

R E V I E W S

Hollywood revives dead franchise

Destined for disgrace, *Hellboy* was as expected, abysmal. With some memorable action sequences and acting horrific enough to make Keanu Reeves wince in pain, *Hellboy* falls into the same boring action clichés, separating it from its original predecessor.

Hellboy follows a rough and tumble half-demon hero, tasked with hunting monsters alongside an unimaginative and unbearable cast of heroes. In a non-surprising twist, now there's an evil sorceress, who seeks revenge to those who turned against her. Now it's up to the grumpy protagonist and his unbearable cast of heroes to stop her.

Throughout the movie, one (and perhaps the only) redeemable quality of the movie was the casting of David Harbour as the namesake hero Hellboy. With almost nothing to work with, he was still able to stay true to the character and hold his own against Ron Perlman's original Hellboy. Unfortunately, his time in the light is overshadowed by quite literally everyone, with each character able to pull off the most miserable performances of 2019.

For some reason, *Hellboy* made the decision to replace all the interesting and colorful side characters of the original movies with most bland and dry characters imaginable.

I have a specific bone to pick with Sasha Lane's character Alice, a character I can only describe as the Jar-Jar Binks of the *Hellboy* franchise. She serves nothing to progress the story and takes any chance she can to place poorly-timed dad jokes that never land. She and stereotypical manly-man soldier Ben Daimio (played by Daniel Dae Kim) accompany Hellboy through most of his journey, leaving the audience yearning for the strong supporting cast of the original flair.

Each minute passing in the theatre left me begging for another fight scene. While surprisingly scarce, with sub par CGI, each fight was entertaining enough to keep the audience enticed till the end. A specially memorable fight



scene against giants makes me praise the decision to make the movie rated R. Often times movies are unable to express their creativeness because of a flimsy age rating. *Hellboy* takes advantage of its R rating and rides it through the fiery depths of hell.

Hellboy doesn't reach far above your average C-rate action movie. With its inability to create interesting, engaging characters, and its script that seems as if it was written by a group of dungeons and dragon players hopped up on sugar. Though fun at times and with a strong lead, *Hellboy* is another unneeded re-adaptation of a far superior movie series of the same name. If you want a creative, absurd and bombastic time, watch the original. If you want movie with the same emotional complexity and creativity as *The Bee Movie*, then watch *Hellboy 2019*.

■ Aaron Rothkopf