

We Can Be Heroes (2020 film)

We Can Be Heroes is a 2020 American superhero film written and directed by Robert Rodriguez. It is both a standalone and legacy sequel to the 2005 film *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3-D*.^{[1][2]} Rodriguez was also the cinematographer and editor of the film, which stars YaYa Gosselin, Lyon Daniels, Andy Walken, Hala Finley, Lotus Blossom, Dylan Henry Lau, Andrew Diaz, Isaiah Russel-Bailey, Akira Akbar, Nathan Blair, and Vivien Lyra Blair. It was released on December 25, 2020, by Netflix and received mixed reviews from critics. A sequel is in development.

Plot

Missy Moreno is at home with her dad, Marcus, when they receive word to come to the rescue of heroes where Missy has to go with her father and be with other Heroics' children.

Missy meets the other children there:

- Wheels, who possesses super-strength, but his muscles are too heavy for his skeletal system to support.
- Noodles, who can stretch his body.
- Ojo, who is mute and communicates through art.
- A-Capella, who can telekinetically manipulate objects by singing.
- Slo-Mo, who is always in slow motion, due to being in a time warp.
- Face Maker, who can morph his face into anyone.
- Rewind and Fast Forward, twins who can alter time.
- Wild Card, who has immense powers but no control over it.
- Guppy, who has "shark strength" and can shape water into anything she can imagine.

The kids watch the battle between the aliens and Heroics on television, ending with the Heroics' capture. Missy realizes that Ojo's drawings tell the future. When a drawing shows aliens breaking into the vault, the kids hatch a plan to escape.

Face Maker tricks the guards into coming into the vault where Guppy subdues them, but not before one of the guards triggers an emergency lockdown. Rewind sends them back in time, Wheels stops the guard from pushing the button, and Noodles

We Can Be Heroes



Netflix release poster

Directed by	<u>Robert Rodriguez</u>
Written by	Robert Rodriguez
Produced by	Racer Rodriguez
	Robert Rodriguez

Starring	<u>YaYa Gosselin</u>
	<u>Lyon Daniels</u>
	<u>Andy Walken</u>
	<u>Hala Finley</u>
	<u>Lotus Blossom</u>
	<u>Dylan Henry Lau</u>
	<u>Andrew Diaz</u>
	<u>Isaiah Russel-Bailey</u>
	<u>Akira Akbar</u>
	<u>Nathan Blair</u>
	<u>Vivien Lyra Blair</u>
	<u>Priyanka Chopra</u>
	<u>Jonas</u>

Cinematography	Robert Rodriguez
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steals their security badges. Mrs. Granada spots Missy in the hallway and seals the doors, but A-Capella makes a staircase to the roof, allowing them to escape. Noodles secure a vehicle, and the kids escape.

They land at the home of Missy's grandmother, Anita Moreno, who is the Heroics' trainer and helps the kids master their powers and work as a team. The aliens arrive and Grandma sends the kids through a tunnel that leads to an empty field before she is captured. The kids spot an empty alien craft and use it to reach the Mother ship. Locating a room with a purple pyramid, they see the president and Ms. Granada speaking. They are alien spies, sent to prepare Earth for a "takeover". The kids are placed in a cell. Guppy makes a replica of the key from the children's tears and opens the door. A fight between the kids and the aliens ensues, and Wild Card is caught and taken for questioning while the others seek the pyramid.

Edited by	Robert Rodriguez
Music by	Rebel Rodriguez
Production company	<u>Double R Productions</u>
Distributed by	<u>Netflix</u>
Release date	December 25, 2020 (United States)
Running time	100 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	Unknown

Wheels hacks into the motherboard, but Ojo reveals that she can speak and is the Supreme Commander of the aliens. Missy communicates with Wild Card in the control room; Face Maker has switched places with him. Granada goes after Wild Card, but not before the protective shield around the motherboard is deactivated. With the kids holding off the aliens, Wheels and Noodles remove the motherboard and swap it with a new one deactivating the alien's rocket and foiling the takeover. As they celebrate, the president and Ms Granada grabs Missy and threatens to throw her over, until Wild Card appears and pushes them off. Ms Granada grabs the edge, while the president grabs her legs. As she struggles to hold on, the president accidentally pulls Ms Granada's skirt off, and falls to his death. Ms Granada, now in her underwear, begs for help. Missy decides to help, and everyone lifts her up. Wild Card then creates a sign saying "Nothing to see here!" for Ms Granada to cover her panties with.

To the kids' surprise, their parents emerge from the rocket. Ojo reveals that she and Ms. Granada faked the "takeover" to train the kids to be the new Heroics. The kids reunite with their parents and are soon ready to save the world.

