

ANTHONY AND JOE RUSSO

Directors Anthony and Joe Russo are perhaps best known for their work on the critically acclaimed television shows *Arrested Development*, *Community* and *Happy Endings*. They directed the pilots to all three shows, as well as many of the series' signature episodes.

Born a year apart in Cleveland, Ohio, the Russo Brothers used credit cards and student loans to finance their first film *Pieces*, an experimental comedy about a criminally inclined trio of brothers. They shot the film in and around Cleveland with the help of family and friends. The film screened at both the Slamdance and American Film Institute festivals in 1997, earning Joe a Best Actor award at the latter. The Slamdance screening caught the attention of filmmaker Steven Soderbergh, who along with his producing partner George Clooney, offered to produce the brothers' second film, the crime comedy *Welcome to Collinwood*.

Welcome to Collinwood featured an all-star indie ensemble that included Sam Rockwell, William H. Macy, Patricia Clarkson, Michael Jeter and George Clooney. The film was also shot in Cleveland, where the brothers used the city's decaying industrial landscape as a backdrop for the absurdist caper comedy.

Kevin Reilly was rebuilding the FX network when he first saw *Welcome to Collinwood*, and he asked the pair to direct the pilot for his new flagship comedy, *Lucky*. Set in downtown Las Vegas, Anthony and Joe used handheld camera work and a guerilla shooting style to capture the edgy comedic tone of the show, producing a pilot that became an industry favorite.

Among the pilot's fans was Imagine Entertainment co-founder Ron Howard, who, along with writer Mitch Hurwitz, were both looking to take the well-worn situation comedy in a new direction. They sought out the Russo's to direct the pilot to *Arrested Development*. The brothers shot the show on HD cameras, minimizing the need for complex lighting and crews, and created the distinctive visual style that was so popular with the show's rabid fan base. They won an Emmy for their direction.

In 2008, the brothers directed the pilot to *Community*. And in 2009, the pilot to *Happy Endings*. They partnered with Dan Harmon and David Caspe as Executive Producers and spent the next three years working simultaneously on both shows.

Over the last decade, the Russo's have directed 12 television pilots, 10 of which have gone to series.

Their incredibly successful career in television is what captured the attention of executives at Marvel Studios, who brought them on to helm *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*. Not only was their iteration of the Captain America universe one of the top-grossing and highest rated movies of 2014, but it also introduced an extremely grounded naturalism and palpable gravitas that had never been seen in the infamously poppy Marvel Cinematic Universe. The success of *Winter Soldier*, along with its darkly distinct flavor of grounded storytelling, not

only earned them the director's chair on its follow up *Captain America: Civil War* and the upcoming *Avengers: Infinity War* films, but also established the duo as versatile action masters and a commanding voice in the realm of franchise filmmaking.