

By Le Snarky Libertarian

Spiderman. He's as recognizable as Batman (without the gadgets); the notoriety of man of steel without that whole ice cave of potholes... *Shifty eyes* Review time!

Spiderman 1, Spiderman 2, Spiderman 3

Oh director Sam Raimi. You were on top of the low budget subculture prior to filming this atrocious stink bomb of a trilogy. And by "on top of the low budget subculture," I of course am referring to you being the Grand High Poobah of nerds.

No, I'm for serial. Rami's got the crown and everything.

Soooooo how does Rami go from being the reason Bruce Campbell, (who is in every Rami film) is relevant by ushering in the niche culture of the Evil Dead trilogy, to filming not one, not two but three... THREE low budget TV shows based loosely around Greek mythology and in so doing being the reason Lucy Lawless (who has played Xena) is relevant (relatively speaking), to filming THREE of the most inane, inaccurate, plodding, stupid superhero films to ever plague the silver screen? Well, let's ask ourselves: one of these things is not like the other, so which is it?

Oh wait, that's right: A low budget director, unfamiliar with the realm of blockbuster films, given full reign to do as he saw fit to the first, multimillion dollar Spiderman film. Only good will come from this!

Two words why this series is abysmally atrocious: Tobey. Maguire. If Elijah Wood and Macaulay Culkin had a love child, it would be this guy. His wide-eyed, piercing stare bores into your soul and that turd eating grin reeks of self satisfaction.

Just like... (Image of Culkin and Wood thrust into an atomizer and their features morphed into one appears)... Ugggggh, never mind.

Now, while Maguire may not be a downright horrendous actor, the roles he consistently finds himself in lends the question: Have you no shame, man?

Spiderman 1-3: Tobey, you're just too old Pleasantville: Just, Bizarre...

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: (Takes a breath) Actually, this one is quite good, but only because Johnny Depp portrays a coked out nutcase.

Maguire is honestly a fairly decent Spiderman... If Spiderman were a 25-year-old playing make believe that he is 16.

Now, Let's play 'Spiderman Bingo'! For those new to the game, place a chip every time the plot could be resolved in 10 seconds or there is some pointless cameo from a guy that owes Sam Raimi money, or Willem Dafoe just decides to chew through scenery like a rabid dog. Okies? Let's start.

Parker gets bitten by a radioactive spider: B25

Bruce Campbell makes his obligatory cameo, as he promptly does in every single piece of Raimi's work from the beginning of time... as a wrestling announcer?: H0

Macho Man Randy Savage is utilized properly, shock, and promptly cuts a brief promo against Parker (Ooooooohoo Yeeeeeeeeeaaah): O12

Willem Dafoe attempts his best Jack Nicholson impression as The Green Goblin, and immediately steals the show with the best lines: G22

Now we get to Mary Jane...

Oh Kirsten Dunst, you had a promising career. As a child actress you were honestly quite gifted: Jumanji, Interview with the Vampire-these were good films that while taking themselves seriously still managed to incorporate heart and a degree of humor within them. Banderas as Armand stole the show and truly did convey Anne Rice's vision of romanticized vampirism perfectly, and left that sparkly garbage at the door.

Mary Jane Watson... I do not solely put the blame onto Dunst for this. Mary Jane should never have been within the first Spidey flick. It is one thing to take creative license with a franchise, but it is a totally different animal altogether to alienate one's target demographic entirely: namely the fans of the comics.

Gwen Stacy, Parker's first love WAAAAAAAY before the redheaded albatross found its way around his neck, was nailed superbly by not only Bryce Howard in numero tres (yes, Opie's Kid) but Emma Stone in Amazing Spidey also.

Why is this a problem? Gwen Stacy was KILLED by the Goblin in the comics and cartoon. Yes, way to screw the pooch on that one Raimi and put a dead girl in your third film after Dafoe Dafoe'd his last as Goblin and seppuku'd himself with his own glider, when that same Dafoe should have been the one to end her life.

Oh yeah, SPOILERS. Oops. Is this nitpicking? No. No it isn't. This is common Spiderman knowledge that the fanbase who went to see these films DID pick up on.

There is creative license and then there is being so inept at knowing who comes where in the comic time line that perhaps creating a film about that very comic character is not the best of options. Nor was including the Sandman...the Sandman in the third film.

