

SPOTLIGHT ON FILM



Disney's recent takeback of Marvel characters from Fox Studios was seen by most fans as a good thing. Disney, of course, own Marvel Studios and there is no denying that they've had the most success bringing comic book characters to the big screen. Fox's attempts at X-men movies have been mixed while their takes on the Fantastic Four have been downright abysmal. These characters will hopefully and finally get the treatment they deserve.

One property that Disney has yet to properly reclaim is the *Spider-Man* franchise as these rights rest with Sony Pictures. Yes, they've been allowed to use the Peter Parker version of Spider-Man in their legendary Marvel Cinematic Universe, but use of subsidiary characters has been more complicated. When Sony Pictures goes and releases a pure gem like their recent animated film *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, it makes a lot of fans less excited for a full on Disney reclamation.

Movie studios have been slow to introduce new versions of classic superheroes. I suppose the logic is that their largest audience will be those more familiar with the original incarnations. Peter Parker has been the Spider-Man that most of the world grew up with and therefore the one that most would want to see. More modern comic-book readers, however, have come to discover the greatness that is the Miles Morales version. Sony plays it smart by offering us both. And more! We also get a female version (Spider-Gwen), a noir version (Spider-Man Noir), a manga version (SP//dr), and a pig (Spider-Ham). This abundance of characters could have been confusing, but the superb writing streamlines the whole shebang, offering us origin stories, action, humour, and heart.

The writing alone would have made *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* a good film, but the animation pushes it to greatness. This is like nothing you've seen before; blending classic hand crafted cartooning with computer animation and working in elements to make it look like a comic book come to life, it is no wonder that the film recently won an Oscar for animation.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse is available on DVD from the Yellowknife Public Library.

John Mutford, Library Manager

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