "a toe-tapping, eye-popping indication that summer is here, and that it might not be so bad after all."[232] Brian Lowry, writing for CNN.com, criticized the middle portion of the film and its villain, but felt the film fared better than other Marvel sequels with its strong beginning and end, and "good-natured energy", saying it "ultimately shares just enough with its central quintet—rather heroically getting the job done, even if the trip from here to there can be a bit disjointed and messy."[233] For The Atlantic, Christopher Orr felt the film did not live up to the original, particularly due to its heavier themes and feeling that Russell was "badly miscast", but the rest of the cast, soundtrack, and humor were enough for him to give an overall positive review.[234] At The Hollywood Reporter, Todd McCarthy said "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 plays like a second ride on a roller-coaster that was a real kick the first time around but feels very been-there/done-that now."[235] Kenneth Turan of the Los Angeles Times was positive of the film's soundtrack and cast, especially Russell, but felt Gunn was trying too hard to re-capture the magic of the first film, and the increased scope of effects and action becomes weary. Turan concluded, "There are enough reminders of the first Guardians to make the sequel an acceptable experience, [but it's] less like itself and more like a standard Marvel production."[236] Manohla Dargis at The New York Times said the film "certainly has its attractions, but most of them are visual rather than narrative." She also felt Gunn was trying too hard, and found many elements of the sequel to be too serious even with Russell balancing that with a much-needed "unforced looseness".[237] Anthony Lane in his review for The New Yorker felt once Ego was introduced, the film began to suffer from "the curse of the backstory" and that the "point that the movie, which has been motoring along nicely, fuelled by silliness and pep, begins to splutter" was when Ego's desire for larger meaning is revealed. Lane concluded, "Let's hope that Vol. 3 recaptures the fizz of the original, instead of slumping into the most expensive group-therapy session in the universe."[238] Year Award Category Recipient(s) Result Ref(s) 2017 Teen Choice Awards Choice Sci-Fi Movie Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Won [239] Choice Sci-Fi-Movie Actor Chris Pratt Won Choice Sci-Fi-Movie Actress Zoe Saldaña Won Choice MovieShip Chris Pratt and Zoe Saldaña Nominated Choice Hissy Fit Kurt Russell Nominated Choice Scene Stealer Michael Rooker Nominated Dragon Awards Best Science Fiction or Fantasy Movie Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Nominated [240] Hollywood Film Awards Sound Award Dave Acord and Addison Teague Won [241] Hollywood Music in Media Awards Soundtrack Album Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Nominated [242] Original Song – Sci-fi, Fantasy, Horror Film "Guardian's Inferno" for The Sneepers & David Hasselhoff Nominated Outstanding Music Supervision – Film Dave Jordan Nominated St. Louis Film Critics Association Best Soundtrack Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Nominated [243] Washington D.C. Area Film Critics Association Awards Best Animated Voice Performance Bradley Cooper Nominated [244] Florida Film Critics Circle Awards Best Visual Effects Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Nominated [245] 2018 Annie Awards Outstanding Achievement for Character Animation in a Live Action Production Arslan Elver, Liam Russell, Alvise Avati, Alessandro Cuicci Nominated [246] Grammy Awards Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2: Awesome Mix Vol. 2 Nominated [247] Guild of Music Supervisors Awards Best Music Supervision for Film: Budgeted Over 25 Million Dollars Dave Jordan Nominated [248] Visual Effects Society Awards Outstanding Visual Effects in a Photoreal Feature Christopher Townsend, Damien Carr, Guy Williams, Jonathan Fawkner, Dan Sudick Nominated [249] Outstanding Virtual Cinematography in a Photoreal Project James Baker, Steven Lo, Alvise Avati, Robert Stipp for "Groot Dance/Opening Fight" Won Make-Up Artists and Hair Stylists Guild Feature Motion Picture: Best Contemporary Hair Styling Camille Friend, Louisa Anthony and Jules Holdren Won [250] Feature Motion Picture: Best Special Makeup Effects John Blake and Brian Sipe Nominated Black Reel Awards Outstanding Voice Performance Vin Diesel Won [251] Academy Awards Academy Award for Best Visual Effects Christopher Townsend, Damien Carr, Guy Williams, Jonathan Fawkner, Dan Sudick Nominated [252] Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards Favorite Movie Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Nominated [253] Favorite Movie Actor Chris Pratt Nominated Favorite Movie Actress Zoe Saldaña Nominated Billboard Music Awards Top Soundtrack Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2: Awesome Mix Vol. 2 Nominated [254] Saturn Awards Best Comic-to-Motion Picture Release Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Nominated [255][256] Best Supporting Actor in a Film Michael Rooker Nominated Best Film Make-Up John Blake, Brian Sipe Nominated Best Film Special / Visual Effects Christopher Townsend, Guy Williams, Jonathan Fawkner, Dan Sudick Won Main article: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 was released on May 5, 2023,[257] with Gunn returning to write and direct.