Cast

- YaYa Gosselin as Missy Moreno, the powerless daughter of Marcus and the granddaughter of Anita.
- Hala Finley as Ojo, Supreme commander and Queen of aliens.
- Lyon Daniels as Noodles, the son of Invisi Girl.
- Nathan Blair as Wild Card, the son of Tech-No.
- Andy Walken as Wheels, the son of Miracle Guy.
- Lotus Blossom as A Capella, the daughter of Ms. Vox.
- Dylan Henry Lau as Slo-Mo, the son of Blinding Fast.
- Vivien Lyra Blair as Guppy, the youngest daughter of Sharkboy and Lavagirl. She was named after the fish itself.
- Isaiah Russell-Bailey as Rewind, the son of Crimson Legend and Red Lightning Fury and the twin brother of Fast Forward.
- Akira Akbar as Fast Forward, the daughter of Crimson Legend and Red Lightning Fury and the twin sister of Rewind.

- [Andrew Diaz](#) as Facemaker, the son of Crushing Low.
- [Priyanka Chopra Jonas](#) as Ms. Granada, the leader of the Heroics Program.
- [Adriana Barraza](#) as Anita Moreno, the mother of Marcus and the grandmother of Missy.
- [Pedro Pascal](#) as Marcus Moreno, the father of Missy and the son of Anita, a superhero, and master swordsman. His power is a magnetic force emitted from his hands, which allows him to keep a constant grip on his blades. He is the leader of The Heroics team of superheroes.
- [Boyd Holbrook](#) as Miracle Guy, a superhero with super strength.
- [Christian Slater](#) as Tech-No, a superhero with technology powers.
- [Taylor Dooley](#) as Lavagirl, a super heroine with lava-based powers. Dooley reprised her role from *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3-D*.^[3]
- [Sung Kang](#) as Blinding Fast, a superhero with super-speed.
- [Haley Reinhart](#) as Ms. Vox, a superhero with a sonar scream.
- [JJ Dashnaw](#) as Sharkboy, a superhero with shark-based powers, in a silent role due to [Taylor Lautner](#), the original actor, who played Sharkboy in *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3-D*, being unavailable. Because of this, his face is obscured.^[3]
- [Christopher McDonald](#) as Neil Anami, the [President of the United States](#).
- [J. Quinton Johnson](#) as Crimson Legend, a superhero who can make solar explosions.
- [Brittany Perry-Russell](#) as Red Lightning Fury, a superhero with lightning powers.
- [Jamie Perez](#) as Invisi Girl, a superhero with invisibility powers.
- [Brently Heilbron](#) as Crushing Low, a superhero with super-strength.
- [Racer Rodriguez](#) as a Helicopter Pilot. Rodriguez previously portrayed Sharkboy at age 7 and was the head of story in *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3-D*.

Production

[Robert Rodriguez](#) wrote, directed, and produced *We Can Be Heroes* through his [Troublemaker Studios](#).^[4] [Priyanka Chopra Jonas](#),^[4] along with [Christian Slater](#) and [Pedro Pascal](#), were announced to star.^[5] Principal photography began in August 2019, shooting in Texas.^[5] Visual effects were provided by [Weta Digital](#).^[6] The score was recorded at [Synchron Stage](#) in [Vienna](#).^[7]

Release

The film was released on December 25, 2020,^[8] pushed forward from a January 1, 2021, release date.^[9]

Reception

Audience viewership

Upon its release, the film was the most-watched title in its opening weekend, then finished third the following weekend before returning to first in its third weekend.^{[10][11]} It finished second behind new Netflix release *Outside the Wire* in its fourth weekend.^[12] It was revealed that the film has been seen in 53 million households during the first four weeks.^[13] It was the most-watched film on Netflix in 2021.^[14]

Critical response

On review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an approval rating of 74% based on 46 reviews, with an average rating of 6/10. The site's consensus reads, "Although it may be too zany for adults, *We Can Be Heroes* balances its sophisticated themes with heart and zealous originality."^[15] On Metacritic, the film has a weighted average score of 51 out of 100, based on reviews from 10 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews".^[16]

David Ehrlich of IndieWire called it a "zany, imaginative, and extremely kid-oriented *Avengers* riff that combines major stars with Snapchat-level special effects in order to lend a live-action Saturday morning cartoon vibe to a story about seizing your own destiny, *We Can Be Heroes* is the ultimate Troublemaker movie."^[17]

Sequel

In January 2021, Netflix announced they are planning to develop a sequel.^[18] By August of the same year, Rodriguez confirmed that he would return in his role as director, while announcing that principal photography would take place in 2022.^[19] As of December 14, 2023 there are no official updates on the film.

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External links

- *We Can Be Heroes* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10600398/>) at *IMDb*
 - *We Can Be Heroes* (<https://www.netflix.com/title/80994666>) on *Netflix*
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