

## Guardians of the Game Industry

The lights dim, the music starts, and instantly you know you're in for one hell of a ride. The only thing that would fill Guardians of the Galaxy to the brim with even more awesome would be a cast full of gaming's greatest misfit heroes (and villains.) Let's take a look at what that might, err, look like, shall we?

### 1. Nathan Drake as Star-Lord

A dashing tomb raider with a heart of gold? Check. Sentimental about family heirlooms? Check. Not only is *Uncharted's* thieving hero quick with a joke, he's also a ladies' man who travels the world in search of fortune. Also, don't forget his burning desire to figure out the truth behind his ancestry.

Drake is no stranger to the mercenary life, and he would fit right in with the rest of the Guardians crew, as long as they don't mind him randomly climbing the interior of the Kyn. He may not have dealt with aliens specifically (yet), Drake knows his way around objects that could potentially destroy the world. And while he's definitely the sort of fight his way out of a scrap rather than talk his way out, I have a feeling he would do amazingly well in a dance-off.

### 2. Garona Halforcen as Gamora

Garona may not have been built as a living weapon, but being bred as a half-orc half-draenei assassin is about as close as you're going to get in the Warcraft universe. In *World of Warcraft* Garona has climbed the ranks of the rogue's guild to become their leader, but she started out in much the same place as Gamora, a slave to the whims of her creator, forced to kill those she respected against her will.

Garona's version of Gamora would no doubt include much less almost handholding with the Star-Lord, and instead much more drive to avenger herself on her father. This might cause her to make some different decisions than Gamora, principally seeking aid from the Nova Core. With access to the Meridian, I would expect Garona to head straight for Azeroth to make sure she can take care of business back a home now that she has some strong allies at her side.

### 3. Kratos as Drax

There have been few men in the gaming world who have less of a sense of humor than *God of War's* Kratos. Not that he isn't justified in his dour outlook on life. He's lost his wife and daughter (\*cough\* by his own hand \*cough\*) and has been enslaved to the gods for a decade. Vengeance, bloodshed and death are his hallmarks, he elevates violence to an artform. And really, there is simply no one better suited to take on the role of shirtless badass than this son of Sparta.

Kratos and Drax have a lot in common, but their motivations are very different. So when given the chance to befriend a ragtag band of misfits, Kratos would most likely decline, and would probably kill them for good measure. This leaves no one to save the galaxy from Ronin and his ilk, which I guess makes for a very short movie. Way more blood and gore though, so there's that.

### 4. Dexter as Rocket

Dexter is an Ottsel, which is obviously a genetically created hybrid between an otter and a weasel. Although he didn't start out as a rodent, Dexter's personality more weasely traits really fit his new body. Yes it's true that most of the time Dexter is out for himself, and is pretty cowardly, but when it

comes time to rescue his ol' pal Jak in his eponymous adventure, Dexter straps on his bug sprayer and heads into danger.

Dexter would most likely have some tough times with the more technical parts of Rocket's job, since he's not known for his smarts. He might learn a thing or two about tinkering from Tess though, which means he could come up with some crazy solutions to the Guardians' problems. And since Dexter's used to riding high on Jak's shoulders, Groot shouldn't been that big of a stretch (unless Groot is actually stretching, that is).

#### 5. Elderroot as Groot

Sentient trees don't get near the playtime they deserve these days. Why it used to be that you couldn't throw an ent without hitting a treant, but times have changed. Who has the raw power and sheer goodwill to stand tall as the paragon of all things leafy? *WildStar's* Elderroot, that's who. Sure he's ancient, but this cyborg tree created by the Eldan hasn't lost his luster over the millennia. In fact he's got nary a silver leaf on his head.

What he does have is an irrepressible desire to help out the denizens of Everstar Grove, and that drive would see him well through adventures aboard the Meridian. Sure he can't technically move like Groot can, but he has the power to be able to infuse life into others, thus ensuring his friends will always have the aid they need. Plus, there's always container gardening. You'd just need a really, *really* big pot.

#### 6. Saren as Ronan

As far as turians go, Saren from *Mass Effect* is a model citizen. Distinguished in military service, the youngest turian ever to join the Spectres – you'd think this is a guy who's going places. Well he is, if straight down Genicide Alley counts as a destination. Saren's hatred of humankind sets him on a distinctly corrupted path, and can be firmly logged into Overreacter's Anonymous when he decides that all humans should die because they want to entrance into the Citadel ahead of other species.

Saren's drive to annihilate another species fits in rather well with Ronan's accusation of the Xandarian people. He also is quite fond of searching for artifacts that will wipe out entire peoples. He's just thorough like that. The only issue I see here is that Saren would probably prefer surrendering to a higher power than taking out his boss directly, but who knows what sort of schemes will pass behind that zebra-striped façade when he gets his hands on the infinity gem.

#### 7. Vi as Nebula

*League of Legends'* Vi takes the idea of body augmentation to a whole new place. While she's not a cyborg perse, she's modified her hands into massive gauntlets even Thanos would be jealous of. One could even say Vi certainly packs a punch. Thank you, thank you, I'll be here all week. Tip your waitresses and try the veal.

Now in the role of Nebula, you can be sure Vi will use all her experience gleaned from the Fields of Justice. She's an assassin after all, so hand-to-gigantic-metal-hand combat is definitely up her alley. And her constant bickering with Caitlyn isn't that far off from the "I hated you least" attitude Nebula portrays

with Gamora. The role of Nebula isn't all that story intensive either, which gives Vi plenty of time to pull off a heist or two while she's waiting for Ronan to decide how best to destroy the universe.

#### 8. Blackbeard as Yondu

When I say dastardly space pirate, what comes to mind? If you said "Assassin's Creed," then you get a cookie. *Black Flag* has the dastardliest pirate of them all in the person of one Edward Thatch, AKA Blackbeard. Sure he hasn't set foot in space yet, but give him time. If the booty is lucrative enough, Thatch'd go anywhere the Queen Anne's Revenge can sail.

Visually these two might not be a match (this isn't Bluebeard we're talking about), but Blackbeard is the only one I would trust in the role of untrustworthy pirate. He might even be persuaded to part with his signature beard if the price were high enough. Blackbeard isn't much of a whistler, but spending his days surrounded by sea shanties, my guess is he'd be able to figure out how to wield a magically-controlled arrow in no time flat.

#### Outro

Well there you have it. A movie about a comic book recast with video game characters. If that's not pop culture I don't know what is. Now that you've seen my picks, what choices would you make if you were in the casting director's chair? I almost said casting couch, but that's a whole other article.