

Minions: The Rise of Gru

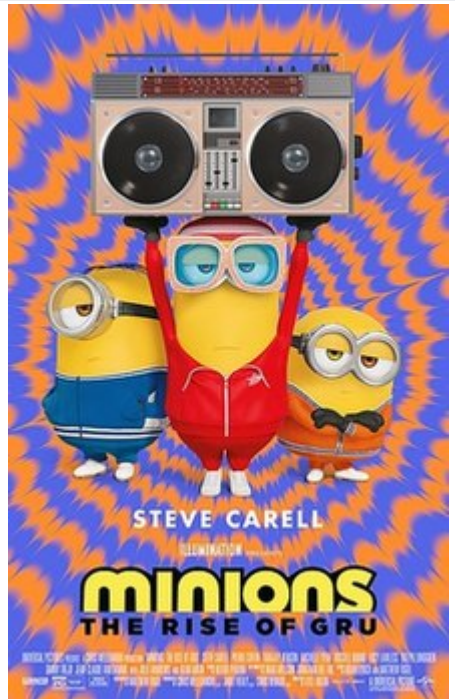
Minions: The Rise of Gru, also known as ***Minions 2***, is a 2022 American animated comedy film produced by Illumination and distributed by Universal Pictures. It is the sequel to *Minions* (2015), a prequel to *Despicable Me* (2010), and the fifth entry overall in the *Despicable Me* franchise. The film was directed by Kyle Balda, co-directed by Brad Ableson and Jonathan del Val (in Ableson's feature directorial debut), and produced by Chris Meledandri, Janet Healy and Chris Renaud, from a screenplay written by Matthew Fogel,^{[6][7]} and a story by Fogel and Brian Lynch.^{[8][7]} It features Steve Carell reprising his role as Gru and Pierre Coffin as the Minions, along with Russell Brand and Julie Andrews reprising their respective roles as Dr. Nefario and Gru's mother. New cast members include Taraji P. Henson, Michelle Yeoh, and Alan Arkin. Additionally, Will Arnett and Steve Coogan reprise their roles as Mr. Perkins and Silas Ramsbottom. In the film, an eleven-year-old Gru plans to become a supervillain with the help of his Minions, which leads to a showdown with a malevolent team, the Vicious 6.

After being delayed for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, *Minions: The Rise of Gru* had its world premiere at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival on June 13, 2022, and was theatrically released in the United States on July 1. The film received generally positive reviews from critics; some deemed it an improvement over its predecessor, with praise earned for its score, animation, humor, voice performances (particularly Carell's),^[9] and aesthetic, although its plot was criticized. It was also a commercial success, grossing over \$940 million worldwide and making it the fifth-highest-grossing film of 2022.

Plot

In 1976, an eleven-year-old Gru dreams of becoming a supervillain, assisted by the Minions, whom he has hired to work for him. Gru is ecstatic when he receives an audition invitation from the Vicious 6, a supervillain team now led by Belle Bottom, who hope to find a new member to replace their founder, the supervillain Wild Knuckles, following their betrayal and attempted murder of Knuckles during a heist to steal the Zodiac Stone – a stone connected to the Chinese zodiac. Gru's interview goes poorly but, much to the outrage of the Vicious 6, he steals the stone and escapes with Minions Kevin, Stuart, and Bob, handing it to another Minion, Otto, for safekeeping.

Minions: The Rise of Gru



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	<u>Kyle Balda</u>
Screenplay by	<u>Matthew Fogel</u>
Story by	<u>Brian Lynch</u> <u>Matthew Fogel</u>
Produced by	<u>Chris Meledandri</u> <u>Janet Healy</u> <u>Chris Renaud</u>
Starring	<u>Steve Carell</u> <u>Pierre Coffin</u> <u>Taraji P. Henson</u> <u>Michelle Yeoh</u> <u>Russell Brand</u> <u>Lucy Lawless</u> <u>Dolph Lundgren</u> <u>Danny Trejo</u> <u>Jean-Claude Van Damme</u> <u>Julie Andrews</u>

At his basement lair, Gru is outraged that Otto has traded the zodiac stone for a pet rock, causing him to fire the Minions before going alone to find it. However, Knuckles kidnaps Gru before taking him to San Francisco and informs the Minions that if they do not give him the stone within 48 hours, Gru will be killed. Failing to locate the stone, Kevin, Stuart and Bob leave for San Francisco to rescue Gru, while Otto leaves in pursuit of a biker whom he realizes has the stone as a necklace. When they reach Knuckles' house, they are chased by his goons until Master Chow, a former Kung Fu teacher who now makes a living at an acupuncture clinic, rescues them by defeating the goons.

