
What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 05-05-2008 14:37

I am sure I will be told straight away if there is but has anyone seen it?

I was wondering about it as I have found Robert Downey Jr very irritating in the past as he was either on coke or being sanctimonious about being off coke but he seemed OK on Jonathon Ross so am hopeful about the film

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by linus - 05-05-2008 20:05

I watched the first 20 mins on watch-movies.net, pretty boring superhero movie (duh), but the racism on top of that is a bit too much.

http://www.watch-movies.net/movies/iron_man/

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Lyra - 06-05-2008 13:53

The politics do kind of switch about all over the place. It's OK. I found it quite odd.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 06-05-2008 14:25

It's received lots of glowing reviews from people I'd normally trust a fair bit, but I just can't work up any enthusiasm at all. Iron Man means nothing to me as a character, and I don't have any particular desire to see another generic comic book superhero film, no matter how well executed.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Lyra - 06-05-2008 15:45

Oh I don't think you would be missing anything by not seeing it. It kind of tries to say something and then turns into the usual stupid noisy explosions all over the shop type thing.

personally I'd rather see Vince Chase as Aquaman...

If you do go though I recommend staying till the end of the credits.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Sir Fartle - 06-05-2008 16:09

Saw it on Sunday.

Thought it was ace. I can't imagine anyone else playing Tony Stark now. Stark reminds me of myself (minus the superior engineering skills and cash). He's good looking, dresses nice and is loved by women everywhere...and then theres the Fartle'esque quips. Fantastic.

Hope we get to see Rhodes as War Machine in part 2. They seemed to hint at it during the film. Y'know, that bit where Rhodes goes into Starks workshop and sees the gold suit there and says "Maybe next time"...

I had difficulty in taking Jeff Bridges seriously. I can't imagine him being anyone other than 'The Dude'. When he was giving Iron Man a belting near the end, I kept thinking 'Well, he's like...hitting you...man'

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Eggchaser - 07-05-2008 17:19

Saw it. Loved it. Couldn't give a flying fuck about the politics; it's a comic book film about a man with an electromagnet in his chest hooning about in an exoskeleton blowing shit up, for heaven's sake. If you can't enjoy that, you're probably ready to sit next to the folks on Newsnight Review and sneer at everything (and even they quite liked bits of it, even the Northern Irish guy who hates everything).

Mind you, if you think the politics in this are bad, try reading the original Iron Man: Commie Smasher! type stuff from the good old days of Lee and Kirby.

Bring on alcoholism, Armor (sic) Wars, paralysis, Civil Wars and the death of Captain America, I say.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 07-05-2008 17:45

I haven't seen it yet because a friend of mine told me to wait until we could see it together and then he promptly fucked off out of town. On Friday afternoon I'll be in Boston with time to kill after the end of my meeting but before my flight home. I'll probably see it then.

I'm looking forward to it. I was never a big Iron Man fan*, but this looks extremely cool. Indeed, it's best not to think too hard about the politics in stories like this because it's unlikely that the writers thought much about them. It's just that, for a film set in the present or near future, there aren't many other good options for stock baddies.

*I'm not a big Marvel fan in general. I was always the oppressed minority among the comic geeks in my school, sticking up for the superiority of DC. I feel I've been completely vindicated.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Gyuri - 07-05-2008 18:18

I saw it yesterday and thought it was very good. Robert Downey, Jr. was great (probably the best superhero movie casting since Christopher Reeve), but then again, I always think so. Kiss, Kiss, Bang, Bang was one of the most enjoyable movies I've seen in the last few years, and he played a huge part in its success. The red and gold suit was very cool, and it had the least cartoonish SFX of the recent crop of these movies (with the last version of the Hulk and Spiderman being the worst).

I don't think it was as good as the first two X-Men movies, though that just may be my pro-X-Men bias showing through. I was always the oppressed minority among the comic geeks in my school, sticking up for the superiority of DC. I feel I've been completely vindicated. Reed, do you mean on the basis of the recent Batman and Superman incarnations? I thought that Marvel was far superior to DC in my comic-reading years (1983-1988), and have mostly lost touch with comics since. When I was reading them, I found the underdog/minority vantage point of the Marvel characters (particularly X-Men and Daredevil) much more resonant than the masters of the universe-types at DC (particularly Superman, who bored the hell out of me).

