To Begin, I am not a major Spider-Man fan. I have never bought a spidey comic, though I did see a few movies in the theaters. Wizard magazine used to put out a lot of spiderman articles and even did a ranking of the top 200 comic book characters of all time, in which spidey came in at 3, behind batman and wolverine. That was in 2008. They used to say consistently, that if you, the reader, were to be a hero, you would be spiderman, the everyman. I never agreed with it. Not that i would be wolverine, my fave character, but i can hold down a job while juggling a relationship and finding time for hobbies, like a podcast which i will say takes up as much time as swinging around a city. Yeah yeah, who knows when the kingpin or lizard will strike, but there is daredevil and the x-men roaming around, not to mention the punisher. I can count on my fellow employees, or friends, or my beautiful fiance to pick up the slack when I can't, and so should spiderman. With all that said, here are my rankings of the live action movies, including venom because they are connected to the live action Spider-Verse. Also, I have not seen some of these movies in a while, so..... There's that.

### <u>Rankings</u>

# HM. Spider-ManInto the Spider-Verse Hm. Spider-Man Across the Spider-Verse

Amazing Movies. I did not place them with the live action movies due to them being able to do sequences in animation that live action at this point cannot do without looking silly. The artwork and the voice acting are top notch and the cameos, and easter eggs were fantastic.

## 10. Venom 2 Let There Be Carnage

Venom: Let There Be Carnage is a 2021 American superhero film featuring the Marvel Comics character Venom, produced by Columbia Pictures in association with Marvel. Distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing, it is the second film in Sony's Spider-Man Universe and the sequel to Venom. The film was directed by Andy Serkis from a screenplay by Kelly Marcel, based on a story she wrote with Tom Hardy, who stars as Eddie Brock and Venom alongside Michelle Williams, Naomie Harris, Reid Scott, Stephen Graham, and Woody Harrelson. In the film, Eddie and the alien symbiote Venom must face serial killer Cletus Kasady after he becomes the host of an offshoot of Venom named Carnage

Likes - The comedy was good throughout. Carnage itself. The battles.

Dislikes - Woody Harelson as Carnage. Thrown together plot. Kinda forgettable. The last quarter of the movie, I remember being annoyed and hoping it would get over with.

Casting Choices - Woody is a superb actor and plays a good nut job, natural born killers, but not here. If he had been younger, maybe this would have worked, but for some reason he just didn't hit for me. Maybe too crazy, and not dark and menacing.

Too over the top maybe? At least Tom Hardy is physically close to what Eddie Brock should be. Better than topher grace. Naomi Harris was forgettable. I had to look up the role of Shriek and the actress.

Overall - All in all it was a messy and forgettable movie. I had to look up things about the film because I couldn't remember. The only one I have seen one time. And I am ok with it.

### 9. Spider-Man 3

Directed by Sam Raimi, this installment sees Peter Parker dealing with the black symbiote suit, which amplifies his aggression. He faces multiple villains, including Sandman (Thomas Haden Church) and Venom (Topher Grace), while also dealing with personal conflicts.

Likes - The attempt to bring Venom in, though not done well. Sandman by Thomas Haden Church was cool. Magiena Tova as Ursula was funny.

Dislikes - Dancing, Tobe Maguire acting, bad cgi, Eddie Brock skinny. Ursula parts had no impact on the overall tale.

Casting Choices - Tobe is annoying by this point of the series to me. He does redeem himself in a later entry. Eddie Brock is a tank in the comics and intimidating. I like Topher in some other things, but not for Brock, he's way too skinny. As usual, I'm not a fan of Kirsten Dunst as MJ.

Overall - While I do appreciate the overall Swings taken, it is a mess of a movie that I blame on studio interference. Sony is known for interference with directors and stories.

### 8. The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Andrew Garfield returns as Spider-Man, facing new foes like Electro (Jamie Foxx) and the Green Goblin (Dane DeHaan). The film delves into Peter's relationship with Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone) and sets up further plot developments.

Likes - Andrew Garfield. I felt he is a good Peter, looks the part and Is funny. Not too nerdy or weak. The way he moved around felt close to the comic book. He studied spiders before the film and I think it shows. The Suit so far is my favorite. The death of Gwen actually felt emotional and the clock's time easter egg to the issue she dies in was amazing.

Dislikes - Portrayal of goblin. Looked like shit. Electro reminded me too much of the riddler in Batman forever. WTF did they do to the rhino? Why waste Paul Giamatti?