Chow teaches the Minions Kung Fu after they beg and, ending their training prematurely, go to Knuckles' home to rescue Gru. Meanwhile, Otto catches up to and befriends the biker at Death Valley, who gives the stone back and takes him to San Francisco. Gru begins to bond with Knuckles after the latter's goons quit on him, and later saves him from being eaten by crocodiles in his pool. Teaching Gru how to be a villain, the two rob the Bank of Evil. In the meantime, the Vicious 6, having realized that Knuckles is alive, destroy his house in an attempt to find him. Failing to do so, they head towards Chinatown, with Kevin, Stuart and Bob in pursuit.

Returning to his destroyed house, a distraught Knuckles laments his friends' betrayal and decides to give up villainy, sending Gru away. During a Chinese New Year parade in Chinatown, Otto and Gru find each other with the stone but are cornered by the Vicious 6, who in turn are confronted by Anti-Villain League agents. The Vicious 6 then use the stone to turn themselves into large superpowered versions of animals from the Zodiac and prepare to kill Gru by tying him to the hands of a clock tower to rip him apart. Kevin, Stuart, and Bob find Gru, but are turned into a rabbit, a rooster, and a goat, respectively. However, Knuckles returns and fights the Vicious 6 with the Minions. Encouraged by Chow's teaching, Kevin, Stuart, and Bob "find their inner beast" and battle the Vicious 6 while Otto saves Gru, but Knuckles gets badly burnt by Belle's dragon flames when trying to take the stone back. After Kevin, Stuart and Bob knock the Vicious 6 out, Gru uses the stone to turn them into rats. Congratulating the three Minions for saving his life, Gru reconciles and rehires the Minions and returns Stuart, Kevin and Bob back to normal.

The Vicious 6 are arrested, except Knuckles, who is hospitalized and seemingly succumbs to his injuries, while the stone is confiscated by the Anti-Villain League. At Knuckles' funeral, Gru gives a heartfelt eulogy but is overjoyed when it is revealed Knuckles faked his death. He and Gru later drive off with the Minions.

In a mid-credits scene, Gru attempts to hire Dr. Nefario in gratitude for an invention of his that helped him steal the stone. Nefario initially declines but changes his mind after Gru and the Minions beg, giving them a ride on a rocket-powered aircraft.

Voice cast

- Steve Carell as Gru, a rising supervillain and the boss of the Minions^{[10][11]}
- Pierre Coffin as Kevin, Stuart, Bob, Otto and the rest of the Minions, Gru's yellow

	<u>Alan Arkin</u>
Edited by	Claire Dodgson
Music by	<u>Heitor Pereira</u>
Production company	<u>Illumination</u>
Distributed by	<u>Universal Pictures</u>
Release dates	June 13, 2022 (<u>Annecy</u>) July 1, 2022 (United States)
Running time	87 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$80–100 million ^{[2][3]}
Box office	\$940.7 million ^{[4][5]}

troublesome newly-hired henchmen^{[10][11][12]}

- Alan Arkin as Wild Knuckles, the former leader of the Vicious 6 who later becomes Gru's mentor^[10]
- Taraji P. Henson as Belle Bottom, a master thief and the newly-appointed leader of the Vicious 6^[10]
- Michelle Yeoh as Master Chow, an acupuncturist and Kung Fu fighter who helps the Minions on their quest^[10]
- Julie Andrews as Marlena Gru, Gru's mother^[10]
- Russell Brand as Dr. Nefario, a scientist who runs a record store^{[10][11]}
- Jean-Claude Van Damme as Jean-Clawed, a member of the Vicious 6 with a giant mechanical lobster claw for his right arm^[10]
- Dolph Lundgren as Svengance, a member of the Vicious 6 who is a roller skater^[10]
- Danny Trejo as Stronghold, a member of the Vicious 6 with big metal hands^[10]
- Lucy Lawless as Nun-chuck, a member of the Vicious 6 who is a nun and wields nunchaku^[10]