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Jon - 07-05-2008 18:21

Yes, it is a pretty cool film. Still think Robert Downey is a tad too old for Stark (especially as you consider that he might

be called upon to do maybe 2 or 3 more) but I concede that he does pull it off. Fartle's right about Jeff Bridges forever being the Dude. At one point his character spouts some vitriol like "that's just hippie crap" and you just think, hey Dude, you've changed your tune.

(Similarly, the bloke who did the narration for Lebowski also did the narration for Ghost Rider and you just couldn't take him seriously).

I agree with Lyra, the film starts slowly, a lot of time is spent on the origin and the main characters and there are some interesting political points made. The Hulk spent a similar amount of time before launching into the action but didn't do it half as well.

After the first hour or so it's just standard wham-bam super-hero fare until the end.

Again, as Lyra said, stay till after the credits. Although, unless you're a Marvel fanboy like me, you might not see what the big deal is. Me, on the other hand, I nearly sprayed my shorts.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Eggchaser - 07-05-2008 20:46

I didn't see the ending but have done on youtube (shock). Did it have to be that actor? He's the last person I saw playing him.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Gyuri - 07-05-2008 20:56

*****Sort of Spoiler*****

Apparently, Ultimate Nick Fury was actually designed to look like Sam Jackson.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Eggchaser - 07-05-2008 21:00

*****SPOILER REPLY*****

True, but Ultimates was weird. I always saw him being played by a Tom Berenger type.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Gyuri - 07-05-2008 21:04

That's actually how I saw him also, as I wasn't aware of the Ultimates version until I found that Wiki page after watching the movie (and being surprised that he was black). But then again, my comics knowledge is woefully out of date, and only updated when new movies spark debates about adherence to the source material.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Sir Fartle - 08-05-2008 22:26

I remember there being a TV film about Nick Fury called...Nick Fury.

David Hasselhoff was cast as Fury which tells you something about the quality of the movie...even if it was made for TV.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by loose cannon - 08-05-2008 23:41

http://www.theonion.com/content/video/wildly_popular_iron_man_trailer

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by wingco - 09-05-2008 13:02

So good that. And the trail-off bit at the end about the man who "bruised 23 people in a punching spree".

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 12-05-2008 17:46

I saw it this weekend. I didn't see the end of the credits. Damn. Something about Nick Fury?

I thought it was good, but I'm looking forward to the sequel where there will no doubt be more action and less expotition. I really liked the costume design and the machines and all of the crazy technology like that hologram table. It was all very anime-esque.

It wasn't as right-wing as I expected. It wasn't right-wing at all. Even the bad guys were a made up group, as opposed to the Taliban.

Reed, do you mean on the basis of the recent Batman and Superman incarnations? I thought that Marvel was far superior to DC in my comic-reading years (1983-1988), and have mostly lost touch with comics since. When I was reading them, I found the underdog/minority vantage point of the Marvel characters (particularly X-Men and Daredevil) much more resonant than the masters of the universe-types at DC (particularly Superman, who bored the hell out of me).

That's the cannard that Marvel has spread through all the various "History of Super-Heroes" articles and the pervasive media whoring of Stan Lee. It was very effective. Indeed, in my day, there was a large group of comic readers known as "Marvel Zombies" - fans that refused to read anything that wasn't from Marvel. That makes about as much sense as somebody claiming to be a food lover and yet refusing to eat anything that's not French.

There's no doubt that DC got stale in the post-Comics Code era and that Marvel brought some much-needed fresh ideas to the medium, but contrary to popular accounts, DC, not Marvel, (particularly Julius Schwartz) invented the Silver Age by revamping The Flash and Green Lantern in the early 1960s. And Denny O'Neill and Neal Adams were doing all sorts of cool stuff in the 1970s (like the Green Arrow/Green Lantern series) which were very much in tune with the times. In the early 80s, DC's best books were Alan Moore's Swamp Thing and the Wolfman/Perez Teen Titans (really, it was quality).

