

## Movies

### ● Spider-Man (2002)

- Possibly first exposure to “Super Hero” movies that weren’t Batman or Superman
- **Pros**
  - Played heavily on the Human emotion aspect, and the impact Peter’s choices had on his personal life.
    - Allowed the audience to form a connection with the character
  - Character Depth allowed us to dive into the character’s origins and motivations, providing depth to both Peter Parker and the Green Goblin as multi-dimensional characters. We saw both the human side and the super side of them.
  - Iconic Moments including the upside-down kiss in the rain between Spider-Man and Mary Jane Watson
- **Cons**
  - Overly simplistic dialogue. Too often conversations felt forced or scripted and lacked emotional depth.
  - Pacing fluctuations. Action scenes were fast and exciting while personal scenes felt very slow and drawn out
- **Casting**
  - Tobey Maguire’s Peter Parker was a relatable and genuine depiction of a young, struggling hero trying to find their footing
  - Willem Dafoe’s performance as the Norman Osborn/Green Goblin was top-notch.
  - Kirsten Dunst looked the part of a good Mary Jane Watson, but she wasn’t my favorite character. Her acting felt forced and dry.
  - James Franco played a solid Harry Osborn but was a horrible friend.
  - Cliff Robertson as Ben Parker was great. His death on the street scarred me as a kid.
  - Rosemary Harris as Aunt May was the perfect choice for the sweet old woman version of the character.

### ● Spider-Man 2 (2004)

- **Pros**
  - The movie further delves into Peter Parker’s struggles as both Spider-Man and an ordinary person, adding depth and relatability to the character.

- Action Sequences: The film features intense and well-choreographed action sequences, including the train battle and the iconic clock tower fight, truly showcasing Spider-Man's agility and creativity.
    - Themes of Responsibility: The movie continues to explore the theme of responsibility, emphasizing the challenges of balancing personal life with the duties of being a superhero.
    - Emotional Resonance: The film strikes a balance between action and emotional moments, allowing viewers to connect with the characters on a deeper level.
  - **Cons**
    - Subplots and Pacing: Some critics felt that the film had multiple subplots that occasionally led to pacing issues, slowing down the overall narrative. Such as....
    - Mary Jane's Arc: While the movie attempted to develop Mary Jane's character, I found her character arc less engaging compared to other elements of the film. It was slow and I found myself uninterested.
  - **Casting**
    - Alfred Molina as Doc Ock: Alfred Molina's portrayal of Dr. Octopus (Doc Ock) is widely praised for its complexity and emotional depth, creating a memorable and compelling antagonist.
    - James Franco played a solid Harry Osborn but was a horrible friend. His descent down his father's path into darkness, however, is done wonderfully. His need for revenge, while over the top at times, is relatable as a human emotion we all have.
- **Spider-Man 3 (2007)**
  - **Pros**
    - Action Sequences: "Spider-Man 3" features visually impressive and dynamic action sequences, including the climactic battle involving Sandman, Venom, and New Goblin.
    - The film provides improved visual effects and cinematography, greatly enhancing the overall visual appeal.
    - The inclusion of both Sandman and Venom introduced new and iconic villains to the movie series, adding variety to the antagonist lineup.
    - The film's score, composed by Christopher Young, contributes to the overall atmosphere and emotion of the movie and is one of my favorites.
  - **Cons**
    - My biggest issue with this film is that it features too many villains, I understand they needed to raise the stakes and wanted to set up the Sinister 6, but Sandman, Venom, and Harry's Green Goblin (Hob) felt like too much for the 2hr 13min runtime. It led to a lack of story development

for each antagonist. Some characters' arcs and motivations felt very rushed and underdeveloped. A great example is the transformation of Eddie Brock into Venom, this photographer is suddenly more than happy to become a murderer. There was no build-up.

- The film attempted to balance dark and serious themes with more comedic and lighthearted moments, which I feel resulted in some inconsistencies in the overall tone of the movie.
- Dance Sequence and Emo Peter: The infamous scene where Peter Parker embraces a more confident persona after being influenced by the symbiote is cringeworthy, screws up the tone of the movie, and is completely out of character. Great meme though.
- Missed Potential with Venom: Despite being one of the most recognizable villains in the franchise, Venom's screen time is limited to a mere 7 minutes throughout the entire movie.

- **Casting**

- Thomas Haden Church's portrayal humanizes the character of Sandman (Flint Marko), portraying his struggles and motivations in a way that provokes empathy from the viewers.
- Topher Grace would have been good as a rival photographer, but not as Eddie Brock.

