

# Native sound production dubs Lakota language for Disney+ Marvel Studios film



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**By Jodi Rave Spotted Bear**  
Buffalo's Fire

Grey Willow Music Studios & Production is quickly rising as a leading studio sound production company that works directly with major studios across the nation. Located on Standing Rock Sioux Nation land, Grey Willow's business leaders produce sound and music in the entertainment world.

One day, the Grey Willow sound production team sat in their studios in Fort Yates, N.D. and thought aloud about what could be. "It would be cool to have "The Avengers" in Lakota," Lawrence "Larz" Archambault told Buffalo's Fire. "It was a joke." Initially said in jest, it's now a reality with the Lakota version scheduled for release in April.

"Mark Ruffalo was a huge help in introducing us to Disney-Marvel Studios," said Archambault, founder and president of Grey Willow. "When we started talking, we said we wanted everything — our language recordings, translations and our actors — to be 'By Natives, For Natives.' That's our motto."

It took about 15 months for the Grey Willow team to dub 2012's "The Avengers" from English to the Lakota-Dakota language. The local sound creatives hired 62 Lakota-Dakota language speakers to help translate and record the script.

Archambault, Hunkpapa Lakota, was born on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, treaty land that straddles both the North Dakota and South Dakota border. He carries the name Seven Elk, Hehaka Sakowin. After high school, his passion for music led him to attend the Musicians Institute of Technology, MIT, now named the College of Contemporary Music in Hollywood, Calif.

He later returned home to Standing Rock in 2017 and realized there were no job opportunities for someone who wanted to do studio production work. "I know music. I know business. I know production," he said. "I am going to start a studio."

He founded Grey Willow in April 2017. He has since achieved film industry recognition as a leading ADR, or Automated Dialogue Replacement, company.



photo | Lawrence Archambault

**RAY TAKEN ALIVE**, left, Grace Draskovic, Ruby Shoe String and Myron Uses Arrow translate 2012 "The Avengers" script from English to Lakota-Dakota. More than 60 people participated in Grey Willow Music & Production Studio collaboration with Disney+ Marvel Studios.

"Funny title actually, there is nothing really 'automated' about it at all," said Archambault. "A great actor helps tremendously in the ADR world. The actor must not only recreate their performance on the set but also get near-perfect lip sync with the film."

Archambault gives all credit to his younger brother Cyril "Chuck" Archambault for making the connection with Ruffalo. He also gives props to Ray Taken Alive and Dallas Nelson — men Lawrence Archambault takes as his brothers — for the idea of making ADR film dubs in Lakota.

The Grey Willow production team includes Archambault's son and brother, respectively. Xavier L. Archambault serves as head engineer and Chuck Archambault leads marketing and public relations. "You don't see any studios that are 100% Native-family owned and operated throughout the country and Canada in the ADR-Film world," said Archambault.

"We are the first of its kind that's all Native and we're proud of our work."

Archambault's team perfected their skills by shadowing the legendary Disney Studio sound engineer Doc Kane, a 30-plus-year industry veteran with more than 500 film credits in his portfolio. "Lawrence and Xavier at Grey Willow Studios, absolutely great to work with," Kane wrote in an email.

"I see the passion they have in this industry. Huge future in this industry with them as I am behind them every step of the way. I am very proud of their accomplishments and the relationship we have here at Studio B with them," he wrote.

For Archambault, "It was a dream come true meeting and working directly with Doc, the knowledge he shared with Xavier and I cannot be measured. Plus the stories of his experiences over the years being at Disney Studio B and working with Brett Voss.

The history of Studio B was such a beautiful vibe."

Archambault said the most rewarding and satisfying aspect of his work centers on helping talented musicians in the community create something extraordinary. He's worked closely with the local organizations on audio projects, including the Lakota Language Reclamation Project.

"The amount of care and detail they put into the translation to remain true to the Lakota language was amazing to see," said Alan Hayslip, Deluxe Studios senior sound editor, English dubbing.

