

= Agent Carter ( season 1 ) =

The first season of the American television series Agent Carter , which is inspired by the film Captain America : The First Avenger and the Marvel One @-@ Shot short film of the same name , features the Marvel Comics character Peggy Carter as she must balance doing administrative work and going on secret missions for Howard Stark while trying to navigate life as a single woman in 1940s America . 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 6 to February 24 , 2015 , over 8 episodes , was produced by ABC Studios , Marvel Television , and F & B Fazekas & Butters , with Tara Butters , Michele Fazekas , and Chris Dingess serving as showrunners .

Hayley Atwell reprises her role from the film series and One @-@ Shot as Carter , with James D 'Arcy , Chad Michael Murray , Enver Gjokaj , and Shea Whigham also starring . In May 2014 , ABC bypassed a pilot , ordering a show based on the One @-@ Shot straight to series for an eight episode season . Filming took place in Los Angeles from September 2014 to January 2015 , and Industrial Light & Magic provided visual effects . The season introduces the origins of several characters and storylines from MCU films , while other characters from the films and Marvel One @-@ Shots also appear .

The season aired during the season two mid @-@ season break of Marvel 's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Despite steadily dropping viewership , critical response to Agent Carter was positive , with much praise going to Atwell 's performance , the series ' tone and setting , and its relative separation from the rest of the MCU . The series was renewed for a second season on May 7 , 2015 .

= = Episodes = =

= = Cast and characters = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

By September 2013 , Marvel Television was developing a series inspired by the Agent Carter One @-@ Shot short film , featuring the Marvel Comics character Peggy Carter . On May 8 , 2014 , ABC officially ordered the series , bypassing a pilot order , and later confirmed that Agent Carter would air between the 2014 finale and 2015 premiere of the second season of Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. , beginning January 6 , 2015 . Later in May , star Hayley Atwell stated that the season would consist of eight episodes . Executive producers for the season include Tara Butters , Michelle Fazekas , Christopher Markus , Stephen McFeely , Chris Dingess , Kevin Feige , Louis D 'Esposito , Alan Fine , Joe Quesada , Stan Lee , and Jeph Loeb . Butters , Fazekas , and Dingess serve as showrunners on the season .

= = = Writing = = =

Markus & McFeely , writers on the Captain America films , had written a script for the first episode by January 2014 . They stated in March that the series would be set in 1946 , occurring in the middle of the timeline established in the One @-@ Shot . In July , Butters and Fazekas revealed that writing for the rest of the season would begin in August 2014 .

In July 2014 , Fazekas stated that it was " fabulous from a writing perspective " to have an eight episode order , as " it 's a really nice number where you can plan it and know where you 're heading ... They 're all their own stories and they all have their own drive , but it 's sort of building toward a big thing at the end of the eight episodes . " Elaborating on this , Atwell said , " it 's incredibly tight ,

the script , which is great . It 's fast moving and fast paced but luckily because it 's not stretched out of 22 episodes , nothing is diluted . Every line is vital to not only moving the story and the action [ along ] but also developing the characters . So you get to know these characters incredibly quickly . You get to know who you should be trusting , who you shouldn 't be , and then it takes you on this adventure with a lot of surprises and twists and turns which are a surprise to Peggy and they 'll also be a surprise to the audience . " Also in July , it was revealed that Carter 's husband would be explored in the series . However , it was not explored much in the first season , with McFeely saying , " This was the season where she says goodbye to Steve [ Rogers ] ... But we knew by the end [ of season one ] that she should say goodbye to him . In a second season , she could be freer to have those conversations about a life after him . "

Speaking about the season 's use of 1940s terminology , Fazekas stated that terms like " broad " and " dame " were preferably avoided , while research was done to ensure terms that were used in the series were actually in use during that time , with Fazekas giving the example , " you know what didn 't exist in 1946 ? Smart ass . I looked up the etymology on that , didn 't exist in 1946 . Turns out it was a term that came around in the 60s . But for instance , I wrote a line that said , " Oh I think someone 's yanking your chain . " And I had to look it up , did that exist in 1946 ? And actually it did ; it 's a mining term that exists from a long time ago . That 's our research that we do . " Research was also done on radio shows of the time to ensure realism when creating the fictional Captain America Adventure Program , with details discovered and replicated on the series including the use of lobsters and ham to create sound effects for the radio show . The Griffith Hotel , the all @-@ women boarding house where Carter lives , is based on the real @-@ life Barbizon Hotel for Women . Butters felt that while working in the time period , it became an issue to not sound " too period " . Additionally , it was difficult to write British people from the time in order to avoid stereotypes such as the " typical British butler " . However , D 'Arcy , who is British , felt the writing staff wrote the British characters better than anyone else he had worked with , despite there not being any British writers on the staff .