[258][259] Pratt, Saldaña, Bautista, Diesel, Cooper,[260] Gillan,[261] Klementieff,[262] and Sean Gunn reprise their roles in the film,[263] and are joined by Will Poulter as Adam Warlock.[6] Main article: I Am Groot In December 2020, I Am Groot, a series of animated short films focused on Baby Groot, was announced for Disney+.[264] Diesel reprises his role, with all five shorts released on August 10, 2022.[265] Main article: The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special is a Marvel Studios Special Presentation that was released on Disney+ on November 25, 2022,[266][267] with Gunn writing and directing.[264] Pratt, Bautista, Diesel, Cooper, Gillan, Klementieff, Rooker, and Sean Gunn reprise their roles in the special,[268] which is set before the events of Vol. 3.[269] "What If... the Watcher Broke His Oath?", an episode of the MCU television series What If...? that reimagines some events of this film

^ Identified off-screen as Adam Warlock, who director James Gunn initially planned to feature prominently in the film. The character is hinted at in this mid-credits scene to set up his appearance in Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3.[4][5][6] ^ Gunn said this sequence with an adolescent Groot is set "years after" the ending of the film, with the character appearing in the same state in Avengers: Infinity War.[7]

^ "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (2017)". British Board of Film Classification. Archived from the original on April 19, 2017. Retrieved April 18, 2017. ^ a b c "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2". Box Office Mojo. IMDb. Retrieved March 3, 2021. ^ "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2". The Numbers. Nash Information Services, LLC. Archived from the original on May 23, 2023. Retrieved June 4, 2023. ^ a b Davis, Brandon (April 27, 2016). "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Post-Credits Scenes Explained". ComicBook.com. Archived from the original on April 28, 2017. Retrieved April 28, 2017. ^ a b c d Sciretta, Peter (April 20, 2017). "Exclusive: Adam Warlock Was Originally a Major Character in 'Guardians Vol. 2'; Will Be in 'Guardians 3'". /Film. Archived from the original on April 21, 2017. Retrieved April 20, 2017. ^ a b Kroll, Justin (October 11, 2021). "'Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 3': Will Poulter To Play Adam Warlock In Next Installment Of Marvel Franchise". Deadline Hollywood. 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Retrieved April 22, 2021. Wikiquote has quotations related to Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2. Wikimedia Commons has media related to Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2. Official website Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 at IMDb Script Portals: Film United States Speculative fiction Retrieved from " The word “Marvel,” as in comic books or movie studios, has become a foundational term of our culture. Yet you could sit through almost every one of today’s comic-book movies and not find a whole lot to marvel at. That’s where “Guardians of the Galaxy” came in. In an era of overstuffed, taped-together blockbusters, it was supremely funny, exciting, and well-made — a rock ‘n’ roll space opera, spectacular yet lithe, without a stray shot or sequence out of place, and with a wildly caustic yet devotional interplay among its motley crew of renegades that recalled the original 1977 “Star Wars” (obviously its chief influence). The film wielded the machinery of big-budget franchise filmmaking and trumped it at the same time. So the question of what “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” can do for an encore isn’t really, “Can it top the first film?” It’s more like, “Can it be as good?” Shot for shot, line for line, it’s an extravagant and witty follow-up, made with the same friendly virtuosic dazzle. Yet this time you can sense just how hard the series’ wizard of a director, James Gunn (now taking off from a script he wrote solo), is working to entertain you. Maybe a little too hard. “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” is an adventure worth taking, and the number of moviegoers around the planet who will want to take it should prove awe-inspiring. But it doesn’t so much deepen the first “Guardians” as offer a more strenuous dose of fun to achieve a lesser high. The film opens with the unintentionally disquieting image of Kurt Russell, digitally enhanced to resemble his much younger self, wooing the Missouri lass who will be Peter Quill’s mother to the 1972 strains of “Brandy (You’re a Fine Girl).” Instantly, this cues us to two things: Peter’s memento cassette tape entitled Awesome Mix Vol. 2, at least compared to Vol. 1, is going to be more kitschy than tasty; and the movie is going to be all about his daddy issues. The exhilarating