# Why Marvel's Cinematic Universe is Better than DC's

Although it started with a simple film and a shaky lead actor, Marvel Studios and their "Avengers" franchise has dominated Hollywood for the last 10 years with no signs of slowing down. However, this blueprint that they have laid out has been inherited, copied and recycled by other franchises looking to achieve box office success. There have been several missteps along the way for these opposing franchises, especially DC Comics.
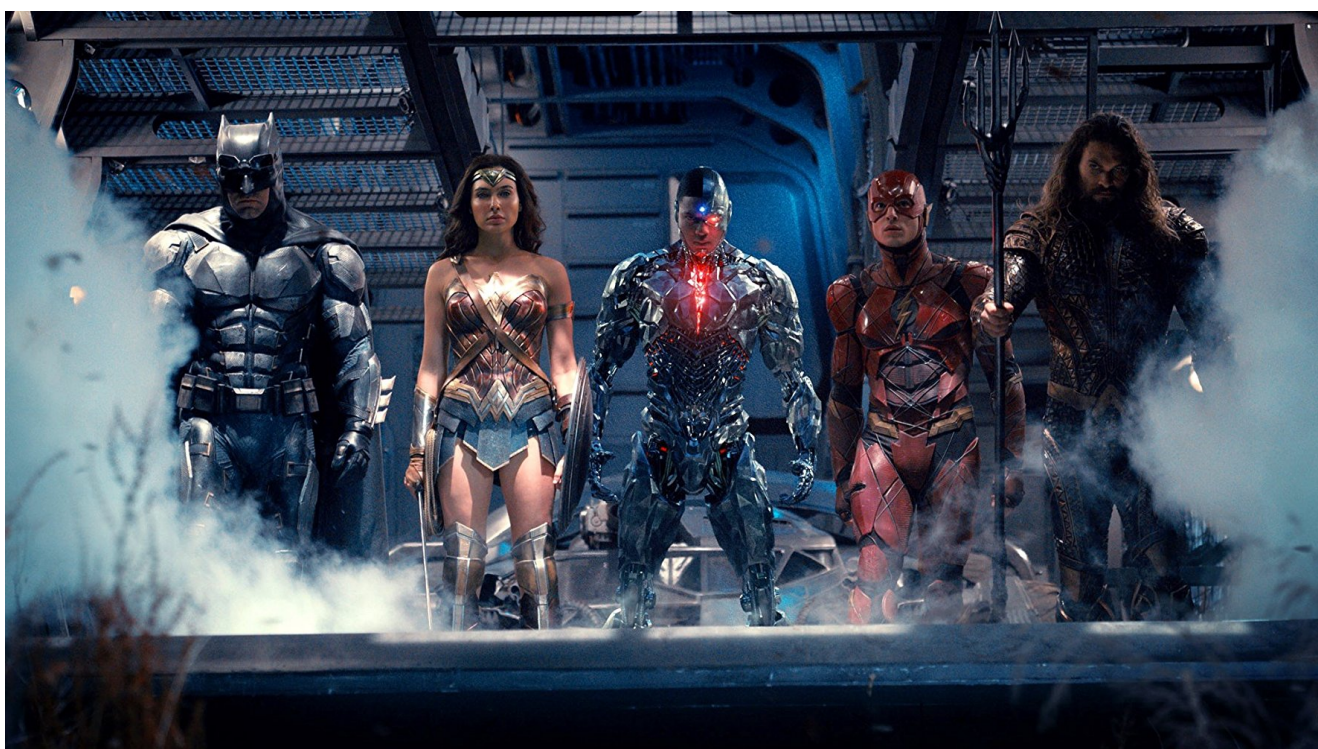
From left to right: Batman (Ben Affleck), Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), Cyborg (Ray Fisher), The Flash (Ezra Miller) and Aquaman (Jason Momoa) get ready to fight in "Justice League."
Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

When examining why DC's Cinematic Universe has been so mediocre at best, the flaws are all based upon their inability to appreciate the concept of story and all that it entails. They have underdeveloped their characters, have not established any sort of stakes for their characters' actions and have simply not followed the storylines they've began . Due to all of these reasons and more, Marvel has, and will likely continue to, produce the better cinematic universe.