And there's no doubt that Marvel had better talent working for it in the early 1980s than DC did, but that all changed in the mid-1980s. That's what I mean by my vindication, not the recent movies although those are good too.

I suppose Frank Miller's Dark Knight Returns was the bell-weather event, because prior to that his most famous work had been on Daredevil, Wolverine and Spider-Man.

Beginning in 1984-85, DC greatly simplified its continuity with the Crisis on Infinite Earths and then relaunched its major characters.

The redo of Superman, started by John Byrne, was the most striking and most needed. Superman had become a bit too

Reagan-esque, as reflected in Frank Miller's portrayal of him in the Dark Knight series. In the new version, Superman is still a very morally upstanding guy, but it has become more difficult to be that. Luthor isn't just a mad scientist, but the world's greatest and most beloved capitalist and politician. So Superman is no longer just the protector of the establishment, but the lone voice of truth in a world mesmerized by all the new technology Luthor has given to Metropolis. Much more topical. Also, to make the action a bit more compelling, they gave Superman some more powerful villains to fight, which also makes it more trippy and confusing because he's often fighting interdimensional villains. Not really my thing, but at least the character is interesting.

Unfortunately, Bryan Singer ignored all of that in his latest movie and went back to the Luthor-as-bastard-for-its-own-sake character. A blown opportunity to do something really cool. Smallville isn't a great TV show, but at least it tries to do interesting things with the characters. Singer should have built on that.

Soon after they published the seminal Dark Knight series (in 1986, I believe), Batman got a fresh start in Batman: Year One by Frank Miller and David Mazzucelli, - the best Batman story ever, as far as I'm concerned. George Perez restarted Wonder Woman (which I recall was really good, but nothing else about it). They also got a new Flash and a few more Green Lanterns. Denny O'Neill did a great run on The Question (which nobody but me read, apparently). Mike Grell did some sweet new Green Arrow stories. And, of course, around this time, DC published Alan Moore's Watchmen.

DC, either under its own label or the Vertigo and Paradox imprints, published Sandman, V for Vendetta (although that was originally started in the early 1980s by Quality Comics), 100 Bullets, Hellblazer, Death: The High Cost of Living, Transmetropolitan, A History of Violence, etc, etc. I'm not aware that Marvel has ever even attempted to do anything as artistically ambitious.

Meanwhile, in the late 1980s, Marvel decided to make its continuity more complicated with the crappy Secret Wars series. They kept proliferating X series - even though the original already had a lot of lame characters that needed to go away, and continued to push the same old "X-men is like a metaphor for racism, man, it's like, sooo deep". But their loyal audience kept buying it.

They also screwed Jack Kirby out of rights to his own art, but that's a different issue.

And Spider-man got a black suit.

Then Marvel almost went out of business.

Since then, they've done a lot of "reimaginings" with the Ultimate series and so forth, which is pretty cool (at least the one's I've read), and I guess they're sort of "rebooting" some of the characters with the Civil War (Capt. America is dead, for now. Spider-Man doesn't remember ever being married to Mary Jane - how clever) but it seems that Marvel is now primarily focused on making movies. Some of them are good, and some are not. I think the key is to get a director who is both a very good filmmaker and a fan of the comics and then let the director find the best cast for the film, even if it's not the most obvious choice. That's why Iron Man and Spider-Man worked and why Daredevil, for example, did not.

Marvel has become its own studio, by creating a massive fund. The collateral is future film revenue, so in order to make Iron Man, for example, they have to promise a steady pipeline of films based on their "2,000 Characters." Some of them will be good, but I expect a lot of crap like Ghost Rider in the future too.