Additionally, Will Arnett and Steve Coogan reprise their respective voice roles as Mr. Perkins and Silas Ramsbottom from the main *Despicable Me* films.^[13] Michael Beattie voices both the VNC announcer and Guru Rick. Jimmy O. Yang, Kevin Michael Richardson and John DiMaggio voice three of Wild Knuckles' goons.^[14] RZA voices the biker who Otto befriends on his way to San Francisco.^[10] Raymond S. Persi voices Brad.^[14]

Production

Production and character designer Eric Guillon was ordered to unravel Gru's secrets once he started working on *Despicable Me* (2010) in 2007.^[15] After the success of *Minions* (2015), the fifth-highest-grossing film of 2015, *Screen Daily* considered a sequel as "inevitable".^{[16][17]} Universal Pictures was developing sequel ideas in August 2017,^[18] and Guillon decided that these will explore Gru's early life.^[15] Pierre Coffin (the Minions) and Steve Carell (Gru) both reprised their *Despicable Me* roles.^[19] Carell was paid \$12.5 million for his involvement.^[20] Production of the film shifted to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic, following the temporary closure of Illumination Studios Paris.^[21] To incorporate 1970s culture and environment in the film, Wade Eastwood and Ric Meyers were hired as creative consultants while Flora Zhao joined in as a cultural consultant on Chinese culture. The film was officially completed on July 1, 2020.^[22]

The film was dedicated in memory of animator Madeline Montero, who died during production of the film.

Music

The soundtrack album for the film was released on July 1, 2022, through Decca Records and Verve Label Group.^[23] The Jack Antonoff-produced soundtrack consists of various contemporary artists covering famous funk, pop, and soul hits of the 1970s. "Turn Up the Sunshine" by Diana Ross and Tame Impala was released as the album's lead single on May 20, 2022.^[24] It was followed by Kali Uchis's cover of "Desafinado" and St. Vincent's cover of "Funkytown".^{[25][26][27]}

On July 8, 2022, the score from longtime Illumination composer Heitor Pereira was released with two versions of "Bad Moon Rising" and "You Can't Always Get What You Want" being performed by Steve Carell and Pierre Coffin, both songs that were not in the original soundtrack. A new version of the "Despicable Me" theme song, by Pereira and Pharrell Williams, featuring a chorus of children was used in the film but not included in the score or the soundtrack.^[28]

Marketing and release

Universal's marketing strategy entailed an active social media campaign, and worldwide tours and activations.^[29] Promotional partners included CarMax, HelloFresh, IHOP, Levi's, Liberty Mutual, and McDonald's.^[30] A trailer of *Minions: The Rise of Gru* was released in 2020, followed by another two in 2022. The first and third trailers featured "Sabotage" by Beastie Boys, and "Lose Yourself" by Eminem in the second. For "Sabotage", Britt Hayes of The A.V. Club highlighted its "primitive" use in the first trailer, while Adam Pockross of Syfy Wire elaborated that the song performed screaming voices in the third. Some commentators reasoned that "Lose Yourself" impacted the film's action scenes in the second trailer.^[a] *Deadline Hollywood* reported Universal spent \$140 million promoting *The Rise of Gru*,^[3] and a total of \$285 million on marketing, the biggest-ever campaign for a *Despicable Me* film.^[30]

Minions: The Rise of Gru debuted at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival on June 13, 2022,^[35] followed by a premiere on June 25, at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles.^[36] The film was initially scheduled for release on July 3, 2020, but was postponed to July 2, 2021, and finally July 1, 2022. These shifts were reportedly made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to Illumination Mac Guff's temporary closure as the film was unfinished at that time.^[b] The film was rumored to have been banned in Lebanon. While the reason for the ban has not been specified, users on social media speculate it was because the character Nun-chuck portrays nuns as evil.^{[41][42]} The theatrical Chinese release of the film replaced the ending scene with a message stating that Wild Knuckles was arrested and sentenced to twenty years in prison, pursued his love of acting and started his own theater troupe, while Gru "returned to his family".^{[43][44]}

