

Title: Literally probably nothing, but may be something that disconnects Toys R Us from GME  
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Created 2022-07-23 05:16:07 UTC  
Permalink: /r/GME/comments/w5vp5g/literally\_probably\_nothing\_but\_may\_be\_something/  
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Hey all, I'm a pretty big lurker on posting mainly cause if I don't have anything insightful to post why bother and self admittedly I am by no means a naturally wrinkled ape, they've all come from our journey these past 2 years and still forming.

I went down a rabbit hole tonight and might be wasting my time cause someone else probably has already done DD on this, but didn't find any and figured might be worth some wrinkles/deeper insight looking at it.

With all the buzz about Blockbuster it got me looking at the other zombie companies, like Toys R Us, and I noticed an recent article talking about Macys and Toys R Us partner to open new TRU branded toy departments all over the country.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/toys-r-us-back-toy-132808199.html>

So I said fuck it, I'll see where this leads. So WHP Global owns TRU, among other brands they bought at discount. One interesting thing is there's WHP+ e-commerce. Not much there which I thought is odd, but below that it lists the board of directors.

The chairman, CEO, and co founder of WHP Global is Yehuda Schidman. When reading through his bio it says WHP is backed by Oaktree Capital Management. Here is a clip from their Wikipedia and it had a couple interesting notes

“2000–2010

Edit

In 2001 Oaktree continued to introduce new "step-out" strategies, starting with Mezzanine Finance. Asia Principal Opportunities (2006) followed, along with European Principal Investments (2006), European Senior Loans (2006), U.S. Senior Loans and Value Opportunities (2007), Global High Yield Bonds (2010), Emerging Markets Equities (2011), and Real Estate Debt (2012).[26][27][20]

In 2005 the Securities And Exchange Commission ordered Oaktree to pay a fine, interest, and disgorge profits after the SEC ruled they had "sold securities short" before the five legal business days after a public offering pricing had gone public. Oaktree was required to put in place policies and procedures to prevent violations in the future.[28]

In 2008, the firm raised \$11 billion for their distressed debt fund.[16][29] In 2009, Oaktree was selected by the U.S. Treasury, along with eight other managers (BlackRock, Invesco, AllianceBernstein and others)[30] to participate in the government's Public-Private Investment Program (PPIP).[31] At the time of Oaktree's inclusion in the PPIP program, The New York Times reported: "Howard S. Marks is the sort of financier who Washington hopes will help fix the nation's tumbledown banks." [32] As of December 31, 2018, the Oaktree PPIP Fund, L.P. had a gross return of 28%.[27][33][20][8]

2010–2020

Edit

In 2009, Oaktree acquired a 20% stake in DoubleLine Capital, a Los Angeles-based investment firm specializing in mortgage-backed fixed income portfolios.[34]

The firm's relationship with Vanguard was expanded in 2011 when Oaktree was selected as one of four firms to manage Vanguard's Emerging Markets Select Stock Fund. In 2010, Oaktree was named one of three advisors to the Russell Global Opportunistic Credit Fund and was selected as a manager for the Credit Suisse (Lux) I Fund in 2011.[26]

Seeking investment opportunities created by the European sovereign-debt crisis,[35][36] Oaktree started its European Principal Fund III in November 2011 with committed capital of some €3 billion.[37]

In 2017, Eaton Vance launched the Oaktree Diversified Credit NextShares exchange-traded managed fund with Oaktree as subadvisor.

In 2018, Oaktree filed a registration statement to launch a non-traded REIT.[38]

#### Other recent funds

According to the company's published financial results, Oaktree raised \$12 billion for Oaktree Opportunities Funds X and Xb ("Opps X and Xb").[20]

#### NYSE listing

On April 12, 2012, Oaktree became a publicly traded partnership with shares listed on the NYSE.[6] The company was previously listed on GSTRUE, a private over-the-counter exchange run by Goldman Sachs[39] which officially ceased operations[40] in 2012 after Oaktree, along with Apollo Global Management (in 2011), de-listed and moved to the NYSE.[41]

#### Acquisition of Control by Brookfield

On March 13, 2019, Brookfield Asset Management announced that it had agreed to buy 62% of Oaktree Capital Management for about \$4.7 billion, creating one of the world's largest alternative money managers.[7][8] On September 30, 2019, completion of the acquisition of a majority stake by Brookfield Asset Management was announced.[42]"

If you've read this far I'm not going to bother going down the list of sketchy players connected to them you just read, but it does make me question if GME would want to partner with them. Seems like the deeper we dig we always find this convoluted web of connection to bad players. Or maybe it's a good thing, we'd be naive to think big money isn't on going to get in on this, what if they're getting in the side door and if so someone buy me some new fucking shirts cause I'm running out. That would just be further validation, which is by no means needed at this point, but always nice.

I do believe Blockbuster will be a legit direct partner/brand, and will keep digging here just for fun if nothing else - post an update if there's anything more juicy or delete if this hole has already been dug.

Either way nothing changes, buy, DRS, hodl

Edit:

Had wrong article linked - corrected and worth noting this isnt new news, but getting more attention by MSM.

Second Edit:

Here's the other founders Bio, Thomas Casarella.

"Thomas Casarella is a Managing Director and Assistant Portfolio Manager at Oaktree Capital Management. Prior to joining Oaktree in 2012, he served as Deputy Chief Restructuring Officer at the United States Department of the Treasury. Before that, Mr. Casarella was a member of the Private Equity group at Brookfield Asset Management, following earlier career roles Lazard and Goldman Sachs."

So looked into Brookfield Asset Management and they are a total "Finkle and Einhorn" with Oaktree Capital. Also Went through everyone's Bio and quite a few Board members well connected to Oaktree Capital so we can safely assume it's all one big circle jerk and they're connected to the wrong team.