credits sequence then shows us the Guardians in action: They’re out to slaughter an oversize tentacled monster that has four sets of angler-fish jaws, but the battle gets shoved into the background — in the foreground is the giant walking tree Groot, now Baby Groot (about a foot tall, still growing back from a lone twig), as he bops and dances to the sublime pop camp of ELO’s “Mr. Blue Sky,” letting us know that this is a movie with its background/foreground priorities in the right place. The first film was all about how the Guardians met and teamed up, and part of the beauty of it was that you could feel just how much Chris Pratt’s trouble-shooting, ’70s-dancing thief Peter, Zoe Saldana’s green-faced alien princess Gamora, Dave Bautista’s splendidly dour tell-it-like-it-is tattoo-carved muscleman Drax, and Bradley Cooper’s Brooklynese raccoon scavenger Rocket really disliked each other. The quips and the acid retorts were the opposite of forced; they were part of the enthrallment of seeing this team come together out of brutal (and plausible) necessity. All of which made “Guardians” feel like something more than an origin story. “Vol. 2,” on the other hand, is an origin story. The Guardians are now a seasoned team, but the movie is all about how Peter got to be who he is. Early on, there’s a stand-off between the Guardians and Ayesha (Elizabeth Debicki), the Golden High Priestess of the genetically perfect people of the Sovereign (who have yet to discover sex). The Guardians enrage her by stealing a handful of precious batteries, and she comes after them with an army of remote-controlled golden attack pods. Yet she figures into the film only peripherally — it’s all just a setup for the next sequel. Ditto for Sylvester Stallone, altering his look and acting style not one slurry iota, as Stakar, a Ravager leader who turned against Michael Rooker’s blue-skinned bandit Yondu when he learned that Yondu was selling child slaves on the black market. Yondu’s got problems of his own — his men, who think he’s gone soft, launch a mutiny — but the film really gets underway when Russell lands in his ’60s Pan Am flying saucer to inform Peter that he’s his dad. (No, that’s not a spoiler; it’s the basic premise of the movie.) Peter was always a bit like Han Solo and Luke Skywalker in one body, and “Guardians Vol. 2” would like to stand in relation to the first “Guardians” as “The Empire Strikes Back” was to “Star Wars.” It’s yet another tale of an overgrown space kid finding his father, and his legacy. Peter takes his comrades over to his dad’s planet, and once they arrive, there is much back-slapping Kurt Russell bonhomie, but there are also cues that something isn’t right. The name of Russell’s character is Ego. His planet, which he literally created, looks like a series of medieval French landscapes posing as Led Zeppelin album covers. He acts out his past to Peter with mannequins made of porcelain. Did I mention that he’s a self-proclaimed god who wants Peter to step up and rule the universe with him? You do the math. Pratt, through it all, keeps his badass-lite swagger irreverent and commanding. In the right role (like this one), he knows how to express disdain and exuberance in equal measure — in other words, how to play an a—hole you can’t help but like. Yet it’s easy to feel that the conflicts in “Vol. 2” are a bit rote, whether it’s Peter upping the ante on his feisty flirtation with Gamora (he explains that their unspoken bond makes them just like Sam and Diane on “Cheers”) or Gamora duking it out with her seething bionic adoptive sister Nebula (Karen Gillan). It’s all impeccably staged, yet stuff happens because the movie needs stuff to keep happening. One is grateful for the comic relief, especially from Bautista, who makes Drax so literal-minded — and so up front about his imperious male gaze — that his every judgmental utterance feels spontaneous. As for Rocket, Cooper burrows ever more hilariously into his babbly hostility (“Hope daddy isn’t as big a dick as you, orphan boy!”) and the ratty self-hatred beneath it. The gods of sci-fi spectacle must, of course, be served, and the climax of “Vol. 2” is exorbitant, rousing, touching, and just obligatory enough to be too much of a good thing. (That isn’t even counting the half-dozen post-credit teaser scenes, which make the film feel like…TV.) Baby Groot, as cuddly as Poppin’ Fresh, gets to scurry and plant a time bomb, Gamora gets to wield a machine gun the size of a refrigerator, and Yondu gets to do ever more dizzying flights of damage with his loop-the-loop arrow of death. The person who turns out to be the film’s lord of darkness morphs into all sorts of liquid digital forms, and there’s an in-the-middle-of-space farewell between Peter and someone close to him that’s beautiful and moving. If only the film could have left it at that! The fallen character winds up being given a light-show funeral worthy of a Communist head of state. The difference between the first “Guardians” and “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” is that the new movie is flush with what a big deal it is. Ironically, that makes it a smaller deal.