

## X-MEN FIRST CLASS

BY LUCAS SMITH

How exactly does one create perfection? I'm still not sure myself, but you might want to ask Matthew Vaughn, because with First class, he has somehow done it. I had incredibly high hopes for this movie going in, and they were met and exceeded. Matthew Vaughn has always been a master of blending genres. In First Class, he is able to intelligently blend your typical superhero movie with a political thriller and a sort of James Bond style film making. First Class was brilliantly directed, had a great score by Henry Jackman, and all of the actors perfected their roles. To be honest, its only weakness is that it's a prequel, which takes out many of the twists and surprises. Charles had to become paralyzed and wheelchair bound by the end, etc.

The Cuban Missile Crisis is the basis of the film. We learn that this whole fiasco was actually created behind the scenes by Sebastian Shaw in order to create a new world for mutants. He is joined by Azazel, Riptide, and Emma Frost. In response to this, Charles teams up with Erik to create their own team of mutants to combat Shaw and stop the crisis from getting out of hand. They are joined by Angel, Darwin, Havok, Beast, Banshee and Mystique. The best part about the story was that it was more of a clash of ideals. One of the film's strongest points was that you could see where Erik was coming from, and you could even agree with the points he makes. The acting was phenomenal. James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender both nailed their parts as Charles and Erik, respectively. Fassbender was aggressive and arrogant, but also held deep respect for Charles.

McAvoy on the other hand played a slightly more comedic Charles at times, yet also played him very seriously when the scene called for it. Kevin Bacon did a surprisingly good job as the film's villain, Sebastian Shaw. He was very chilling at times, and had this incredibly aggressive tone to his voice. He never had any real "allies;" he merely used everyone to further his cause. Rose Byrn played CIA agent Moria MacTaggart. She wasn't a mutant, but helped Charles cause.

Henry Jackman (Kick Ass) returns as the main scorer for First Class. Hearing the musical version of the X-Men helps listeners picture every single X-Man. The other main theme is Magneto's. It is a mix of traditional instruments with a very hard guitar/bass riff in the back. This song flawlessly portrays how far along Magneto has come in learning how to properly control his powers. The movie's visuals were good, but were definitely the weakest point, as Vaughn had a schedule of nine months to complete this film.

All in all, this movie is the very definition of perfection, and it comes at my highest level of recommendation. Even people who don't like superhero films will find something to like in this film. It has the perfect balance of action, comedy and drama and none of it ever felt forced.

X-Men First Class is coming out DVD and Bluray Disc on Friday Sept 9.

For a full review, visit [mcwhetstone.com](http://mcwhetstone.com)!

## BLAST FROM THE PAST!

### REMEMBER THESE...?

- Sailor Moon
- Pokèmon
- Goosebumps
- Bionicle
- Dragonball Z
- The Simpsons
- Power Rangers
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- CatDog
- Doug
- Recess
- Rugrats
- Furbies
- Jurassic Park
- Super Mario 64
- Sonic the Hedgehog series
- My Little Pony
- Hey Arnold
- Beanie Babies
- Skip-It
- Bop-It
- Lisa Frank
- Razor scooters
- Slap bracelets
- Scrunchies

What are YOUR favorite nostalgic icons? Write and tell us!