When looking at the DC Cinematic Universe, 2016's "Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice" ("BVS") is a great place to start. To put it simply, DC was much more focused on using this film to establish its "Justice League" franchise, rather than to tell the remarkable story provided by the DC comic books' foundation.

One of the biggest questions that was installed as a foundation for this film was whether Superman truly does good for Earth or not. While a refreshing take on the character, the approach totally ruins this film. It was rushed and confusing. For example, I still do not understand the angle taken for Lex Luthor's hate for Superman.

Is it out of insecurity, a psychological problem or did the writers simply feel like throwing him in there? Also, how did Superman not hear the bomb that was attached to the wheelchair in court? It is questions like these that ultimately make the movie feel cheap and contradicting, which took away from the philosophical elements that the film had going for it.

Superman, played by Henry Cavill, carries Lois Lane, played by Amy Adams, in "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice."
Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Ben Affleck's Batman is another major problem that I have with this universe. I don't think he has done a poor job; however, they simply underdeveloped him as a character. There are instances in both "BVS" and "Justice League" where Batman discusses his past, but there is no authenticity attached to these so-called "memories." This is because we have not seen what this Batman has gone through. In other words, dialogue can only achieve so much when it comes to attaining a deep, emotional standpoint.

DC's inability to create consequences for their characters is another problem with their latest movies. In 2017's "Justice League," the group of heroes bring Superman back from the dead to defeat Steppenwolf. Not once is Superman seen indulging in his emotions, revealing what the afterlife was like or even questioning the dramatic events that led to his demise. There are no stakes in the death of Superman, which makes the fact that he was dead feel cheep and underwhelming.

From left to right: Doctor Strange/Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), Iron Man/Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), Wong (Benedict Wong) and Bruce Banner/Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) prepare to fight Thanos in "Avengers: Infinity War." Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

On the contrary, "Captain America: Civil War" and "Avengers: Infinity War" are films that I absolutely love. The ultimate difference between these Marvel films compared to the DC movies is character development. Superheroes like Iron Man, Captain America and Thor began their journeys years ago, which only made their developmental process in these films much easier for audiences to digest.

Despite the fact that "Infinity War" is a rather large film, viewers can still understand the strained relationship between Iron Man and Captain America. Thanos's motives are very clear despite only making cameo appearances in prior Marvel films. The heartache and struggles that Thor is going through due to the loss of his beloved city of Asgard at the end of "Thor: Ragnarok," as well as the loss of his complicated, yet lovable brother to the hands of Thanos in "Infinity War," are all digestible.

The main concept that DC keeps missing is that they cannot rush their story or else there will be detrimental consequences to how consumers will respond.

Marvel's Cinematic Universe (MCU) began in 2008; the first Avenger's film was released in 2012. There were many solo films in between those years, including two "Iron Man" films, that dove deeply into the psyche of Tony Stark/Iron Man. He slowly transformed from a cocky, immature weapons connoisseur, to a man who used his traumatic, life-threatening experience to achieve the world's ultimate epiphany.

On the other hand, instead of mastering their craft and writing characters that would only learn, grow and change as the years went on, DC decided to combine and rush everything into a huge glob of mediocrity. This resulted in disappointing box office numbers and poor reception of 2017's "Justice League" movie.

From left to right: Falcon (Anthony Mackie), Ant-Man (Paul Rudd), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), Captain America (Chris Evans), Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen) and Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan) face off in the epic airport battle in "Captain America: Civil War." Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

A flaw that encapsulates DC's problem is the dirt shaking at the end of "BVS." After Superman is killed in his fight against Doomsday, audiences are left with a shot of the dirt on his casket shaking, which implied that he was still alive. However, in "Justice League," he is brought back to life from General Zod's ship, completely ignoring the conclusion to "BVS." It is plot lines like this that are simple to follow and highlight the lack of effort regarding continuity.

I understand the pressure that DC and Warner Bros. feel to keep up with the MCU, and I know the consequences of this pressure are going to be underdeveloped characters and missed chances for some cool subplots, but to actually not follow the course of plots that they decided to share? That is simply lazy, irresponsible writing and perhaps the ultimate reason that DC finds itself on the losing side of this grand, cinematic battle.

Because of all this, I do not think anyone would cry if DC's Cinematic Universe was dusted after Thanos's snap in "Avengers: Infinity War."