

= Agent Carter (season 2) =

The second season of the American television series Agent Carter , which is inspired by the 2011 film Captain America : The First Avenger and the 2013 Marvel One @-@ Shot short film of the same name , features the Marvel Comics character Peggy Carter as she moves to Los Angeles to deal with the threats of the new atomic age in the wake of World War II , gaining new friends , a new home , and potential new love . It is set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) , sharing continuity with the films of the franchise . The season , which aired on ABC from January 19 to March 1 , 2016 , over 10 episodes , was produced by ABC Studios , Marvel Television , and F & B Fazekas & Butters , with Tara Butters , Michele Fazekas , and Chris Dingess serving as showrunners .

In May 2015 , a second season of Agent Carter was ordered , with Hayley Atwell , who reprises her role from the film series and One @-@ Shot as Carter , returning to star . Alongside her , James D 'Arcy , Chad Michael Murray , and Enver Gjokaj also return from the first season . Filming took place in Los Angeles in late 2015 , with the season contrasting the lives of Carter and the Hedy Lamarr @-@ inspired Whitney Frost , portrayed by recurring guest star Wynn Everett . Visual and practical effects were mixed to realize the setting and more fantastical elements of the series , while David Zippel and Louis van Amstel provided a musical dream sequence for the season . Other characters from previous MCU media also appear , as well as elements shared with the films and the television series Marvel 's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.

The season aired during the season three mid @-@ season break of Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. , receiving generally positive reviews , with critics praising the performances , particularly those of Atwell and D 'Arcy , as well as the setting and the character development of Whitney Frost . However , some elements , such as the season 's ending and humor , were criticized , and viewership for the season was low . ABC canceled Agent Carter on May 12 , 2016 .

= = Episodes = =

= = Cast and characters = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

In January 2015 , showrunners Michele Fazekas and Tara Butters confirmed that Agent Carter was not intended to be a miniseries , and that a possible second season would not necessarily be limited to eight episodes like the first . The series was renewed for a second season on May 7 , 2015 , intended to debut in 2016 of the 2015 ? 16 season during the midseason break of the third season of Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Later in May , Hayley Atwell stated the season would consist of 10 episodes . Butters explained that this would probably not allow for any standalone episodes , " but I definitely think it allows for more character , because we can have more personal stories built into the framework of the overall arching mystery " .

= = = Writing = = =

Before the second season was announced , Fazekas said that " We 've certainly been talking about what a second season would look like ... what 's great about the structure of this show is , you can tell so many different stories and go so many different directions . " Thus , Butters said of the first season storyline featuring Leviathan , " we wrapped up that story " already , with Toby Jones ' cameo as Arnim Zola in the first season finale just " a fun tie @-@ in " rather than something that

would be followed up on in the second season . Series creators Christopher Markus & Stephen McFeely revealed they " had a really nice story about who Peggy is and where she came from " that did not make it into the first season , but they hoped could be explored in a second , while Fazekas and Butters also revealed that there had been a story about Carter having " a night out with the girls " to explore her personal life , as well as more material for the character Angie , that they felt would both be easier to tell in a second season .

Season two is set in 1947 , approximately six months to a year following the events of the first , with the time jump made to show " people are in a little bit different positions , and things have happened between these seasons that we maybe don 't know about . " Fazekas noted that " the challenge " for the season was to find a way to reunite Carter with Edwin Jarvis since he is " not an agent that 's a really important relationship , how do we keep them together ? ... The nice thing about Peggy this season is she 's not having to hide her agenda from the SSR . [Jarvis] is helping her out , just in a different way . " Elaborating on the SSR 's role in the season , Fazekas explained that when Markus and McFeely created the organisation for Captain America : The First Avenger it was inspired by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) , which was " somewhat disbanded after the war , because it was created because of World War II . So now that the war is over , things are changing . And in real history , the OSS sort of became the CIA and some of its other functions went under other departments . There 's a little bit of change going on within SSR and so Thompson [is now the New York SSR chief , but he] has a boss [in Vernon Masters] that 's going to be saying , " Look , things are changing , and you need to look out for yourself . " " The season also sees Daniel Sousa promoted to the chief of the Los Angeles SSR office .