DC is part of Warner so it's not trying to make movies on its own, and Warner has been more selective and slow about how it turns the comics characters into movies, but they've done a very good job of turning the comics into animation. In addition to some very good kids stuff, they did a DVD-only PG-13 movie of Darwyn Cooke's New Frontier, which is fantastic. I recommend both the books and the movie. Plus they've got the new anime Batman thing coming this summer, which will be awesome.

Geek out over.

Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 12-05-2008 20:38

Speaking of Marvel losing the plot, who's responsible for the newspaper strip of Spiderman? It's unbelievably bad and remarkably boring. There's usually at least one strip a week consisting entirely of Peter Parker watching TV while MJ

begs him to get off his arse and do something.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 12-05-2008 20:39

I don't know. I've never known where that strip comes from or who reads those non-funny strips.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Jon - 17-05-2008 09:56

Loved your DC vs Marvel rant, Reed.

You're more or less spot on as well, and that is coming from a self-confessed 'Marvel Zombie' back in the day.

However, I do plead mitigating circumstances. In my hometown Marvel comics were freely available in most newsagents. DC stuff was rarer than hen's teeth.

At the zenith of my Marvel Zombie phase I was collecting every title they published, even crap like Rom and Alpha Flight.

Of course the other mitigating circumstance was that I was only about 12, plus I had been brought up on British reprints of Marvel's 60s silver age. It took me a while to distinguish between the good 60s reprints I was reading and the crap that was coming out in the 80s. I was never a real X-Men fan though. Avengers, Spidey and Daredevil were more my thing.

A year or 2 later I'd discovered proper comic shops and was therefore exposed to the wider world of comics - DC and the independent comics companies.

Although I've read a shedload of DC stuff since then, I suppose you always feel more comfortable with the universe you read when you first starting reading comics. At least that's how it is for me and so I hold my head up high and say Make Mine Marvel!

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Rumpus - 17-05-2008 10:35

It turns to junk after the first twenty-five minutes.

Downey Jr sparkles but the one-liners have by then started to lose power. When the Downey glint disappears behind the tacky helmet the movie plummets.

The last third is boring in the way that only those things that make no sense whatsoever can be.

Iron Man was pretty cool. Forget the Dark Knight, this fella had a perma-hangover, the battery life of a boombox, Richard Nixon's world-view and Ziggy Stardust's medicine cabinet. And it was always raining.

It was, now I realise, the seventies. He was DI Gene Hunt wearing his own Cortina.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 22-05-2008 15:47

I saw it again last night at the Uptown and stayed until the end when Samuel Motherfucking Jackson reveals himself to be Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. and offers to fill Stark in on...wait for it...THE AVENGERS.

I was never a big Avengers fan, because, like most superhero groups, for every cool character, there are usually one or

two crap ones, but a film with Iron Man and Captain America could be pretty sweet.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by JtS - 07-07-2008 08:34

Saw it yesterday (the wife went to see Mamma Mia, the perfect opportunity).

I liked it, the only problem being unable to stop drooling whenever Gwyneth "Pepper Potts" Paltrow was on screen.

Yum

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Sir Fartle - 07-07-2008 15:21

She was gorgeous in Iron Man. I'm not a big fan of hers, but I thought she played the role of Potts pretty well.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Eggchaser - 03-11-2008 13:30

Yes, my 2 disc DVD turned up today, I know what I'm doing when I get home from work.

And then I shall be reading my Daredevil Legends 2: Born Again graphic novel which also arrived at the same time. Daredevil's the best, no arguments. Pity the movie wasn't up to scratch...

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Andy C - 03-11-2008 15:34

As I was saying to Alan Yentob and David Walliams, that Robert Downey Jr. is the biggest namedropper I've ever morris-danced with.

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Re:What? No Iron Man thread?

Posted by Jon - 03-11-2008 21:12

Daredevil's the best, no arguments. Pity the movie wasn't up to scratch...

You'll have no argument from me, Eggchaser. I'm with you on the film too, they had a great opportunity to make it into a great film but they blew it. I hesitate to say it, as I haven't seen it myself, but they do say that the Daredevil Director's Cut DVD is a significant improvement on the film that got released in the cinema.

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