Universal Pictures Home Entertainment released *Minions: The Rise of Gru* for digital download on August 30, 2022; on 4K Ultra HD Blu-ray, Blu-ray, and DVD on September 6; and on Peacock on September 23.^{[45][46]} Physical copies contain behind-the-scenes featurettes, character descriptions, an extended scene, outtakes, recreational activities, and short films *Post Modern Minions* and *Minions and Monsters*.^[47] As part of an 18-month deal, it streamed on Peacock for four months, before moving to Netflix for another ten in January 2023, and returned on Peacock for the last four that November.^[48] *The Rise of Gru* was the best-selling home-video release of September. Blu-ray accounted for 48 percent of its sales.^[49] By the end of 2022, the physical release had grossed about \$14 million.^[50]

Reception

Box office

Minions: The Rise of Gru grossed \$370.3 million in the United States and Canada, and \$570.4 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$940.7 million.^{[4][5]} It was the fifth-highest-grossing film of 2022.^[51] *Deadline Hollywood* calculated the film's net profit as \$368 million, accounting for production budgets, marketing, talent participations, and other costs; box office grosses and home media revenues placed it third on their list of 2022's "Most Valuable Blockbusters".^[3] *The Rise of Gru*'s box-office success

was attributed to its release date near Independence Day. Its marketing was also cited, which brought back families to theaters.^[c] According to Comscore analyst Paul Dergarabedian, the film was "perfectly executed" for family audiences, and Boxoffice Pro chief analyst Shawn Robbins elaborated this as a "pent-up demand" journey.^[54]

In the United States and Canada, *Minions: The Rise of Gru* was initially projected to gross \$70–80 million from 4,391 theaters over its four-day opening weekend.^[55] After making \$48.2 million on its first day (including an estimated \$10.8 million from Thursday previews), the best for an animated film among the pandemic and of the *Despicable Me* franchise, estimates were raised to \$129 million. It went on to debut to \$107 million (and a four-day total of \$123.1 million), topping the box office.^{[56][57]} Its total set the Independence Day weekend record, surpassing *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*'s \$115.9 million in 2011.^{[2][30]} The film made \$46.1 million in its second weekend (a drop of 57%), finishing second behind newcomer *Thor: Love and Thunder*.^[58] *Minions: The Rise of Gru* is the sixth highest-grossing film of 2022 in this region.^[59]

The film opened in Australia a week before its U.S. release, debuting at \$3.7 million.^[60] It added another 60 international markets in its sophomore weekend and made \$87.2 million. The combined first and second offshore weekends were 13% below *Minions* and 3% below *Despicable Me 3* (2017). Four countries—Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Venezuela—had the biggest animation opening weekend of all time. The popular TikTok trend that accompanied its release (see below) was credited for Israel's record-breaking performance.^[61] In its third international weekend, *Minions: The Rise of Gru* passed the \$400 million worldwide mark after adding \$56.4 million to its total. In France, it set records for the biggest Illumination animation opening day of all time, the third biggest animation opening day of all time, and the biggest opening (including previews) of 2022.^[62] The film passed the \$500 million worldwide mark in its fourth weekend,^[63] \$600 million worldwide by its fifth,^[64] and \$700 million worldwide by its sixth.^[65]

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 70% of 184 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.1/10. The website's consensus reads: "The *Minions*' antic shenanigans are beginning to grate despite this sequel's injection of retro chic, although this loony marathon of gags will still delight young children."^[66] Metacritic, which uses a weighted average, assigned the film a score of 56 out of 100, based on 41 critics, indicating "mixed or average" reviews.^[67] Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A" on an A+ to F scale, the same grade as its predecessor, while those at PostTrak gave the film an 87% overall positive score, with 71% saying they would definitely recommend it.^[30]

Johnny Oleksinski from *The New York Post* rated the film three out of four stars, stating that "while a tad too light, as these films often are, nobody is making animated characters as funny or likable (or marketable) as the Minions."^[68] Serena Puang from *Boston Globe* gave the film two and a half stars out of four and wrote: "The movie is fun: The music is unironically good -- a particular standout is the Minions's rendition of Simon and Garfunkel's 'Cecilia'; Bob, as cute as ever, learns that 'even the smallest of us are capable of great things'."^[69]