The fictional company Isodyne Energy , who is involved with nuclear testing in the desert , was influenced by the real life 1940s companies such as Radiodyne , General Atomic or the beginnings of the Jet Propulsion Lab , " all of which were in L.A. in the ' 40s , and were developing the space program and were developing nukes . " Additionally , the season avoids depicting real life Hollywood stars from the 1940s because " the focus would shift from story to : does that person look or sound like an actor ? " Instead , the character Whitney Frost is depicted as an actress " who will have a part to play in our larger storyline . " The season introduces the Council of Nine , based on the Secret Empire , who " meet at the Arena Club , which is like this social club of white guys . They 're just the guys who sort of run the world . They have orchestrated assassinations . We insinuate that they orchestrated the 1929 Stock Market crash . " Members of the Council include powerful businessmen Calvin Chadwick and Hugh Jones , and their influence extends to " high levels of the government " as seen with War Department veteran Vernon Masters . Despite close similarities between the ' A ' symbol of the Arena Club and a Hydra symbol introduced in the third season of Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. , Fazekas stated that she " would not say " there was a connection between the Council and Hydra .

With the introduction of Jason Wilkes and Frost , both considered " outsiders " as Carter was in the first season , co -@-@ showrunner Chris Dingess noted how their arcs in the season would be similar , yet different to Carter 's , saying " I think everyone , to get to that place of getting respect , has a different road to get there . Everyone makes different choices along the way that define that road and I think with these three characters , everyone has a distinct , separate path . " Atwell spoke specifically about the season 's approach to diversity and prejudice , and noted that the series ' crew had expanded to include African American and Asian writers as well as a female director . " Since the first season heavily focused on a woman in a man 's world , " Atwell said , " we 're now going into more diversity and we 're investigating different prejudices within this time and one of them absolutely would have been race , as we all know if you have a staunchly white male cast then it might be more accurate of the time , but it becomes less relatable to our audiences , especially when the Marvel world 's so diverse . " On the racism issue , Butters stated , " We didn 't want to just have an African @-@ American character and not talk about that . That would have been very inauthentic . " As for the sexism Frost faces , Gina McIntyre and Andrea Towers of Entertainment Weekly saw similarities with Marvel 's Jessica Jones when Frost is asked to smile by two different men in her flashbacks in " Smoke & Mirrors " . Towers said , " The talent agent [who asks Frost to smile] may not be the Purple Man , but Whitney is certainly being ushered into a brainwashed

mindset that will set her on a path she can't deviate from easily . "

At the conclusion of the season , Fazekas recalled the potential story revolving around Carter having a girls night out , saying that they realized that " once Peggy is on the mission , it starts to become difficult for her to have a social life ... we kept sort of punting that scene because every time we tried to do it , it was like , ' She 's not going to stop to go out to dinner . She has the world to save . ' " Also , they felt they were not properly servicing Angie 's character , instead " just sticking her in scenes just to be there , " resulting in the decision to ultimately not bring Angie back for the season as planned . In her place , the characters of Ana Jarvis and Rose Roberts are featured as confidante 's for Carter , " both people who are 100 % in on Peggy 's secret . Angie sort of figures it out at the end of the first season but Ana and Rose ? there is no need to hide the truth from them . So it makes it a lot easier for her to confide in them . "

= = = Casting = = =

Atwell , James D 'Arcy , Chad Michael Murray , and Enver Gjokaj return from the first season to star as Peggy Carter , Edwin Jarvis , Jack Thompson , and Daniel Sousa , respectively . By July 2015 , Bridget Regan (Dottie Underwood) and Lyndsy Fonseca (Angie Martinelli) were negotiating contracts to also return for the season . At Fan Expo Canada the next month , Atwell confirmed that Regan would return for the season , with Dominic Cooper and Lesley Boone later also confirmed to be reprising their roles , respectively as Howard Stark and Rose Roberts . In December 2015 , Fonseca was confirmed to return for a dream sequence in " A Little Song and Dance " . Also returning for the second season is Ray Wise as Hugh Jones .

In August 2015 , it was revealed that the character Whitney Frost would appear in the season , and Currie Graham was cast as her husband , Calvin Chadwick , the owner of Isodyne Energy . In October , Wynn Everett was revealed to be cast as Frost ; Reggie Austin was cast as physicist Jason Wilkes ; Lotte Verbeek was cast in the role of Ana Jarvis , the wife of Edwin Jarvis ; and Kurtwood Smith was revealed to be recurring as Vernon Masters , a veteran of the War Department . The next month , Ken Marino was cast as Joseph Manfredi , leader of the Maggia crime syndicate . Additionally , Matt Braunger was cast as SSR lab tech Aloysius Samberly , and Rey Valentin was cast as SSR Agent Vega .

The dream sequence in " A Little Song and Dance " , dubbed an informal crossover with Dancing with the Stars , features many of the professional dancers from that series , including Louis van Amstel , Dmitry Chaplin , Karina Smirnoff , Anna Trebunskaya , Sasha Farber , and Damian Whitewood . Dancers Robert Roldan , Malene Ostergaard , Amanda Balen , Serge Onik , Jenya Shatilova , Lacey Escabar , Alla Kocherga , and Paul Kirkland are also featured in the sequence .

