

# A new type of cinematic web-slinger

I'm just going to say it. We have enough *Spider-Man* movies. Did we really need separate Andrew Garfield and Tom Holland reboots after the first three Tobey Maguire movies? Six movies has brought a beloved character to a spot in his cinematic career where writers are just running out of things to do with him. The latest movie, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, was okay at best but it really showed that there is not much left we can see out of Spide-Man, and yet they make another one in *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. Let's spend \$13.50 to see yet another *Spider-Man* movie with tired ideas.

This is the thought process I had walking into the theater to see the newest version of *Spider-Man*. The only thing that gave me any hope for this film was the main character change from Peter Parker to Miles Morales and the switch animation rather than live action. Don't get me wrong, all of the *Spider-Man* movies have been enjoyable, but they lack that depth of quality that makes superhero movies like the

original *Iron Man* and *Black Panther* so iconic. That being said, this newest installment in the *Spider-Man* movies, *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* was not just refreshing but astounding. It has finally put a *Spider-Man* movie in the conversation for the top Marvel, if not top superhero movies of all-time conversation.

With outstanding animation that plummets the audience into a comic book in the theater, producer Will Allegra has out done himself. Previously the producer of films including *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, *22 Jump Street* and *The Lego Movie*, Allegra took *Into the Spider-Verse* to next level. The immersive design and intricate attention to detail, brought this somewhat unknown story to the box office...and crushed it.

With the exception of devoted *Spider-Man* fans, not many people in the general public had even heard of Miles Morales as he is still a relatively new character in the comic book world. Voiced by the also relatively new actor Shameik Moore, Morales was portrayed as an extremely relatable character especially to a teenage/young adult audience, and he seemed more realistic than most of the previous live action *Spider-Men*.

The plot follows Morales' life as he is bitten by a radioactive spider, and gains the same powers as the real *Spider-Man*, whom Morales has

looked up too. Soon after gaining powers, the young Morales gets caught up in crime fighting with the real *Spider-Man* as well as some other versions of *Spider-Man* from other dimensions, which are hinted at in the trailer. To say anything more of this beautifully executed plot would spoil the best animated movie of the year, and perhaps the best *Spider-Man* ever made.

The best part of *Into the Spider-Verse* was that it brought every element of *Spider-Man* that the viewer wants. The early struggles and then successes of trying to control the new-

found powers given to Morales are heavily stressed throughout the movie and this element persists to the very last fight seen. The tragedy of the various *Spider-Man* stories are developed during the film and really bring this light-hearted film back down to earth. Comedy has always been a necessary component of any *Spider-Man* story, and this was no exception. I actually found myself laughing out loud in the crowded theater because of the sometimes hilarious dialogue between Moore and his costars Jake Johnson and Hail-

ee Steinfeld. The overall fun feeling of *Into the Spider-Verse* made the movie seem like an adventure rather than two hours just sitting in a theatre.

If there was only one reason to go see the newest adaptation of this hugely popular franchise, it would be the animation. The classic fight scenes became so much more in this movie. As Morales fights, so much design and detail is put into the image so that the viewer gets a animated movie yet the comic book feeling that *Spider-Man* is rooted in. Even just watching Morales swing from building to building is an experience. It is so complex yet simple to watch and take in.

Every single detail from the star-studded soundtrack with artists like Post Malone, Lil Wayne, Nicki Minaj, etc. to the classic aspects of *Spider-Man* mixed with a fresh exciting angles makes *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* a movie that just cannot be missed or passed over, and so far it hasn't making \$35.4 million in its first weekend vaulting it into the top of the box office and into history as the highest grossing three day animated opening in December.

This is not your typical superhero movie. It is one of the all-time greats.