- **The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)**

- I will admit, I went into this movie very skeptical.

- **Pros**

- This movie provided a fresh take on the Spider-Man origin story, keeping it similar but also different from the previous Sam Raimi-directed trilogy.
- Impressive visual effects, particularly in its action sequences and Spider-Man's web-swinging scenes.
- The tone of the movie had a more modern and relatable feel, appealing to younger audiences.
- Peter Parker's backstory felt very flushed out as more than just a kid bit by a spider. This allowed for deeper character development and exploration of his relationships.

- **Cons:**

- I felt that rebooting the franchise was unnecessary.
  - The Sam Raimi trilogy had finished only 5 years earlier.
- Even though there were some major changes, the plot followed a very familiar formula, which led to it being more predictable.
- The Lizard (Dr. Curt Connors) had the potential to be a fun new villain. Instead, we got an underdeveloped and rushed character who went from

a caring science teacher to a blood thirsty lizard who wants to turn everyone into lizards because.....

- **Casting**
  - Andrew Garfield's portrayal of Spider-Man was great, however, I felt he was too “pretty boy” to be a believable Peter Parker. He’d have been a popular kid in my school.
  - Emma Stone's performance as Gwen Stacy was outstanding.
    - The chemistry and acting between the characters was more than believable.
  - Sally Field as Aunt May was a good choice, good chemistry
  - Martin Sheen as Uncle Ben was neutral to me. I felt he was only used for a big name on the poster.
  - Denis Leary - Great choice with great acting
  
- **The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014)**
  - **Pros:**
    - Andrew Garfield's performance of Spider-Man continues to capture the wit and charisma of the character.
    - Electro's visual effects and the way they showed his electric powers were unique.
    - The movie went deeper into the relationships between Peter Parker, Gwen Stacy, and Harry Osborn, creating some emotional moments.
    - The film laid the groundwork for World-Building an expanded Spider-Man cinematic universe, introducing things like Oscorp and potential future villains.
    - Death of Gwen Stacy. While I hated to see her go, this was meant to be an emotional moment in the comics and they did a great job at faking out viewers into thinking he saved her... when in actuality he killed her. The web forming a hand reaching out for her was visual gold.
  
  - **Cons:**
    - Same problem as Spider-Man 3, the movie struggled to balance multiple storylines and characters, leading to underdeveloped characters.
    - While visually impressive, the development of Electro felt rushed.
    - Green Goblin looked like something out of a B-List zombie movie.
    - The introduction of several plot threads, including hints at the Sinister Six, distracted from the central story of Peter and Gwen.
    - Making Peter’s parents up to something... no
  
  - **Casting:**
    - Dane DeHaan as Harry Osborn was an unmemorable performance
    - Jamie Foxx as Electro, Max Dillon... Great actor, wrong role.

- **Spider-Man: Homecoming (2017)**

- **Pros:**

- The film's connection to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) allowed for crossover moments and references that excited fans.
- We finally got a high school Peter approach
- "Homecoming" focused on Peter's growth as both a superhero and a teenager, emphasizing his struggles with responsibility, but also foreshadowing how difficult juggling both lives would be.

- **Cons:**

- Overreliance on MCU: While a pro for many, some viewers felt that the film leaned too heavily on MCU tie-ins, potentially overshadowing Spider-Man's standalone story.
- Lack of Personal Stakes: The film's lighthearted tone and focus on high school life led some to feel that the stakes weren't as high as in other Spider-Man adaptations.
- Villain's Plan: Some viewers found the Vulture's plan to be somewhat convoluted and not as impactful as it could have been.
- Characterization of Supporting Cast: Some characters, such as Ned and Liz, were criticized for lacking depth or development.
- Predictable Plot Points: Certain plot twists and reveals were anticipated by experienced moviegoers, leading to a less surprising narrative.

- **Casting:**

- Tom Holland's Performance of Spider-Man/Peter Parker was outstanding. His youthful energy and humor brought new life to the role.
- Michael Keaton's portrayal of the Vulture (Adrian Toomes) was great thanks to the depth he brought to the role. His compelling motivations were completely understandable even if misled.
- Zendaya brings a new take on the MJ character. Rather than the popular high school girl, she is seen as an edgy loner who "doesn't need anyone"
- Jacob Batalon as Ned Leeds brings a needed confidant to Peter's Spider-Man. His portrayal is fun but also needed to help balance the mood at times.
- Marisa Tomei as Aunt May is well done, but I am still unsure about the decision to bring a younger actor in as Aunt May. She was almost always shown as an older woman.