= = = Design = = =

Series costume designer Giovanna Ottobre @-@ Melton took inspiration from the films LA Confidential , Chinatown , and Who Framed Roger Rabbit to " represent the West Coast " , and the " sunshine noir " feel of the era for the season . The then @-@ just introduced " Dior New Look " is also referenced " with longer hemlines on supporting players . " The dream sequence at the beginning of " A Little Song and Dance " was choreographed by van Amstel and begins in black and white , before transitioning to color . Head of make @-@ up Debra LaMia Denaver explained that for the Zero Matter " wound " on Frost 's face , the " guidelines were for it to be like a cracked porcelain doll and then the black matter would come from inside out . From there , Jay [Wejebe , makeup artist] designed the prosthetics that we use and Robin [Beauchesne , key makeup artist] created all the different avenues the dark matter takes . " Using reference photographs and pre @-@ made prosthetics , the make @-@ up team were ultimately able to apply the effect to Everett in 30 minutes .

= = = Filming = = =

Filming for the season began on August 31 , and ended on December 19 , 2015 , with Edward J. Pei serving as director of photography . Unlike the first season , episodes were filmed concurrently , two at a time . Discussing the series ' location move , Head of Marvel Television Jeph Loeb explained that " Agent Carter season one took place in New York in 1946 . It wasn 't like we could go to New York and find 1946 , so we shot in L.A. But that 's part of the reason that when we talked about it , we said , ' You know what ? This season let 's stay in L.A. ' Because so much of L.A. still looks like it did in 1946 . " Butters expanded by saying the move to L.A. " was something we had talked about in the middle of the first season ... [and] we realized that not only was it a good idea for the storytelling , but also ... it 's much easier for us to shoot L.A. for L.A. than try to shoot L.A. for New York . " She added the season hoped to film at Musso & Frank Grill , the Formosa Cafe , the Griffith Observatory , racetracks , piers , and other locations in Downtown Los Angeles .

The Universal Studios backlot serves as the backlot for the film studio Stark starts , Stark Pictures , with filming also taking place at the Los Angeles River . The Dunbar Hotel , a famous jazz club where both African @-@ Americans and Caucasians would attend , is portrayed in the season . The showrunners looked to the films LA Confidential , Chinatown , The Big Heat , and The Lady from Shanghai when shaping the visuals for the season , with additional research provided by Pei . Butters said , " it doesn 't feel like a different show . It just feels like an evolution of the show . "

= = = Visual effects = = =

DNeg TV provided the visual effects for the season , with Sheena Duggal returning as visual effects supervisor . Effects created for the season included the Zero Matter and its related properties , such as people being frozen and shattered by it , the dimensional rifts and the levitated objects that get sucked into them , and Wilkes becoming intangible . Frost 's Zero Matter " crack " on her face was also augmented with visual effects , to add depth , sentience , and an " infinite black " by color @-@ correcting the image , with the effects animators studying " cracking glass to better capture the animation effect . " 20 cast members were digitally scanned and modeled for interaction with Zero Matter , while many other instances required facial tracking markers on actors . For the Zero Matter itself , the design was described as a cross between " liquid spiders " and magnetic ferrofluid , the latter being used as an on set reference for the actors by Duggal . The main dimensional rifts were designed as black holes , based on the work of theoretical physicist Kip Thorne , which also inspired Double Negative 's visual effects for Interstellar ; the software developed for the film was reused for the series . DNeg TV also worked on Howard Stark 's Hover car , using the original computer asset for the version seen in Captain America : The First Avenger . Despite the original car from the film being only a shell and destroyed after the picture , an identical Cadillac was found for DNeg to laser scan and incorporate into the episode along with the real car when it is parked on the ground .

= = = Music = = =

The dance number used in the dream sequence from " A Little Song and Dance " was an original song from lyricist David Zippel and series composer Christopher Lennertz , in conjunction with Butters and Fazekas . Titled " Whatcha Gonna Do (It 's Up to You) " , the single was performed by Atwell and Gjakaj along with the Hollywood Studio Symphony , and was released on iTunes on March 18 , 2016 .