"We look forward to working with them on future projects."

Grey Willow operates in a 1,800-square-foot studio in Fort Yates, N.D. attributes its audio post-production and 'voice-over' success to open communication with clients and creating workflows that meet the specific needs of each project. "When we do

that, we become a partner that delivers predictable and consistent results on time and on budget," said Archambault.

The Standing Rock-based company offers its services in North Dakota and South Dakota, as well as the film industry at large, including post houses, film companies, and video producers. Grey Willow has also collaborated with Lionsgate Films to provide sound for the world-class motion picture and television conglomerate's "Two Sinners and a Mule" handling all the ADR for actor Chantelle Albers now on streaming platforms. Lionsgate houses the popular franchises of John Wick, The Hunger Games, and Twilight.

In addition, Archambault's production team joined forces with the drum group Showtime Singers to provide the soundtrack for "Sacred Dog," an ESPN E60 documentary about Indian Relay Racing. The film debuted on Dec. 24 and was selected as "Best Showcase Documentary at the Soho International Film Festival. Meanwhile, even though all the Lakota dubbing is complete for "The Avengers" 2012 film, a plan exists for some special recordings with Grey Willow. Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Chris Evans,

Jeremy Renner, Chris Hemsworth, and Ruffalo plan to act in a scene in which they speak their lines in Lakota. Those recordings are scheduled for early February in California.

Wade Chamberlain, senior mixer, English dubbing at Deluxe Studios has worked on the Lakota ADR dubbing. "As a mixer, one thing I really appreciate is working with well-recorded material. The first thing I noticed when I started working with tracks from Grey Willow Studios was how great the

raw unmixed recordings sounded. I realized that their quality of work stems from their passion for what they do."

**ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVISE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
RELATING TO SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LOAN APPLICATION AND LOAN APPROVAL

TAKE NOTICE that the **North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI)**

will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes of N.D. Admin. Codes 67-10, School Construction Loan Application and Loan Approval; at **9:30 AM on Monday, March 4, 2024, in the Peace Garden Room at the State Capitol, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505.**

The proposed rules may be reviewed at the NDDPI Office of School Approval and Opportunity, ND State Capitol, 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505-0440. A copy of the proposed rules may be requested by writing to the above address, to the attention of Jim Upgren, emailing [jimupgren@nd.gov](mailto:jimupgren@nd.gov), or calling 701-328-2244. Written and oral comments may be sent to the above address or telephone number until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2024.

For individuals seeking to attend who will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the NDDPI at the above telephone number or address at least five days prior to the public hearing.

Dated this 25th day of January, 2024,  
Jim Upgren, Assistant Director  
Office of School Approval and Opportunity  
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

**Public Notice**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA IN DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF GRANT SOUTH CENTRAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Dacotah Bank, Plaintiff,  
v.  
Mitchell Daley, Stacy Daley, and all other persons unknown claiming any estate or interest in, or lien or encumbrance upon, the real estate described in the complaint, Defendants.  
Case No. 19-2024-CV-6

**SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the District Court, by serving upon the undersigned an answer or other proper response within twenty-one (21) days after the service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

This action is to foreclose a mortgage in certain real property located in the County of Grant, State of North Dakota. The real property in this action located in Grant County, North Dakota is described as follows:  
Township 130 North, Range 90 West of the 5th P.M.  
Section 29: N½NE¼ and SW¼NW¼ and Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7  
Tax ID #'s: 43068200 and 4306840 (hereinafter the "Section 29 Property")  
Dated this 19th day of January, 2024.

VOGEL LAW FIRM  
/s/ Caren W. Stanley  
BY: Caren W. Stanley (#06100)  
218 NP Avenue  
PO Box 1389  
Fargo, ND 58107-1389  
Telephone: 701.237.6983  
Email: [cstanley@vogellaw.com](mailto:cstanley@vogellaw.com)  
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