Scroll.in's Udit Jhunjhunwala, giving a positive review, wrote: "The animated comedy is an 88-minute delight, further enlivened by the talented voice cast..."^[70] Clarisse Loughrey from *The Independent* rated the film three out of five stars, saying that "There's nothing all that special about The Rise of Gru, but it runs like a well-oiled machine."^[71] RogerEbert.com's Odie Henderson rated the film three out of five stars

and praised the humor, writing, "The laughs are well-paced and the viewer isn't given too much time to reflect on how ridiculous Matthew Fogel's screenplay is", despite feeling the pacing was "breakneck". He also commended the film's animation, deeming it "striking, from the gorgeously rendered Chinatown of the City by the Bay to the charming look of young Gru. He has the same big, expressive eyes that fill the emotional faces of his little gurls", and its voice acting, stating that Carrell "does a fine job of making his Gru voice younger and less pronounced."^[72]

Peter Travers of ABC News stated: "Director Kyle Balda creates a traffic jam of chases and collisions with the Vicious Six morphing into giant animals, including dragons, tigers and monkeys. It's all too much and too ditzy. But would you want it any other way?"^[73] The Associated Press's Jake Coyle scored the film two-and-a-half stars out of four and ended his review, "If anything, the Minion craze has proven the timeless versatility of the googly-eyed henchmen — a cartoon concoction of childlike slapstick simplicity and eminent pliability. It's enough to make you curious to imagine the Minions in subsequent decades — on Wall Street in the '80s, maybe, or head banging at a Nirvana concert in 1990s Seattle."^[74]

Peter Bradshaw from The Guardian rated the film two stars out of five, writing that "the plot is perfunctory and it runs on the faintest of fumes."^[75] Bilge Ebiri from Vulture gave the film a negative review, writing that "it looks nice, the kids will enjoy it, and, at 87 minutes, it all goes down relatively smoothly — but it's not quite smart enough to be as stupid as it wants to be."^[76] Los Angeles Times's Katie Walsh, in a negative review, wrote: "These references, and the relentless assault of '70s needle drops, are fun, to a point, but the movie itself is 87 minutes of pure chaos, a hallucinatory, cacophonous fever dream of nonsensical subplots and Minion gibberish."^[77]

#Gentleminions TikTok trend

A popular Internet meme involving groups of young adults dressed in suits like the character Gru attending the film and some dressing up like Minions with the tag #Gentleminions began spreading on TikTok almost immediately after the film's release. The meme originated with a group of Australian high schoolers.^{[78][79]} It is usually accompanied by American rapper Yeat's song "Rich Minion", which was commissioned for the Cole Bennett-directed trailer of the film.^{[80][81]} Large groups recorded themselves cheering, throwing bananas at the screen, and performing Gru's trademark steeped fingers gesture.^{[82][83]} Several theaters in the United Kingdom banned groups of young men in formal attire from seeing the film due to their disruptive behavior during screenings.^{[84][85][86]} The meme was also documented in the United States, Norway, Singapore,^{[84][87][88]} and Israel.^{[89][90]}

The substantial meme subculture around *The Rise of Gru* was noted by The Face to be similar to memes surrounding the superhero film *Morbius*, released earlier in 2022.^[91] Both meme subcultures focused around a largely ironic appreciation for the supposed strengths of said film, often verging on the absurdist, but *The Face* noted that the interest in *The Rise of Gru* was largely based in genuine interest in the film, whereas the interest in *Morbius* was based solely in the latter's perceived lack of quality.^[91]

The social media accounts for Universal Pictures, Illumination, and the franchise acknowledged the meme, with the latter two posting a video that depicted the Minions participating in the trend.^{[92][93][94]}

PostTrak reported that 34% of *The Rise of Gru* audiences were between the ages of 13 and 17, an unusually high percentage for an animated film. Pamela McClintock of *The Hollywood Reporter* concluded that the results of the survey were a result of the Internet trend.^[95]

