

Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse Review – A worthy successor to the original

When I went to watch Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse, my expectations were a little all over the place. For one I was excited, but not quite the same as when No Way Home was released. The trailer signified all kinds of potential storylines and fan theories online suggested one thing to the next. So sitting down to a sequel five years in the making, I felt a little bit scared. The first one knocked the ball out of the park and is easily one of, if not the best Spidey movie. So what was the problem? Could it have been the fear of movies not being as good as their predecessors? The tireless amount of sequels I've watched in the last three months? Don't get me started on Fast X.

But it seems I had nothing to worry about. Once the film ended, there was a seemingly good buzz in the air. A guy behind me whispered to his friend, 'You wanna go to the next screening?', and the room bustled into whispers of excitement. It wasn't quite the applauding reception I experienced in Avengers Endgame, but it was still a room full of excited fans, new or old.

This review contains spoilers, but only minor ones. The rest you'll want to experience yourself.

Across the Spider-Verse begins a little bit of time after the first film. Miles Morales (Shameik Moore) is struggling to balance his personal life with his masked one. He has learnt how to harness his powers for the greater good of the city, making strides as the new Spidey of his world. But he finds himself lost without his Spider friends, ultimately causing tension between him and his parents Rio (Luna Laren) and Jefferson (Brian Tyree Henry) as they deal with the uncertainty of his school future. But these problems are soon swept aside for the introduction of The Spot (Jason Schwartzman), a being with the power to jump through dimensions. Of course this alerts the Spider Society, the Spider people of the multiverse, and Miles is once again reunited with Gwen Stacey (Hailee Steinfeld) and Peter B. Parker (Jake Johnson).

The Spider Society is ran by Spider-Man 2099, or rather Miguel O'Hara (Oscar Issac), a vampire Spider-Man who monitors the multiverse and its Spider people. It is here that Miles learns the importance of keeping the multiverse safe and what his role as Spider-Man involves. What comes next are a series of twists that pave the way for Miles to finally make a stand as the superhero he has become. But it isn't just Miles that shines as the hero of this movie. Gwen's story is the pinpoint of the story, beginning with her losing someone she loves, and ending with her finding herself surrounded by people who care about her. It's almost like Across is told from Gwen's perspective, rather than Miles, the plot acting as her call for help.

As a whole, Across the Spider-Verse is a visually stunning animated film that you just can't look away from. If your jaw-dropped at the standard of the first film, then be prepared for something bigger. Every scene is uniquely different to the last and you could watch it a

hundred times over and still notice something new. And don't get me started on the cameos—The trailers showcased dozens of Spider people, but the film saves the best for surprise, featuring an assortment of appearances that will certainly put a smile on your face.

I briefly said before that the trailer is quite misleading and for someone who isn't an avid fan, might not be as keen to watch the spectacle without some persuasion. But nonetheless, the story is brilliantly crafted and whilst a little messy, it does a good job of piecing together the different storylines for an ending that will leave you yearning for the next part. And that's only nine months away.

Across the Spider-Verse is certainly going to be a high contender on people's top Spider-Man movies and I would go as far to say that it isn't that far behind the first one. And I say that with a slight strain, whilst it is a stunning masterpiece, it does fall in its placement as a part one with the ending feeling a little flat. But that's just me, I'm sure others will feel differently. The animation, the music and the voice acting are fantastic and I can't think of another movie that feels quite as unique as this one. So, I urge you to watch the continuation of Miles' story. And be prepared for a very satisfying cinema experience that upholds the legacy of Spider-Man.

4.5/5 stars.

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