Casting Choices - Jamie Foxx is a good actor, but not for electro. Or at least the story they gave him. Better fit in a future entry. Dane DeHann seems like a Temu version of Leonardo DiCaprio. Definitely hurt the movie for me. Theo James would have been my choice for goblin. Looked like franco a bit but without the behind the seems issues, but that was way back then. He was in season 2 of white lotus.

Overall - Failed opportunity to do a story with 2 villains but mucking up their look and stories. A lot of potential wasted.

## 7. Venom 1

Eddie Brock, played by Tom Hardy, a failed reporter, is bonded to an alien entity, one of many symbiotes who have invaded Earth. But the being takes a liking to Earth and decides to protect it.

Likes - Seeing Venom look right physically on screen, beefy and menacing. Like an action figure I have. Comedy hit. The Lobster scene was glorious. Good action sequences and the cgi with the symbiote was done well I think. The relationship between Eddie and Anne felt emotional and real. I bought the chemistry. Eminem's Song Venom was a nice touch for the soundtrack.

Dislikes - Lame villain is forgettable.

Casting Choices - Tom Hardy brings a manic-ness and erraticness to the role. He played "I can lose it at any time" very well. Michelle Williams was better at a love interest than Kirsten Dunst was in the OG movie, and I wonder If she would have made those movies better, had she been cast. Reid Scott as Dr. Dan was pleasantly funny.

Overall - A movie that gets shit on more than it deserves, was a good start to bringing this venom to the screen, but the villain was nothing original and forgettable and I could feel the studio poking a prodding with the film a bit.

### 6. Spider-Man Far From Home

Tom Holland's Spider-Man deals with the aftermath of "Avengers: Endgame" as he embarks on a school trip to Europe. With guidance from new hero Mysterio (Jake Gyllenhaal), he faces a new elemental threat and uncovers sinister secrets.

Likes - The take on Myserio was unexpected and some of the action sequences felt like they were from the comics. The impact of the ending actual has future ramifications. It had gravity to it.

Dislikes - I was a bit bored here and there. Maybe because it had so many characters which gave less importance to them. It felt like an offshoot avengers movie more than a spider-man movie at times. With Nick fury, and shield around, why is ned needed? Looking back, who is a skrull in this? Peter is pulled in a few directions here, and I am not sure, nor is he, what he is really supposed to be doing. Save the world, Date, be a friend, field trip? Plus he is taken out of NY. why? Just to challenge a hero who is already hurting and struggling after the death of Tony? A very dense story. Peter felt like one of the least important characters in it at times. Ned and Flash were annoying at times.

Casting Choices - Jake Gyllenhall was fantastic. Holland was good despite some iffy story choices.

Overall - Though the least favorite of the new films, it still is better than some older ones. A middle of the road movie that seems to lose direction here and there, but

at least the story eventually has purpose as far as the future of the MCU and character are concerned.

## 5. Spider-Man 1 2002

Directed by Sam Raimi, this film follows the origin of Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) as he gains spider-like powers and becomes Spider-Man. He takes on the Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe) to save New York City and balance his life as a high school student and a superhero.

Likes - This movie along with X-Men are to me the movies that set the tone for what good comic book movies could be like in my opinion. Even without being a Spidey fan, this move brought wonder and amazement to the screen for a comic book hero that a lot of previous films missed the mark on. Like the soundtrack or not, it was cool back when the film dropped. The fight scenes were pretty good and still hold up.

Dislikes - The plot pacing of Peter going from high school to the real world so fast. There is a campy-ness to it, Macho Man Randy Savage, cafeteria hijinks, that is a bit too silly at times. The portrayal of Mary Jane.

Casting Choices - Toby Maguire is OK as Peter, not bad, but not great. Kirsen Dunst was miscast as MJ big time. JK Simmons was spot on. A bit over the top, but iconic to this day. Willem Defoe is a great kinda leveled crazy, even with a silly ass helmet stolen from the power rangers universe.

Overall - A brick layer to the foundation of modern comic book movies. Not the best or worst, but the importance of its success cannot be understated or forgotten. Some casting missteps hinder it for me, but overall it is a fun flick.

## 4. The Amazing Spider-Man

A reboot directed by Marc Webb, this film stars Andrew Garfield as Peter Parker, who uncovers his father's past and becomes Spider-Man. He battles the Lizard (Rhys Ifans), a villain created from scientific experimentation gone wrong.