Accolades

Award	Date of ceremony	Category	Recipient(s)	Result	Ref.
<u>Annie Awards</u>	<u>February 25, 2023</u>	<u>Best Animated Television Commercial</u>	<i>Minions: The Rise of Gru / The Office</i>	Nominated	[96] [97]
		<u>Outstanding Achievement for Animated Effects in an Animated Production</u>	Frank Baradat, Simon Pate, Milan Voukassovitch, and Milo Riccarand	Nominated	
		<u>Outstanding Achievement for Storyboarding in an Animated Feature Production</u>	Nima Azarba	Nominated	
			Dave Feiss	Nominated	
<u>Cinema Audio Society Awards</u>	<u>March 4, 2023</u>	<u>Outstanding Achievement in Sound Mixing for a Motion Picture – Animated</u>	Tim Nielsen, Steve Slanec, Alan Meyerson, and Jason Butler	Nominated	[98]
<u>Golden Trailer Awards</u>	<u>July 22, 2021</u>	<u>Best Animation/Family TV Spot</u>	"Get Ready" (Inside Job)	Nominated	[99]
		<u>Best Animation Trailer/Byte for a Feature Film</u>	"Shades Dance" (Inside Job)	Nominated	
	<u>October 6, 2022</u>	<u>Best Animation/Family</u>	"Ready" (AV Squad)	Nominated	[100] [101]
		<u>Best Summer Blockbuster Trailer</u>	"Ready" (AV Squad)	Nominated	
		<u>Best Animation/Family TV Spot</u>	"Mini Boss" (TRANSIT)	Nominated	
	<u>June 29, 2023</u>	<u>Best Animation/Family</u>	"New Adventure" (Inside Job)	Nominated	[102] [103]
		<u>Best Animation/Family TV Spot (for a Feature Film)</u>	"New Adventure 60" (Inside Job)	Nominated	
		<u>Best Comedy TV Spot (for a Feature Film)</u>	"One Shot" (Inside Job)	Nominated	
		<u>Best Digital – Animation/Family</u>	"Brace Yourself/#1 Comedy" (Paradise Creative)	Nominated	
<u>Guild of Music Supervisors Awards</u>	<u>March 5, 2023</u>	<u>Best Music Supervision for Films Budgeted Over \$25 Million</u>	Rachel Levy and Mike Knobloch	Nominated	[104]
		<u>Best Song Written and/or Recorded Created for a Film</u>	Jack Antonoff, Kevin Parker, Sam Dew, Patrik Berger, Diana Ross, Tame Impala, Mike Knobloch, and Rachel Levy for "Turn Up the Sunshine"	Nominated	
<u>Hollywood Music in Media Awards</u>	<u>November 16, 2022</u>	<u>Best Original Song in an Animated Film</u>	Jack Antonoff, Kevin Parker, Sam Dew, Patrik Berger, Diana Ross, and Tame Impala for "Turn Up the Sunshine"	Nominated	[105]
		<u>Best Music Supervision – Film</u>	Mike Knobloch and Rachel Levy	Nominated	
		<u>Original Song/Score — New Media</u>	Yeat for <i>Minions: The Rise of Gru Lyrical Lemonade</i>	Nominated	

		Soundtrack Album	<i>Minions: The Rise of Gru</i>	Nominated	
<u>NAACP Image Awards</u>	<u>February 25, 2023</u>	Outstanding Character Voice Performance – Motion Picture	<u>Taraji P. Henson</u>	Nominated	[106]
<u>Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards</u>	<u>March 4, 2023</u>	<u>Favorite Animated Movie</u>	<i>Minions: The Rise of Gru</i>	Won	[107]
		<u>Favorite Male Voice from an Animated Movie</u>	<u>Steve Carell</u>	Nominated	
		<u>Favorite Female Voice from an Animated Movie</u>	<u>Taraji P. Henson</u>	Nominated	
<u>Producers Guild of America Awards</u>	<u>February 25, 2023</u>	<u>Outstanding Producer of Animated Theatrical Motion Pictures</u>	<u>Chris Meledandri, Janet Healy, and Chris Renaud</u>	Nominated	[108] [109]
<u>Saturn Awards</u>	<u>October 25, 2022</u>	<u>Best Animated Film</u>	<i>Minions: The Rise of Gru</i>	Nominated	[110] [111]
<u>Visual Effects Society Awards</u>	<u>February 15, 2023</u>	Outstanding Visual Effects in a Commercial	Gerome Viavant, Giles de Lusignan, and Benjamin Le Ster	Nominated	[112]

Notes

- a. Attributed to multiple references: [31][32][33][34]
- b. Attributed to multiple references: [37][38][39][40]
- c. Attributed to multiple references: [29][30][52][53]

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- Official website (<https://www.minionsmovie.com/>)
 - *Minions: The Rise of Gru* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5113044/>) at IMDb
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