

The Superhero the Movie Industry Needed



Spider-Man. Photo courtesy of 2021 SONY Pictures Digital Production Inc.

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After delays and COVID-19 protocols, the third installment of the joint Marvel and Sony studios *Spider-Man: No Way Home* is finally in theaters. Watch as Peter Parker, played by Tom Holland, navigates living a normal life, with the unwanted notoriety of his alter ego.

With a great supporting cast, this is not just a movie about Spider-Man versus the bad guys. With Zendaya as MJ and his always loyal best friend Ned Leeds, played by Jacob Batalon, this roller coaster blockbuster will not disappoint Marvel fans. Marisa Tomei as Aunt May gives one of the most heroic performances as a secondary character Marvel has ever seen. Her motherly presence is needed to combat Peter's chaotic lifestyle. Happy, played by Jon Favreau, gave the cool uncle vibe as always.

No superhero movie is complete without a good villain, and in this movie, the studios have provided five. None more impressive than Willem Dafoe as Norman Osborn. His portrayal of the psychotic goblin would easily make him one of Marvel's best villains ever. Jamie Fox as Electro puts in an outstanding performance. Bringing

back Alfred Molina to play Dr. Otto Octavius was unexpected by Marvel Studios. These villains were not wasted characters like so many other Marvel films in the past.

If you want a Marvel movie full of surprises, look no further than this movie. Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield are back in their respective roles as the friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. Benedict Cumberbatch also makes an appearance in the movie as Doctor Strange. Without their contributions, this movie would not have been the success it is today.

Trying to move to a post COVID-19 world can happen. I think that this movie proves that with the second highest North American opening weekend of all time at \$260 million. *Spider-Man* is the kind of franchise the film industry needed to show that they can still put out a product that people will be willing to go see in theaters, rather than just staying home watching streaming services or waiting for the Blu-ray Disk to come out.

According to Box Office Mojo, *Spider-Man: No Way Home* has crossed the \$1 billion mark and over \$700 million domestically, making it the highest grossing movie of 2021.