

= Marvel One @-@ Shots =

Marvel One @-@ Shots are a series of direct @-@ to @-@ video short films produced by Marvel Studios , set within the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) , released from 2011 to 2014 . They are included as special features in the MCU films ' Blu @-@ ray and digital distribution releases , but are not included in the DVD releases . Each of the films , which range from 4 to 14 minutes , are designed to be a self @-@ contained story that provides more backstory for characters or events introduced in the films . Two of the shorts have been the inspiration for television series set in the MCU .

The Consultant (2011) and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Thor 's Hammer (2011) star Clark Gregg as Agent Phil Coulson , and offer up self @-@ contained stories about a day in the life of a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent . Item 47 (2012) stars Lizzy Caplan and Jesse Bradford as a down @-@ on @-@ their @-@ luck couple who find a discarded Chitauri gun after the events of Marvel 's The Avengers . Agent Carter (2013) stars Hayley Atwell as Peggy Carter after the events of Captain America : The First Avenger , while All Hail the King (2014) stars Ben Kingsley as Trevor Slattery after the events of Iron Man 3 .

= = Development = =

In August 2011 , Marvel announced that a couple of short films , designed to be self @-@ contained stories , would be released direct @-@ to @-@ video . Co @-@ producer Brad Winderbaum said " It 's a fun way to experiment with new characters and ideas , but more importantly it 's a way for us to expand the Marvel Cinematic Universe and tell stories that live outside the plot of our features . " The first two films were made in conjunction with The Ebeling Group and were directed by Leythum and written by Eric Pearson . Winderbaum added that the name of the shorts program was derived from the label used by Marvel Comics for their one @-@ shot comics .

Marvel Studios co @-@ president Louis D ' Esposito later stated that Marvel was considering the idea of introducing established characters who may not yet be ready to carry their own feature films in future One @-@ Shots , stating , " There ? s always a potential to introduce a character . We have 8 @,@ 000 of them , and they can ? t all be at the same level . So maybe there are some that are not so popular , and we introduce them [with a short] ? and they take off . I could see that happening . " When asked whether a Marvel superhero would ever appear in a One @-@ Shot , D 'Esposito replied that " We would love to , but it ? s difficult because there ? s a cost to that . If Iron Man is flying around doing something , that [is] very costly . And first of all , what ? s the story ? Is it important that that superhero is in the story ? "

During the Agent Carter panel at the 2013 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , D 'Esposito stated that bringing the shorts to theaters , to appear before features , was being considered . In May 2014 , it was revealed that a One @-@ Shot would not be released with Captain America : The Winter Soldier 's home media , and in October 2014 , it was revealed that Guardians of the Galaxy 's home media release would not include one either . Guardians of the Galaxy director James Gunn stated that a One @-@ Shot was not included with the film due to lack of space on the disc .

= = Films = =

= = = The Consultant (2011) = = =

Set after the events of Iron Man 2 and The Incredible Hulk , Phil Coulson informs Jasper Sitwell that the World Security Council wishes Emil Blonsky released from prison to join the Avengers Initiative . They see him as a war hero and blame the devastation in New York City on Bruce Banner . The Council orders them to send an agent to ask General Thaddeus " Thunderbolt " Ross to release Blonsky into S.H.I.E.L.D. custody . As Nick Fury does not want to release Blonsky , the two agents

decide to send a patsy to sabotage the meeting . At Sitwell 's urging , Coulson reluctantly sends " The Consultant " : Tony Stark . As partially depicted in the post @-@ credits scene of The Incredible Hulk , a disgraced Ross sits drinking in a bar , when he is approached by Stark , who annoys Ross so much that he tries to have Stark removed from the bar . In reply , Stark buys the bar and has it scheduled for demolition . The next day , Coulson informs Sitwell that their plan worked , and that Blonsky will remain in prison .