= = = Marvel Cinematic Universe tie @-@ ins = = =

In July 2015 , Butters revealed that the season would feature the Darkforce , which ties to the characters Doctor Strange and Marcus Daniels , the latter having appeared in Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. In January 2016 , Fazekas elaborated , saying that the Darkforce , known as Zero Matter in the series , is the result of a nuclear test gone wrong by Isodyne Energy . Looking to the history of the Darkforce in the comics , Fazekas and Butters " were able to select what we liked and sort of make our own rules as to what it does , how it operates , and who it affects in our world . " The producers

tried to take a scientific approach to the explanation of the Zero Matter , consulting with theoretical physicist Clifford Johnson to help ground it in science . Johnson provided the science equations seen on blackboards throughout the season , as well as real world reference for the Zero Matter containment systems . The showrunners also conversed with Eric Carroll at Marvel Studios to ensure anything they were doing with the Darkforce would not contradict the Doctor Strange script , and to see if they could destroy Howard Stark 's hover car , which was originally seen as a prototype in Captain America : The First Avenger . The mention in the season finale of the land Stark owns in Malibu is a reference to what will become the location for the home of his son , Tony , in the MCU films .

= = Release = =

= = = Broadcast = = =

Season two of Agent Carter premiered on January 19 , 2016 on ABC with a two @-@ hour premiere , during the midseason break of the third season of Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. It was originally scheduled to premiere on January 5 , 2016 , but was delayed due to an " earlier than usual " 2016 State of the Union Address . The season aired until March 1 , 2016 .

= = = Marketing = = =

Footage from the first episode was screened at New York Comic Con in October 2015 , while the first trailer for the season was released in November . Alice Walker of Screen Rant felt that " this promo highlights the best parts of the show . Fast paced and slick , Atwell is still incredibly charming There is a long way to go before we see if they can build on the momentum from the previous season , but so far it looks like a fun adventure . " Conversely , Kaitlin Thomas at TV.com called the promo " weird " , asking , " Why is ABC marketing Agent Carter like it 's one of the network 's casually daft melodramas instead of a well @-@ written drama [?] ... From a tonal and thematic standpoint , the series depicted in that trailer feels like the polar opposite of what it actually is cutting together a bunch of scenes of Peggy punching people or holding a gun does not make her a badass when its framed in this way , and frankly , it 's no wonder people aren 't tuning in if that 's the type of show they think this is . " In March 2016 , Maureen Ryan , writing for Variety , described the season 's promotion as " lackluster " , and blamed it , as well as other factors that included " the botched rollout of Season 2 " , on the season 's ultimately poor viewership .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

= = = Critical response = = =

The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported an 80 % approval rating with an average rating of 7 @. @ 9 / 10 based on 15 reviews . The website 's consensus reads , " A move from New York to Hollywood gives Agent Carter new territory to explore , as the series continues to search for a storyline as dynamic as its heroine . " Mitchell Broussard at We Got This Covered graded the season premiere 4 @. @ 5 out of 5 stars , calling it " Fantastic " and positively comparing it to Marvel 's Ant @-@ Man by saying " Agent Carter finds a way to make the smaller stakes of Peggy 's noir sandbox as tense , credible , and addictively watchable as any other addition to the MCU . " Broussard highlighted the performances of Atwell and D 'Arcy as well as the new casting additions , and called the season 's pacing , due to the small episode order , " exciting " . He noted that " some

may be disappointed in the more restrained adulthood of the show releasing so soon after Jessica Jones , but I think that ? s the greatest thing about this world : each show feels different and its own thing , despite their close proximity . " Variety 's Brian Lowry was less positive , praising the casting and performances but saying , " Agent Carter feels too slavishly locked into the S.H.I.E.L.D. formula ... it 's sort of a shame Agent Carter isn ? t more compelling , since the impeccable period trappings and costumes make the series a nice change of pace , at least visually . "

Eric Goldman of IGN gave the season an 8 @. @ 3 out of 10 , praising Atwell 's performance , as well as the return of Dottie in the season and the additions of Ana Jarvis and Whitney Frost . Conversely , he felt Reggie Austin as Jason Wilkes was likable , but ultimately the " character felt a bit bland " and that the humor in the season was pushed " a bit too far " . He concluded , " I don 't think [the season] was quite as tightly @-@ constructed as Season 1 and tonally , it sometimes wrestled with finding the right balance between the cool spy @-@ action elements and the likable comedic aspect ... But overall , it was another fun season filled with compelling characters ? including a strong villain ? and 1940s , Marvel @-@ flavored spy heroics , which benefitted from the new visuals the Los Angeles setting gave it . " Molly Freeman , reviewing the season finale for Screen Rant , called the season as a whole " Excellent " , particularly praising the character development given to the character of Whitney Frost , but criticized the way that the season ended that character 's storyline , stating that the finale " does a disservice to all the character development of Whitney throughout season 2 for the sake of sweeping her aside as easily as possible and giving the other cast members more development and screen time . After watching Agent Carter develop Whitney as such a powerful and sympathetic villain earlier this season , the way the show wrapped up her storyline is a disappointment . "

= = = Accolades = = =

For the season , the series was nominated for Best Superhero Adaptation Series at the 42nd Saturn Awards .