= = = Casting = = =

The main cast for the season includes Hayley Atwell as Peggy Carter , reprising her role from the film series , James D 'Arcy as Edwin Jarvis , Chad Michael Murray as Jack Thompson , Enver Gjokaj as Daniel Sousa , and Shea Whigham as Roger Dooley .

In March 2014 , Markus and McFeely stated that Howard Stark would be a recurring character , contingent on Dominic Cooper 's involvement . In June 2014 , Atwell confirmed that Cooper would be involved with the series . Kyle Bornheimer , Ralph Brown , Meagen Fay , Lyndsy Fonseca , and Bridget Regan also recur as Ray Krzeminski , Johann Fennhoff , Miriam Fry , Angie Martinelli , and Dottie Underwood , respectively , throughout the series .

In November 2014 , it was announced that Costa Ronin would portray a younger version of Anton Vanko , who was portrayed in Iron Man 2 by Yevgeni Lazarev . Chris Evans appears as Steve Rogers / Captain America via archive footage from The First Avenger . Neal McDonough and Toby Jones also reprise their roles of Timothy " Dum Dum " Dugan and Arnim Zola from previous MCU films , One @-@ Shots , and / or television series during the season .

= = = Filming = = =

Filming began in Los Angeles around late September / early October 2014 and was completed on January 20 , 2015 . Cinematographer Gabriel Beristain , returning from the One @-@ Shot , used a combination of modern digital technology and traditional analog techniques to replicate the feel of classic films that are set in the 1940s , but to also have the convenience and consistency of modern technology . Beristain uses the Arri Alexa digital camera , along with Leica Lenses and silk @-@ stocking diffusion nets , the latter on which he recalled " I had last used in the 1980s in England on videos and commercials . I remembered that they were fantastic . In combination with the Leica lenses , the look is very classic , very much like a 1940s film . When I saw it , I said , ' This is

absolutely Marvel , ' and [ D 'Esposito ] agreed . " For the series ' lighting , Beristain again mixed modern and traditional , using LED fixtures to recreate classic Hollywood lighting . He called his lighting of Atwell " an homage to the great cinematographers who lit Lauren Bacall and Grace Kelly . "

= = = Visual effects = = =

Sheena Duggal , who served as visual effects supervisor on the Agent Carter One @-@ Shot , returned to the position for the series , while the companies Industrial Light & Magic ( ILM ) and Base FX created the visual effects . Work by ILM includes the creation of backdrops for the series , including matte paintings , depicting 1940s New York . DNeg TV also created visual effects , with ILM coordinating with them and Base to maintain a " seamless workflow " . The season had 1038 visual effects shots , with multiple episodes being worked on in post @-@ production simultaneously to complete the work . In addition to all the set extensions required to depict the period ( the series filmed at " every back lot in LA , including Universal , Paramount and Warner Bros. , relying on a tremendous amount of green screen and matte paintings to create the show 's authentic @-@ looking locations " ) , Duggal also noted difficulty in simulating the imploding bombs and creating a fully CG truck that drives off a cliff .

= = = Music = = =

In September 2014 , Christopher YOUNG officially signed on to compose for the series , having previously composed the Agent Carter One @-@ Shot . YOUNG combined all the different style elements of the show in the music , such as mixing jazz and period elements , with orchestra and electronic elements . In his research of the music of the time period , YOUNG learned that jazz was shifting from big band to smaller ensembles , and bebop was being introduced . This allowed him to incorporate trumpets in his scores , to harken to the time period and because they are " also very sneaky , and it lends itself to espionage " . YOUNG used the alto flute to capture " Carter 's aura " , saying , " It feels like a strong woman 's voice , especially as she 's sneaking around .... it also has that spy quality . " Additionally , YOUNG was able to reorchestrate " Star @-@ Spangled Man " for the season , which is originally by Alan Menken for Captain America : The First Avenger , and introduced a folk choral piece performed by a Russian men 's choir during " The Iron Ceiling " . A soundtrack album for the season was released on iTunes on December 11 , 2015 .

All music composed by Christopher YOUNG .

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

Markus , talking about the series place in the greater architecture of the MCU in January 2015 said " you really only need to drop the tiniest bit of hint and its connected . You don 't have to go , " Howard Stark 's wearing the same pants that Tony wears ! " ... Everything is enhanced just by the knowledge that its all connected . " The season introduces the Red Room and the origins of the Black Widow program , which will eventually produce Natasha Romanoff , who appears in multiple MCU films portrayed by Scarlett Johansson . Although the origins of the program are explored , the term " Black Widow " is never used in the series . Agent Carter also explores the origins of the Hydra @-@ led Winter Soldier program , as seen by the end tag in " Valediction " when Zola approaches Faustus about mind control .

