

# **ADVANCE**

arvel Studios presents "The Marvels," the 33rd movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. "The Marvels" is the sequel to the 2019 box office phenomenon "Captain Marvel," which introduced audiences worldwide to an all-new adventure starring Brie Larson as Carol Danvers, the MCU's first stand-alone, female-franchise title character.

"Captain Marvel," the 21<sup>st</sup> film in the MCU lineup, was an important addition to the MCU, as executive producer Mary Livanos explains, "'Captain Marvel' not only brought our first headlining female hero to the big screen and expanded the cosmic horizons of the universe, but also Carol Danvers' heroism inspired Nick Fury to create the Avengers initiative and set him out to find heroes like her who could watch over Earth, which then became the Avengers."

Now, in "The Marvels," Carol Danvers aka Captain Marvel has reclaimed her identity from the tyrannical Kree and taken revenge on the Supreme Intelligence. But unintended consequences see Carol shouldering the burden of a destabilized universe. When her duties send her to an anomalous wormhole linked to a Kree revolutionary, her



powers become entangled with that of Jersey City super-fan, Kamala Khan aka Ms. Marvel, and Carol's estranged niece, now S.A.B.E.R. astronaut Captain Monica Rambeau. Together, this unlikely trio must team-up and learn to work in concert to save the universe as "The Marvels."

"The Marvels' is a huge world-building endeavor," says Livanos. "The film paints the biggest picture of the cosmic Marvel universe that we have seen yet. With that come locations and new characters that celebrate all the most zany and mysterious facets of sci-fi that we as filmmakers love."

Marvel Studios' "The Marvels" stars Brie Larson, Teyonah Parris, Iman Vellani, Zawe Ashton, Gary Lewis, Seo-Jun Park, Zenobia Shroff, Mohan Kapur, Saagar Shaikh, and Samuel L. Jackson.

Nia DaCosta directs with Kevin Feige producing. Louis D'Esposito, Victoria Alonso, Mary Livanos, Jonathan Schwartz and Matthew Jenkins serve as executive producers. The screenplay is by Nia DaCosta and Megan McDonnell and Elissa Karasik.

"The Marvels" creative team includes director of photography Sean Bobbitt; production designer Cara Brower; costume designer Lindsay Pugh; editors Evan Schiff and Catrin Hedström; visual effects supervisor Tara DeMarco; special effects supervisor David Watkins; composer Laura Karpman; and hair and make-up designer Wakana Yoshihara.

Marvel Studios' "The Marvels" opens in U.S. theaters on November 10.

#### AT THE HELM

Marvel Studios always actively seeks to work with filmmakers who inspire them and have vision and enthusiasm for the project. For "The Marvels," they chose to work with Nia DaCosta, a talented filmmaker known for her critically acclaimed film "Candyman," produced by Oscar®-winner Jordan Peele.

"We are very happy to have Nia DaCosta directing this film and helming the ship for 'The Marvels,'" says Livanos. "She's an incredible filmmaker who cares so deeply about the

material. She's an incredibly experienced and talented writer as well and an incredibly visual-dynamic storyteller."

Brie Larson who was involved from the early stages of the creative process was also thrilled to have DaCosta take the helm. "It was just clear from the first meeting with her," says Larson. "Nia's a nerd like me. She knows all about these comics and rolls so deep with



all of this. Therefore, it's shorthand to her, she knows how all this stuff comes into play. And then on top of it she has the leadership, the vision, the clarity and the temperament to do something like this. Nia guided this team to success and just had fun."

Constructing the tone of the film for DaCosta was about "creating something that was fun and entertaining because so many things were going to be happening." She explains: "The three heroes are going to be switching places. It's going to be chaotic and messy, and I really wanted to reflect that through their individual characters as well. So the humor that you get from Captain Marvel is different than the humor you get from Ms. Marvel because you know one is a 63 year-old in a 30 year-old's body, and the other one is a 16 year-old from Jersey City who's hanging out with her idol. I really wanted to make sure that all that was there and through that, as well, getting the warmth of all the characters was really important to me and the relationship between the three of them. My thing was that it needs to be fun and

entertaining, but also feel good with these three heroes together, learning how to be a family."

Nia DaCosta admits that there was a learning curve to tackle a film of such scope and scale. "But what was really great for me was that I had the best department heads, and I was able to get their help. Because I had a very clear idea of my vision, it was a matter of conveying how I wanted it to look and feel, and they would come back with options."

She adds, "When you sign on for Marvel movies, the first thing they tell you is to talk to the other directors. So there's this beautiful network of people that you can communicate with and get advice from, so you always feel like you have someone there to guide you along the way."

## WHO ARE THE MARVELS?

In "The Marvels," Brie Larson's Captain Marvel unintentionally kicks off a mind-bending space adventure, in which the perennial solo-artist becomes literally entangled with two newer MCU faces—Jersey City's local teen hero, Kamala Khan, and scientist Captain Monica Rambeau, as in the late Maria Rambeau's daughter and Carol's estranged niece.

Kamala Khan, played by Iman Vellani, was introduced in Marvel Studios' Disney+ series "Ms Marvel," and Monica Rambeau, portrayed by Teyonah Parris, was rediscovered as an adult in another Marvel Studios series, the award-winning "WandaVision." They are all in very



different places: Carol is literally floating in space in a vast abyss, Monica has a new career as a S.A.B.E.R. astronaut, and Kamala Khan has become Jersey City's very own Super Hero. But when their powers become entangled, everything changes.