Metallica this character ain't. He can say a prayer but we forget him, son.

Oh yeah, the Bingo: N31. BINGO!! Nothing against Thomas Haden Church for his portrayal of this character. Except one thing...WHY HIM?! Church was squandered in this CG-laden, lack of a story 'plot' that was the trainwreck of Spiderman 3. He went from a good film like Sideways to this...It causes one to wonder if he lost a bet with Paul Giamatti when he signed on for this role.

Of all of the Spiderman rouges gallery, why Sandman? What, was Kingpin too dignified for a film that has Parker taking dance moves from the Beegees while a perpetual Linkin Park collection is playing in his head. Crawling in his skin that symbiote was, but they even got Venom wrong.

Oh, sure the black suit was overall fine, except for that whole part about Parker hitting on a DEAD woman.

Why Topher Grace as Venom? Was Ashton Kutcher busy that weekend with Punk'd? What other That 70's Show cast you want to bring in, Raimi? Maybe Mila Kunis to portray Black Cat or Laura Prepon to be Madame Web.

First of all, THIS is Venom:



Courtesy of www.jng.com

THIS is also Venom:



Courtesy of asherial.deviantart.com

THIS is not Venom:



Courtesy of collider.com

Why would Raimi believe such a scrawny chump like Topher Grace should play one of the most recognizable, beloved and all around requested villains of all time? Vin Diesel, even Mark Wahlburg would have made a better Venom than TG. Venom is like eight feet tall and built like a tank. He is NOT five foot nothing and built like linguine.

Now, if Raimi wanted to, THIS is Carnage:



Courtesy of powercinema.wikia.com

Notice the size differential. Chas Cassidy (the man in the suit) is scrawny. Eddie Brock (Venom) is not. Quite the difference. Anyway, movie numero dos now.

Doc Ock, Alfred Molina, could not have been more perfectly cast. He was the best cast of any of the villains in the series. Which brings me to Harry Osborn.

Why James Franco? Of ANYONE to portray Parker's best friend that is a TEEN Franco looks even less like a teen than Maguire does! At least Maguire can rock the babyface and make it believable. Franco...No, just no. You're not Hobgoblin material.

This is the Hobgoblin:



Courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

This is NOT Hobby:



Courtesy of marvel.wikia.com

Note to Raimi: The X-Games called. They want their equipment back.

The Amazing Spiderman. Now, The Amazing Spiderman, directed by Marc Preston Webb, is deserving in every way of that name.

Hallelujah! FINALLY a director whom actually bothered to read comics as a child. With great power comes great responsibility, and Webb spun his take brilliantly!

Andrew Garfield:



Courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

Dude looks like a teez, no? Instead of being the stereotypical geeky kid in high school, Garfield plays this more realistic. Parker is a skateboarder who has a seemingly unrequited crush on (wait for it)... Gwen Stacy!! Finally!!

Emma Stone plays this Gwen Stacy a bit different...Alright, totally different than Bryce Howard did. Instead of being Pretty Girl Stereotype #431, she has an identity. She is not the hapless damsel in distress either. She is an intelligent, resourceful, loving and devoted woman who (though immensely terrified of the Lizard) does her best to stop him by staying in her laboratory workplace (works at Oscorp) and creates an antidote for Curt Connors' lizard toxin.

Curt Connors (Lizard) is a MUCH more relatable and sympathetic 'villain' than Goblin, Ock, Sandman, Hobby or Venom. Instead of being driven by hatred or...evil because the plot says so he is driven to find a mutagen that will grow back his missing arm. This is not a man bent on global conquest or killing because argle fargle barge. This is a man who wishes to change the world by implementing an inter-species growth hormone extracted from a lizard. He's not evil, but is instead the classic mad scientist merely misguided. And he looks like David Carradine from Kill Bill.

Seriously:



Courtesy of bravenewtoy.blogspot.com

While The Amazing Spiderman may surpass Raimi's film in plot, in accuracy to the comics and having Martin Sheen as Uncle Ben does not hurt, I can honestly see why an action movie buff would love the other three.

They are exciting and fun-filled, with plenty of moments that are quotable and the mere mention draws the exact film to memory.

This has been Le Snarky Libertarian and remember: do not ever be afraid to rip a movie apart.