

The artists – all young adults on the autism spectrum – are both Marvel fans and working professionals who provide visual cleanup for feature films. Exceptional Minds artists have done visual effects and/or end title typesetting for Marvel Studios movies *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, *Doctor Strange*, *Captain America: Civil War*, *Ant-Man*, and *Avengers: Age of Ultron*.

Black Panther is the latest Marvel Studios movie for the artists at Exceptional Minds Studio, the only visual effects and animation studio staffed entirely by professionals on the autism spectrum.

The screening was held Monday, February 12, at the Regency Village Theater. During previous screenings for Marvel Studios films, Marvel Studios Executive Vice President of Physical Production Victoria Alonso applauded the work done by Exceptional Minds and encouraged others to learn from the studio's example.

Since opening its doors almost four years ago, the small studio has done tracker marker 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. *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* and *The Good Doctor* are recent additions.

For *Black Panther*, which opens in theaters February 16, Exceptional Minds artists Nicolas Arredondo, Andrew Dugan, Tiana Fazio, Lloyd Hackl, Eli Katz, Annie Leffe, Madeleine Petti, Tony Saturno and Mason Taylor did vfx cleanup on 40 shots (marker and object removals, roto, paint and split screen) and Exceptional Minds artist Xavier Romo put together the end title crawl. In addition, Exceptional Minds Studio Executive Producer Susan Zwerman and Studio Coordinator Jennifer Giandalone along with visual effects supervisors Immanuel Morris, Kenneth Au, Megan Flood and Josh Dagg supervised both visual effects and end title credits for the movie.

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.

Photo: Exceptional Minds Studio artists attend the cast and crew screening of "Black Panther" Monday at the Regency Village Theater. Shown left to right, Xavier Romo, Tiana Fazio, Lloyd Hackl, Annie Leffe, Nicolas Arredondo, and Tony Saturno.

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