- **Venom (2018):**

- **Pros:**

- The film took a darker but also humorous approach, setting it apart from traditional superhero movies.
- The design of Venom's character and powers was significantly more comic book accurate than the Sam Raimi version we saw 11 years before.
- "Venom" offered a self-contained story that didn't require extensive knowledge of the larger Spider-Man universe. It was easy to enjoy by itself.
- The movie allowed the possibility of exploring more of Venom's lore and introducing other symbiotes.

- **Cons:**

- I was a little disappointed there wasn't a direct connection or reference to Spider-Man. Not even in a post-credits scene.
- The antagonist, Carlton Drake/Riot, is too generic and underdeveloped. He felt like a classic "first villain".
- While the first half of the movie felt well paced, the 2nd half felt rushed.

- **Casting:**

- Tom Hardy's Performance as Eddie Brock/Venom was widely great thanks to its intensity and humor, capturing the dynamic between Eddie and the symbiote.
- Michelle Williams as Anne Weying felt very 2 dimensional. Like there wasn't enough character development for me to care about her other than "Oh that's his ex"
- Riz Ahmed as Carlton Drake/Riot was a good choice as far as the acting abilities he brought to the film. But again, there was very little character development to let me understand his intentions. It felt like he was bad for the sake of needing a bad guy.

- **Spider-Man: Far From Home (2019)**

- Immediately following Endgame

- **Pros:**

- Stunning visual effects, especially when depicting Mysterio's illusions and action sequences.
- The movie dove straight into the consequences of "Avengers: Endgame" and how they affected Peter's world. His loss of Tony as his mentor was obviously devastating to him and it showed.
- The school trip premise provided a unique story for Spider-Man as we get to see later. How do you explain Spider-Man in Europe? Why is he there? etc.

- **Cons:**
    - I found the main plot twists to be predictable. It felt cookie cutter to most hero movies.
    - Supporting characters, such as Ned and MJ, didn't get as much development as they could have. They were under utilized.
  - **Casting:**
    - Tom Holland continued to impress with his portrayal of Spider-Man/Peter Parker, capturing the character's growth and humor.
    - Jake Gyllenhaal's performance as Mysterio/Quentin Beck was cheesy but also very well executed.
- **Venom: Let There Be Carnage (2021)**
    - **Pros:**
      - We got to see how the relationship between Eddie and Venom was progressing, as well as the sacrifices each had to make in order to make it work.
      - The tone of the movie took dark humor and mixed it with comedy. And this worked out well.
    - **Cons:**
      - The Cleatus / Shriek relationship and marriage felt pointless. I understand it was needed for the undoing of carnage later. But it felt out of place in the final battle of the movie.
      - Venom eating Carnage in the end and
    - **Casting:**
      - Woody Haralson as Cleatus Cassidy / Carnage had amazing potential, but it felt limited by the writing.
      - Naomie Harris as Shriek... I just didn't like the character.
  - **Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021)**
    - **Pros:**
      - The movie picks up at the exact moment "Far from Home" ended.
        - No looking for context or an exposition dump of what happened
      - Amazing visual effects throughout the entire movie.
      - A unique plot that was fun to watch.
      - Seeing old faces of favorite villains and heroes returning.
      - Fan service? Sure, but it was still a great movie.
      - Large cast but kept fairly balanced for the most part.
      - BEST SCENE IN THE MOVIE
        - Peter's Spider-sense realizing the Goblin is back
    - **Cons:**
      - Lizard had very little screen time

- Introducing the other Peters was too easy. After Mysterio, Hollands Peter should have been far more skeptical.
- **Casting:**
  - Tom Holland's acting and portrayal were top-notch in No Way Home. His beaten-down demeanor in the end really showed off his anguish and pain from the losses he experienced.
  - Benedict Cumberbatch gave a great performance as Doctor Strange.
  - Willem Dafoe was amazing.

## MOVIE RATINGS:

10. **Venom: Let there be Carnage**
9. **The Amazing Spider-Man 2**
8. **Spider-Man 3**
7. **Venom**
6. **Spider-Man: Far From Home**
5. **Spider-Man 2**
4. **The Amazing Spider-Man**
3. **Spider-Man: Homecoming**
2. **Spider-Man**
1. **Spider-Man: No Way Home**



## Spider-Man Actors

- Tobey Maguire
  - Better Peter Parker
  
- Andrew Garfield
  - Better Spider-Man
  - Too “Pretty” for Spider-Man
    - He’d have been a popular kid in my school
  
- Tom Holland
  - Best of both worlds
  - Aged more accurate
  - Awkward demeanor