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'Black Widow': Florence Pugh Was 'Scared' of Her Russian Accent

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You've heard of the Oscars, but have you heard of the Isaacs? The Isaac Awards, in honor of the great Oscar Isaac, are Showbiz Cheat Sheet's unique spin on the Academy Awards. However, the Isaac Awards are different from the Oscars in that they celebrate the best movies of 2021 that deserve recognition but will not receive that recognition through Oscar nods. categories: Best Performance, Best Pleasing Moment, Best Action Sequence. Voting will be open via this form for the winners announced on March 24.

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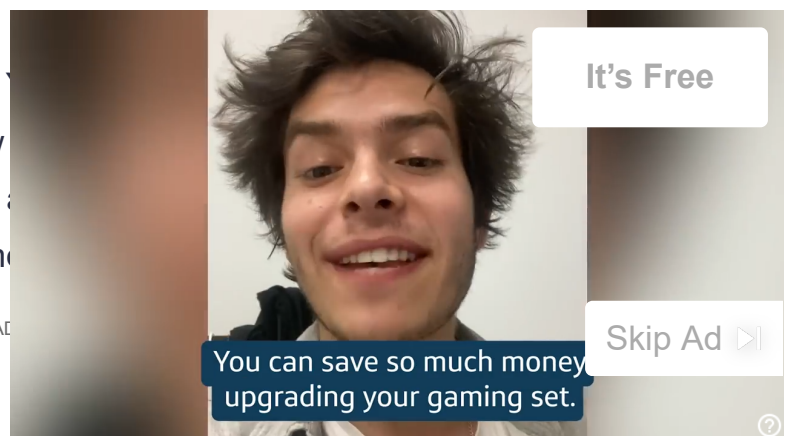
Marvel fans immediately fell in love with [Florence Pugh](#) as Yelena Belova when *Black Widow* premiered in July 2021. The actor was already gaining popularity from her roles in *Midsommar* and *Little Women*, and her induction into the Marvel Cinematic Universe cemented her place as a fan favorite. Showbiz Cheat Sheet even nominated Pugh for [Best Scene-Stealer](#) at the Isaac Awards, but she wasn't always confident about playing Yelena.



Florence Pugh | Photo by Mike Marsland/WireImage

Florence Pugh made her MCU debut as Yelena Belova in 'Black Widow'

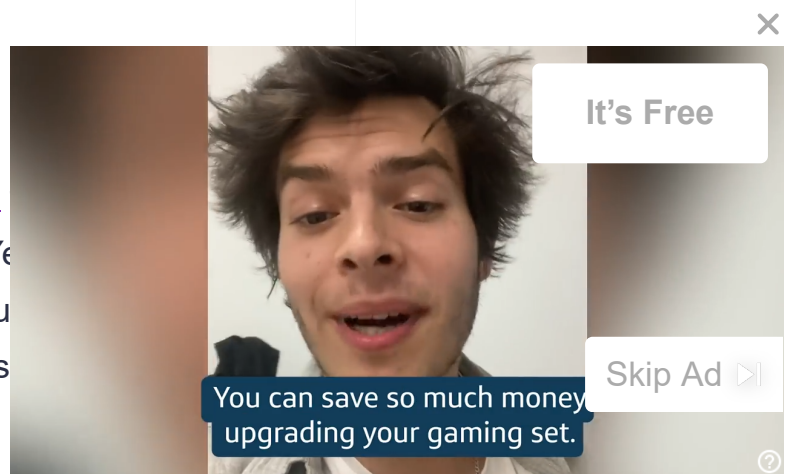
Black Widow introduced Florence Pugh as Yelena Belova, the same. Yelena and Natasha Romanoff grew up together in Russia. Together, the Russian spies posed as Melina. The four later escaped the country but immediately



General Dreykov sent Natasha and Yelena to the Red Room for training, and they became Black Widows. However, it wasn't until Natasha became a fugitive following *Captain America: Civil War* that she came face-to-face with her little sister again. Yelena, who had broken free of the Red Room's mind control, teamed up with Natasha to take down Dreykov and save all the Black Widows. Together, they reunited with Alexei and Melina and finished their mission.

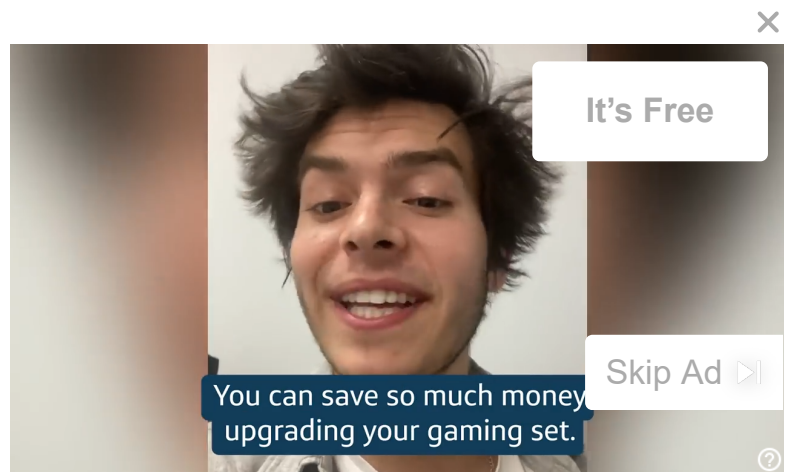
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Unfortunately, fans discovered in [Hawkeye](#) out with his snap. So when she returned, Yelena took out the world to save the world. Devastated, Yelena took out the world to save the world. Natasha when she died. But he made her s Yelena.