At the 2011 San Diego Comic @-@ Con , Marvel announced that The Consultant would appear exclusively on the Thor Blu @-@ ray release on September 13 , 2011 . It was directed by Leythum and written by Eric Pearson , with music by Paul Oakenfold . Clark Gregg and Maximiliano Hernández return to portray Agent Phil Coulson and Agent Jasper Sitwell , respectively , from the films . They are joined via archive footage by Robert Downey , Jr. as Tony Stark / The Consultant , William Hurt as General Thaddeus " Thunderbolt " Ross and Tim Roth as Emil Blonsky in his Abomination form . Co @-@ producer Brian Koberwein said the producers " wanted to paint a picture of S.H.I.E.L.D. pulling the strings and being responsible for some of the events seen in the films . What better character to represent this idea than Agent Coulson , the first S.H.I.E.L.D. agent we were introduced to in the first Iron Man film ? " Gregg said he was told about the short film program in the same phone call that warned him Coulson would die in The Avengers . The actor noticed that the One @-@ Shots could then provide more information on Coulson , to " build the audience 's relationship [with] him " before his impactful death . The Consultant was written after A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Thor 's Hammer , due to the latter taking up 80 % of the budget Marvel reserved for the two shorts , leaving a remaining budget " for two guys talking " . To help with this , Pearson included Sitwell in the short , who had a minor role in Thor , and had him and Coulson " brainstorming a way to deal with this red tape bureaucratic politics of the Avengers Initiative " .

= = = A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Thor 's Hammer (2011) = = =

Set before the events of Thor , Phil Coulson stops at a gas station on his way to Albuquerque , New Mexico . While Coulson shops for snacks in the back of the station , two robbers enter and demand the money from the register . When the robbers ask whose car is outside , Coulson reveals himself , surrenders his keys , and offers to surrender his pistol as well . As he is about to turn over the gun , Coulson distracts the robbers and subdues both men in seconds . He then nonchalantly pays for his snacks while subtly advising the clerk not to mention his involvement to the police and leaves the station .

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Thor 's Hammer was included on the Captain America : The First Avenger Blu @-@ ray release on October 25 , 2011 . It was directed by Leythum and written by Eric Pearson , with music by Paul Oakenfold . The short stars Clark Gregg reprising his role as Agent Phil Coulson . The short served to showcase Coulson as " more than just an annoying bureaucrat " of S.H.I.E.L.D.

= = = Item 47 (2012) = = =

Bennie and Claire , a down @-@ on @-@ their @-@ luck couple , find a discarded Chitauri gun (" Item 47 ") left over from the attack on New York City in The Avengers . The couple use it to rob a few banks , drawing the attention of S.H.I.E.L.D. , which assigns agents Sitwell and Blake to retrieve the weapon and " neutralize " the couple . Agent Sitwell tracks the couple down to a motel room that gets wrecked in the subsequent confrontation , and the stolen money gets destroyed . Instead of killing the couple , Sitwell invites them to join S.H.I.E.L.D. , with Bennie assigned to the R & D ' think @-@ tank ' to reverse engineer the Chitauri technology , and Claire becoming Blake 's assistant .

Item 47 was released on The Avengers Blu @-@ ray on September 25 , 2012 . The film stars Jesse Bradford and Lizzy Caplan as Bennie and Claire , respectively . The film also sees the return of Agent Sitwell , played by Maximiliano Hernández , and introduced Agent Blake , portrayed by Titus Welliver . It was directed by Marvel Studios co @-@ president Louis D ? Esposito , written by

Eric Pearson , and music by Christopher YOUNG . The short film , which was filmed over four days , has a runtime of 12 minutes , longer than the previous films , which were no longer than 4 minutes . Pearson and D 'Esposito had the idea for the short after watching The Avengers and thinking , " New York is a mess . There must be weapons everywhere " . Item 47 helped inspire the MCU television series Marvel 's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.

= = = Agent Carter (2013) = = =

One year after the events of Captain America : The First Avenger , Agent Peggy Carter , now a member of the Strategic Scientific Reserve , is stuck compiling data instead of working field cases . One night while alone in the office , the case line rings , informing Carter of the location of the mysterious Zodiac . She goes to the location , and is able to retrieve the serum single @-@ handedly . The next day , her boss , Agent Flynn , reprimands her for not going through the proper procedures to complete the mission . Carter explains that the mission was time @-@ sensitive , but Flynn is unmoved , dismissing the indignant Carter as an " old flame " of Captain America 's who was given her current job out of pity for her bereavement . The case line rings again , this time with Howard Stark on the other end , who tells Flynn to inform Carter that she will co @-@ head the newly created S.H.I.E.L.D. In a mid @-@ credit scene , Dum Dum Dugan is seen poolside with Stark , marveling at two women wearing the newly created bikinis .

