

Contact: Dee McVicker
Grassroots Communications
Gilbert, Arizona
480.545.7363
deemcv@grassrootsco.com



***Guardians of Galaxy vol. 2* Makes Number Five for Exceptional Minds Visual Effects Artists with Autism**

“Guardians of the Galaxy vol. 2” opened in theaters over the weekend, making it the fifth Marvel movie Exceptional Minds has worked on since opening its doors as the only studio staffed entirely by visual effects professionals on the autism spectrum.



Sherman Oaks, California – May 8, 2017 – Exceptional Minds Studio celebrates another Marvel picture well-done. *Guardians of the Galaxy vol. 2* opened in theaters over the weekend, making it the fifth Marvel movie the studio has worked on since opening its doors three years ago.

Exceptional Minds Studio is the only visual effects and animation studio staffed entirely by professionals on the autism spectrum.

Created to open up opportunities for graduates of Exceptional Minds vocational school for young adults on the autism, Exceptional Minds Studio is competing, and winning big, in the highly competitive fields of visual effects and animation. The small studio of professionals – all young adults on the autism spectrum -- has done tracker removal, split screen, green screen keying, and rotoscoping for compositing as well as end title credit work and animation for more than 50 major motion pictures and/or television series over the past three years. The list includes animation for Sesame Street and visual effects for HBO's *Game of Thrones* as well as Marvel Studios' *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Ant-Man*, *Captain America: Civil War*, and *Doctor Strange*, which was nominated for an Oscar in the visual effects category. For *Guardians of the Galaxy vol. 2*, Exceptional Minds Studio provided end crawl typesetting work. During the cast and crew screening of *Guardians of the Galaxy vol. 2*, Marvel Studios' Executive Vice President of Physical Production Victoria Alonso singled out Exceptional Minds students and artists as an example of a unique group of individuals who are following their dreams.

More than 3.5 million Americans live with autism, an estimated 90 percent of whom are unemployed or underemployed. Each year, 50,000 children with autism in the U.S. will turn 18 and require public services if they are not employed. Exceptional Minds provides customized education in the digital arts to over 225 teens and young adults and provides ongoing job placement and coaching for 25 graduates.

About Exceptional Minds (<http://www.exceptionalmindsstudio.org>): Exceptional Minds is a nonprofit vocational center and working production studio for young adults on the autism spectrum. It was chartered in 2011 to provide the training necessary for creatively gifted individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) who may not otherwise be able to make the transition from high school to a career. Exceptional Minds offers technical proficiency and work-readiness training that prepares students for careers in graphic arts, animation, web design, visual effects and rotoscoping. Located in Sherman Oaks, California, Exceptional Minds is both an instructional learning facility and a working studio with hands-on student involvement in production projects, many for the film industry.

###