Likes - Garfield charisma. He felt like Peter Parker. Not wimpy, but a bit awkward. Skating was a nice touch. Peter seems like a street kid that belongs in NY. This is my favorite Spidey suit. Making Gwen as his love interest was refreshing and works. This movie shows Peter as a smart guy, which he is in the comics, more than previous movies. Again, the way that spider-man moves in this one feels more like a spider and natural.

Dislikes - Mucking with Peter's past hinting that his parents were no good irritated me. I don't need a conspiracy theory in a spidey movie. I'll stick to Jack Ryan or James Bond. The coloring and lighting of the movie is a bit too dark for me at times. It made some scenes with the lizard hard to follow.

Casting Choices - Good cast. Emma Stone and Andrew were magnetic with each other. They dated in real life for 4 years after the movie and it shows.Dennis Leary breathes New York and kills it as Captain Stacy. Rhys Ifans did what he could for the lizard. It was nice to see a younger, but not too young Aunt May in Sally Field.

Overall - Going back to this one, I forgot how much I actually liked it. The cast is superb, and it sucks how part 2 fell on its face so hard. But at least Garfield gets a 3rd shot at it later on.

## 3. Spider-Man 2

The sequel directed by Sam Raimi continues Peter Parker's struggles as he grapples with maintaining his personal life while facing the new threat of Doctor Octopus (Alfred Molina), a scientist who becomes a dangerous villain. The film explores themes of responsibility and sacrifice.

Likes - The action and fight scenes especially the train sequence. This movie turns up the dial for action from part one in just the right amount while lowering the camp as well. CGI with the tentacles was sweet. Harry's descent into madness and father issues worked well.

Dislikes - Most of the scenes with Peter and MJ. I felt like the Harry stuff stumbled at the end. His psychological loss of powers. I kinda even forgot it happened.

Casting Choices - Dunst as MJ is bad. Alfred Molina is absolutely awesome as Dock Ock.

Overall - A true good sequel to a great first movie that raises the stakes and ante in all respects. It showed that you can not only make a good sequel, but also a good comic book sequel. It is still fun to watch and the action stands up today. Molina brings a lot to the film and carries a good but with his 8 arms.

## 2. Spider-Man Homecoming

Likes - Skipping the origin story was refreshing. Keeping Peter in high school was good as well as showing his connection to NYC and the neighborhood. Great cgi and action mixed with comedy. Having Peter do stupid teenage things makes more sense when he is a teenager like he is in this film as compared to others when he makes these mistakes and choices as an adult. The car scene with Vulture was amazing. I loved the end fight where Peter just won't quit.

Dislikes - Tony is kinda unlikable to me in this one and there is a bit too much reliance on fans' love for Iron Man and previous films here by having too much Happy and Tony at times. Some of the vulture's minions are kinda forgettable.

Casting Choices - Marissa Tomai being an actual appropriate age was nice. Tom Holland is a good Peter and Spidey. Michael Keaton is ridiculously good as Vulture.

Overall - If not for the jammed packed sequel to this, it would be the best and my fave Spidey move. It hits all the right notes of action, comedy, and raw emotion.

#### 1. Spider-Man No Way Home

Picking up immediately after the events of "Spider-Man: Far From Home," Peter deals with his identity being released to the world and seeks help from Doctor Strange (Benedict

Cumberbatch). After a spell goes awry, Peter is joined by former Spider-Man actors Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield to face off against enemies from all previous movies including:

- Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe)
- Doctor Octopus (Alfred Molina)
- Sandman (Thomas Haden Church)
- Lizard (Rhys Ifans)
- Electro (Jamie Foxx)

Likes - Bringing all the Spidey movies into one, which gives closure for Garfield and Maguire. The action scenes are out of this world. It doesn't forget to pack an emotional punch, death of May, and sets up a clean slate for future entries. Giving a hint towards Ned's future was cool and moving on from the current mj was needed. Despite the involvement of Strange, it felt like a true spidey film, not an avengers or iron man flick.

Dislikes - Some of the villains like the lizard are kinda left in the dust here at times, because there are so many characters to give screen time to. Too much Happy Hogan for me.

Casting Choices - No major issues with cast. They were all good in what they did. Alfred and Willem shined.

Overall - A great conclusion to the first spidey trilogy that brought it all together and then blew it up, only to hit the reset button. There is a lot going on in this movie, but somehow it was not lost or overwhelmed. A true spider fan's dream of a movie.