Agent Carter , released on the Iron Man 3 Blu @-@ ray release on September 24 , 2013 , as well as part of the digital download release on September 3 , 2013 , was seen as a good way of bridging that film with the then upcoming Captain America : The Winter Soldier . It had previously been considered to be released on other home media releases as well . It sees Hayley Atwell reprise her role as Peggy Carter , along with Dominic Cooper , Neal McDonough , and Chris Evans reprising their roles as Howard Stark , Timothy " Dum Dum " Dugan , and Steve Rogers / Captain America , respectively , the latter via archive footage . The short film introduces Bradley Whitford as Agent Flynn and Shane Black as the Disembodied Voice . It was directed by Louis D ? Esposito and written by Eric Pearson . The short was filmed over five days , and reused visual effects shots of 1940s New York from Captain America : The First Avenger to save money . Christopher YOUNG collaborated with D 'Esposito again on the short , composing music for it . He also composes the music for the MCU television series Marvel 's Agent Carter , which is directly related to the short .

= = = All Hail the King (2014) = = =

Trevor Slattery , having been captured at the end of Iron Man 3 , is now being held in Seagate Prison . At the prison , he is living luxuriously , having his own personal " butler " , Herman , as well as other inmates who act as his fan club and protection from other inmates . Looking on at the attention Slattery receives in the cafeteria , is Justin Hammer , who wonders what makes him so special . Slattery has been talking with a documentary filmmaker , Jackson Norriss , to chronicle the events of the Mandarin situation seen in Iron Man 3 . Norriss , trying to learn more about Slattery personally , recounts his past from his first casting as a child as well as starring in a failed CBS pilot . Norriss eventually informs Slattery that his portrayal has angered some people , including the actual Ten Rings terrorist group , which Slattery did not know existed . Norriss tells him the history of the Mandarin and the terrorist group , before revealing that he is actually a member of the group . The real reason for Norriss interviewing Slattery is to break him out of prison so he can meet the actual Mandarin . Hearing this , Slattery still has no idea of the full ramifications of his posing as the Mandarin .

In October 2013 , Ben Kingsley said he was working on a secret project with Marvel involving " many members of the crew that were involved in Iron Man 3 , " later revealed to be the short All Hail the King , which was released on the digital download release of Thor : The Dark World on February 4 , 2014 , and on February 25 , 2014 for the Blu @-@ ray release . The film stars : Ben Kingsley as Trevor Slattery , reprising his role from Iron Man 3 ; Scoot McNairy as Jackson Norriss , a member of the Ten Rings terrorist organization posing as a documentary filmmaker ; Lester Speight as

Herman ; and Sam Rockwell as Justin Hammer , reprising his role from Iron Man 2 . The short is written and directed by Drew Pearce , the co @-@ screenwriter of Iron Man 3 , and was filmed in Los Angeles . Pearce and producer Stephen Broussard had the idea for the short during the production of Iron Man 3 , to provide " a fresh take " on the Mandarin character . Music for the short was composed by Brian Tyler , with the Caged Heat scenes composed by 1980s TV @-@ music icon Mike Post .

= = Cast and characters = =

List indicator (s)

A dark grey cell indicates the character was not in the film .

A ^ T indicates the character reappears in a television series .

A V indicates a voice @-@ only role

An A indicates the actor or actress appears via archived footage from previous films .

= = Collection = =

All of the Marvel One @-@ Shots were included on the bonus @-@ disc of the " Marvel Cinematic Universe : Phase Two Collection " box set , which includes all of the Phase Two films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe . The One @-@ Shots feature audio commentary , with Gregg providing it for The Consultant and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Thor 's Hammer ; D 'Esposito , Hernandez , Welliver and Bradford on Item 47 , D 'Esposito and Atwell for Agent Carter ; and Pearce and Kingsley with All Hail the King . The collection was released on December 8 , 2015 .