Writer Megan McDonnell explains, "The Marvels are entangled with each other, which means that

whenever they use their powers at the same time, they switch places. That puts them together and sticks them together until they get it all figured out, because they each need to be able to use their powers. This entanglement is great thematically because now Carol has a team, whether she likes it or not."

Brie Larson adds, "Quantum entanglement takes us a little bit to figure out. What we start noticing is that we all start switching places, and it takes a little bit of time, and what we realize is that it's when we use our powers at the same time, we switch places. It can be different galaxies and different planets. It doesn't matter; the distance does not matter. It's just that we, for very specific reasons, become entangled. It's a tough one for Carol because she's sort of decided to work alone because it's too painful to try and deal with loss."

Nia DaCosta tells us, "I think the three of them together is going to be an exciting combination and I couldn't turn down the opportunity to be a part of that. The most important thing for

me as I dug in and approached the script and the characters was really making sure that within all the exciting set pieces, chases, fights and intergalactic intrigue, there's really at the core of this an emotional character-driven story about these three women."

"There are things that they really find out about friendship and home and each other along the way," writer Elissa Karasik adds. "What's also so exciting about putting these three people together, as a writer, is all of the juicy conflict that we get as well."

The cast of characters—allies and antagonists—interacting with The Marvels, include:

- Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), currently serving as Director of S.A.B.E.R.—a space station covertly acting as Earth's first point of contact and defense from a rapidly expanding universe.
- Kree leader **Dar-Benn** (Zawe Ashton), a warrior-scientist turned politician who is hellbent on saving the Kree home planet of Hala and exalting her people to their rightful place in the universe.
- **Prince Yan** (Seo-Jun Park), the charming and charismatic prince of the planet Aladna and friend of Carol Danvers.
- Muneeba Khan (Zenobia Shroff) is Kamala's never-to-be-underestimated mom.
- Yusuf Khan (Mohan Kapur) is Kamala's proud and warm-hearted father.
- Aamir Khan (Saagar Shaikh) is Kamala's irreverent-but-supportive older brother.
- **Emperor Dro'ge** (Gary Lewis) is the leader of the Skrulls, whose existence is once again threatened by the Kree.

# A QUICK LOOK AT THE MAKING OF "THE MARVELS"

Production for The Marvels began on July 26, 2021, in the U.K. across two studios: four stages and the Paddock Tank at Pinewood Studios and four stages and the back lot at Longcross Studios England.

The production team created 54 separate set builds for "The Marvels" across those eight stages, the two backlots and the golf course at Longcross Studios. These sets incorporated five different planets, a space station, five spaceships, two evacuation ships, three evacuation pods, a space elevator, a Cessna 150 and three houses.



Among the sets built were Maria Rambeau's house, replicated from the first film and built on the golf course; the Khan house, interior and exteriors matching the house in "Ms. Marvel"; the S.A.B.E.R. space station and Carol's ship, the two most challenging and time-consuming builds; and the colorful, festive Aladna set.

"A big thing with the production design was that I wanted each planet to feel distinct," says director Nia DaCosta. "I wanted to make sure there was no overlap of the designs. So, when

we're in Tarnax, the buildings are shaped with a beautiful flow to them. All of the plates were done in Iceland for Tarnax, so it has a very specific terrain, like the mossy rocks and the gray sky. When we got to the planet Aladna I wanted it to be sun and color and bright and warm and happy feeling, like Positano. Then when we're on Hala, in the past and in the present, I wanted to show a technological city. I just really wanted to make sure that each place had a distinct feel, like going to another country. That was really important to me in terms of the design and also in terms of color."



Costume designer Lindsay Pugh and her team were tasked with not only making Super Hero suits for The Marvels, but creating the looks for the inhabitants of different planets and environments. The team looked back at the films and series, as well as the comics, as Lindsay Pugh explains, "It's a world that I'm not creating. I'm evolving it, and I'm bringing it more up to date. It's certainly based very much in the foundation

that is the MCU, so we watched all the films many different times just to make sure we didn't miss anything. Looked at the comics and as much as I could research and then developed the idea with Nia DaCosta the director to see how we can pull that forward judging by the script and the evolution of the characters."

Pugh and the team also had the task of keeping everything looking grounded and human even though it was off-world. "If you choose your people of a planet to be sentient beings then those beings sense fear, anger, love and joy. So, the only thing I can do is interpret that onto a different sentient being. For example, with the Skrulls, you have richer people, poorer people and happy people, so I try to represent that through the medium of clothing."

In the end, Pugh and her team made multiple superhero suits for Captain Marvel, Monica Rambeau and Kamala Khan, not to mention over 1000 costumes for supporting cast.

### COMING SOON...

When Marvel Studios' "The Marvels" hits the big screen on November 10th, the unexpected bond and partnership of our new team of Super Heroes brings with it relatable themes and mind-blowing action, resulting in a fresh and thrilling adventure for the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Director Nia DaCosta sums up, "I'm most excited for fans to see a kind of Marvel movie that they haven't seen before. I'm really excited for them to see all the creative things we did. And the action is so great. I think because of the switching it makes it so different and allowed us to do so many fun things. To tell a story with that device was really fun."