

## **Barbara Maio: Agents of Shield and the question of authorship in Whedon factory**

*Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* is a television series made by Marvel Studios in a more wide project about superheroes between comics, cinema, and TV. Joss Whedon directed the first episode of the series in 2013, then leaving the project to his brother and his sister-in-law, Jed Whedon and Maurissa Tancharo.

But if his involvement is liminal, it's also clear that all the usual Whedon tropes are present, starting with the main character Phil Coulson and his resurrection that kicks off the story. Narrative construction, characters' descriptions, recurring issues are all labels for a Whedon product in a wide sense. My paper will explore these moments in the history of the series, showing how *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* could be called a Whedon Series, both from the Joss and the Jed/Maurissa point of view and also for the wide perspective of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, where Joss Whedon was for years one of the main authors.