= = Reception = =

Cindy White of IGN called The Consultant " intriguing " and said , " The snappy dialogue seems to fit right in with what we expect from a Joss Whedon @-@ ized Avengers movie . " Scott Chitwood of ComingSoon.net said , " Considering a third of this is a rehash of an old bonus scene and the other 2 / 3 is Coulson sitting and having a chat , this is a pretty big disappointment . "

R.L. Shaffer of IGN called A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Thor 's Hammer " fun " . Zachary Scheer of Cinema Blend said , " The short is as hackneyed as that title . It 's about four minutes of Coulson being a badass , if the definition of ' badass ' is performing needless slow @-@ motion action stunts and then pausing to consider something normal people would consider ? like which donuts to buy . "

Andre Dellamorte of Collider called Item 47 " silly " . William Bibbiani of Crave Online said , " The short is largely a success : [Maximiliano] Hernandez , [Jesse] Bradford and [Lizzy] Caplan are all in fine form although , [Titus] Welliver seems saddled with a little awkward dialogue , particularly in regards to Coulson , which doesn 't entirely sell . " Spencer Terry of Superhero Hype ! said , " [Item 47] is easily the best one they 've done , and I think that can be attributed to its length seeing as it 's three times longer than the other One @-@ Shots . With a longer run time , the short film doesn 't have to rush to show us everything that it wants to - we get a clear understanding of both the S.H.I.E.L.D. perspective of the events and the robbers ' point of view . "

Andy Hunsaker of Crave Online said , " Agent Carter is a fun treat which could lead the way for some female @-@ led Marvel films and , if nothing else , it gives its title character the send @-@ off she deserves . " Scott Collura of IGN said , " Atwell 's Carter is the big @-@ screen female superhero we 've all been waiting for . She kicks so much ass in this short story with such aplomb , using not just brawn but also brains , and it 's all very clever and fun . " Rosie Fletcher of Total Film said , " Atwell makes a perfect femme fatale @-@ come @-@ special agent , and this ' 40s noir @-@ style short looks great and packs some euphoric action moments . "

IGN 's Cliff Wheatley gave All Hail the King a 9 @.@ 4 out of 10 . He said that it 's " a return to the loveable personality of the hapless Trevor and a step forward for the larger Marvel Cinematic Universe . It has its twists that should satisfy both lovers and haters of Trevor Slattery . But it ? s the

approach that Pearce takes with the material , from the kung @-@ fu movie style credit sequences to the light @-@ hearted tone that takes a sudden and jarring turn . Kingsley once again shines in the role of Slattery , aloof and ignorant , but more than happy to slide back into Mandarin mode if it will please his adoring fans . Pearce does go for some of the same jokes from Iron Man 3 in a sort of referential way , but it ? s nothing too damaging . " Andrew Wheeler of Comics Alliance criticized the way homosexuality was presented in the short , given it was Marvel Studio 's first attempt to bring LGBT concepts into the MCU .

= = Potential projects = =

In July 2013 , D ? Esposito said he had considered making stand @-@ alone shorts for several characters , including Loki , a young Nick Fury , Black Panther , Ms. Marvel , and Black Widow . Regarding Loki , D ? Esposito said " Being on Asgard is very difficult for us to do in a short . It ? s just impossible for us cost wise . The short would be 30 seconds , and it ? s over . One shot of Loki on Asgard . " On Fury and Black Panther , he remarked " It ? s very complicated to do : who plays those characters ? And designing the costume , getting it going ? We tried . We were there in development , and we tried , but they were very difficult for all the reasons I gave . And we don ? t want to do something that ? s half baked because it ? s not good for us and it ? s not good for our fans . " In February 2014 , Pearce mentioned other shorts that he had written that never came to fruition , including ones based on Sin and Crossbones , Jessica Jones , and Damage Control .

In May 2015 , Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige stated that there were " no active plans for the One @-@ Shots to return " , but added that the studio was not opposed to continuing the series , and there was already " a backlog of ideas " for potential One @-@ Shots . In September 2015 , Feige provided further comments on the return of the One @-@ Shots saying , " The universe is big , and we 're moving up to three [feature films] a year this year . I don 't know how much beyond that we can go ... [So] we do talk about [making more One @-@ Shots] a lot ... It 's just about finding the time and the place . "