= = Release = =

= = = Broadcast = = =

Agent Carter debuted in the United States and Canada as a two @-@ hour series premiere on

January 6 , 2015 , on ABC and CTV , respectively . It began airing in New Zealand on TV2 on February 11 , 2015 . In October 2014 , Channel 4 , the channel that airs Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. in the United Kingdom , stated that they did not " have any current plans [ to air ] Agent Carter " . In June 2015 , FOX UK purchased the broadcast rights for the United Kingdom , with the series premiering on July 12 , 2015 .

== Marketing ==

In the lead up to the airing of the series , Atwell made several appearances as Carter in Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. ' s second season . Footage from the first episode was shown at New York Comic Con on October 10 , 2014 , and again in ABC 's one @-@ hour television special , Marvel 75 Years : From Pulp to Pop ! , which aired in November 2014 . The first teaser for the series debuted during Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. on October 28 , 2014 , with the tagline " Sometimes the best man for the job ... is a woman . " Though the trailer itself was received positively , the tagline was criticized as " awful " and " ridiculous " , and Alan Sepinwall of HitFix said " I get that one of the themes of the show will be Peggy dealing with the sexism of the time , but these ads exist in 2014 , not 1945 . Please find a new tagline . "

== Home media ==

The season was released on Blu @-@ ray and DVD on September 18 , 2015 , as an Amazon.com exclusive .

== Reception ==

== Ratings ==

== Critical response ==

The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported a 95 % approval rating with an average rating of 7 @. @ 9 / 10 based on 42 reviews . The website 's consensus reads , " Focusing on Peggy Carter as a person first and an action hero second makes Marvel 's Agent Carter a winning , stylish drama with bursts of excitement and an undercurrent of cheeky fun " . Metacritic , which uses a weighted average , assigned a score of 73 out of 100 based on 27 reviews , indicating " generally favorable reviews . "

Brian Lowry , reviewing the two @-@ part premiere for Variety , felt that giving Atwell her own television series was " a pretty smart bet " by Marvel , and he called the episodes " considerable fun " . He noted the period setting as contributing to this , and positively mentioned the score by composer Christopher YOUNG . Darren Franich of Entertainment Weekly felt that " the show isn 't as retro @-@ stylish as it thinks it is ... the first hour of Agent Carter feels like an above @-@ average episode of Young Indiana Jones Chronicles " , noting that it tonally aims for His Girl Friday , Dick Tracy , and Alias ( " A tough tonal mixture on a weekly broadcast budget , but also an ambition worth pursuing " ) , but praised Atwell 's performance , calling her " a delight " and " firing on all cylinders " . Franich was negative about what he saw to be common MCU tropes , notably " Somebody named Stark invented something dangerous ; everyone wants an All @-@ Important Glowing Thing ; there 's an implicit promise that nothing will be solved for weeks / years to come . " Though he was wary about the series being forced to contribute to the rest of the MCU , he did note that " Agent Carter feels pleasantly segmented off from the greater Marvel Machinery " .

Eric Goldman of IGN gave the first season an 8 @. @ 8 out of 10 , saying , " Agent Carter didn 't need to succeed by setting up something to pay off in Guardians of the Galaxy 2 ? it just needed to be an entertaining , involving show . And boy , was it . " He also praised the Peggy / Jarvis dynamic

, the MCU tie @-@ ins and connections the series included , such as the Black Widow program , and the strong portrayals of the season 's supporting characters . Amy Ratcliffe at Nerdist called the season " a memorable splash " a noted that the lack of filler in the short season lead to " action @-@ packed but not overstuffed " episodes . She praised the " period aspect that 's defined so well by music , sets , and costumes " as placing the series " head and shoulders above others " , and called the cast " eminently talented " . On the other hand , Lowry ultimately found the series " just didn 't have legs " , saying that after the premiere it " meandered through several episodes that merely seemed to inch the story along , rallying only slightly in the not wholly satisfying conclusion . " He felt that outside of Atwell 's Carter and D 'Arcy 's Jarvis that characters were not developed enough , and said that the MCU tie @-@ in with Toby Jones ' Arnim Zola made the series seem like " a footnote " .

= = = Accolades = = =

Maureen Ryan of Variety named the show one of the Top 20 Best New Shows of 2015 , while Digital Spy ranked it 10th on their Best TV Shows of 2015 list . The A.V. Club named Atwell 's performance as one of the " Best Individual Performances " of 2015 .