Kevin Feige told the *D23 Inside Disney Podcast* [via [The Direct](#)] that “Florence will have future appearances in the MCU.” It’s likely that Florence Pugh will become the MCU’s Black Widow and that she will be a mainstay in Marvel for years to come.

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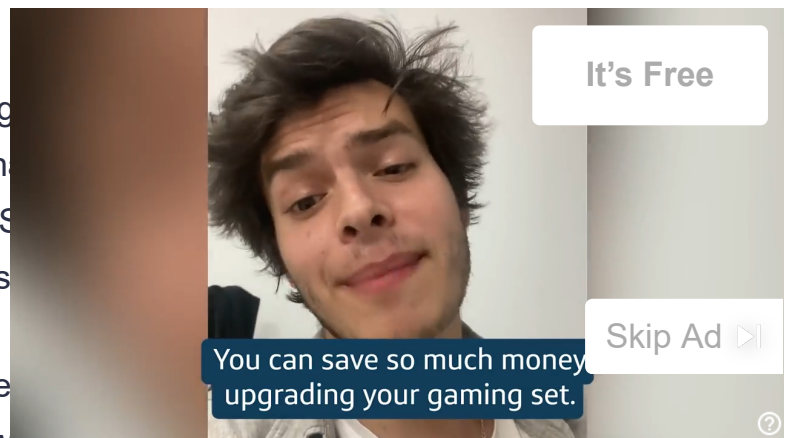


Florence Pugh admitted that her 'Black Widow' role terrified her

A year before Marvel released *Black Widow*, Florence Pugh talked about becoming a part of the MCU with [Elle UK](#). And she described the day at San Diego Comic-Con in 2019 when Marvel revealed the cast.

"It was like a warehouse full of people," Pugh said. "I was like, 'This is a little bit of a roar like that. What was really lovely was that the audience and watched a clip. All this time, she was their queen. She's so amazing and effortless."

The actor continued, "Then we watched the trailer and I was going to be out there, and I didn't know what it sounded like. I'm also playing a character



who no one's seen before, but they've read about her; I didn't know whether people were going to hate me. We both stood there, and I instantly had clammy, sweaty hands. Scarlett gave me her hand, and we squeezed each other, and she also had clammy hands!"

Pugh realized, "And then I was like, 'Oh, this never gets old. This is just as powerful [for you], and you're their legend.'"

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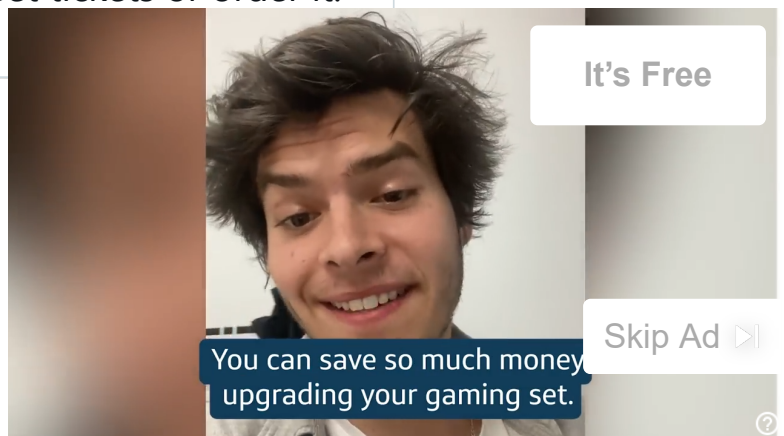
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Florence Pugh was terrified of what people would think of her as [Yelena Belova](#) in *Black Widow*. And she's English in real life, so she had to develop a Russian accent for the role, which only added another level of nerves. But it's safe to say that none of that mattered because fans adored her in the film. One of the best ways to describe Pugh in the MCU movie is "scene-stealer."

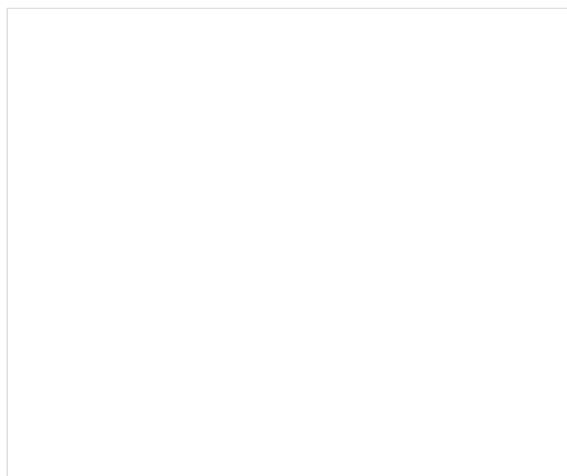
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A dialect coach comments on the actor's Russian accent

[Slate](#) spoke with Adrienne Nelson, a dialect coach who has worked on the Russian accents in *Black Widow*, and Neta Gordon, a dialect coach who has worked on Florence Pugh.

"I thought Florence Pugh was fantastic," Nelson says. "She has a great ear for those, I'm like, 'Ugh, I'm in heaven.' Another thing, they often drop that *T*. [*In Russian accent*] 'I

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The dialect coach continued, “[Pugh] also gorgeously integrated the musicality and rhythms that I was talking about. One challenge for actors is only being able to keep the dialect consistent when they’re speaking at one tempo, which they’ll embrace for every situation. She succeeded in being able to keep her dialect consistent whether she was in a fast-paced, intense, high-stakes scene or a more casual, heartfelt scene.”

“The dialect was just one of many colors and layers that comprised her character,” Nelson concluded. “And if there was a line or word that grabbed my ear, it was too fast to be distracting.”

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