

The webbed Avenger returns in *Spider-Man: Homecoming*



By [Natalie Le Clue](#)

10 Jul 2017

With Tom Holland at the helm, Spider-Man makes his return as the webbed Avenger in the 2017 reboot of the film franchise.

It's no secret that Spider-Man is probably one of the most beloved Marvel or DC superheroes among adults and children. First created in 1962, Peter Parker was an orphan raised by his aunt and uncle - creators Stan Lee and Steve Ditko imbued Peter with the spider-like ability to cling to surfaces along with super strength and the capability of shooting spider-webs from specially crafted devices situated at his wrists.



The 7 July 2017 release of a feature length Spider-Man film is by no means the first time that Peter Parker has been on the big screen. In fact, in the 21st century, there has been six (including Homecoming) major studio films.

The new kid on the block

Spider-Man: Homecoming is set shortly after the events of *Captain America vs Iron Man: Civil War* where, incidentally, audiences got their first glimpse of the new Spider-Man. Unlike his predecessors, this Spider-Man will instantly be a hit with comic book fans, as his running commentary and comical quips is a more accurate depiction of the character than ever before.

Among the habitually exaggerated battle scenes and stagey rapport of the *Avengers* franchise, *Spider-Man: Homecoming* directed by Jon Watts, comes out as refreshingly sincere. However, *Spider-Man* does feel like superhero lite, as there is little in the way of a consequential narrative which could have taken the film to the next level. Nevertheless, Tom Holland delivers a performance charming enough to be embraced by legions of *Spider-Man* fans.

Besides the star *Ironman* cameo, where the film shines is with how well it's balanced. It strikes perfectly in the middle of being a superhero film about the much-loved *Spider-Man* while simultaneously presenting Peter Parker as an anxiety-filled, and sometimes awkward, teenager grappling with his abilities.

Introducing the villainess vulture

No review of *Spider-Man: Homecoming* would be complete without mentioning Michael Keaton. As the villain, you don't quite hate Keaton's perfect fit as a Marvel villain. His portrayal of The Vulture is arguably one the most convincing there's been in the Marvel film franchise, with the only likely exception being Tom Hiddleston's *Loki*.

At two hours and thirteen minutes *Spiderman: Homecoming* does run a bit longer than it should, but it's crammed with comical moments and underlined by Holland's delightful performance, which creates an eager anticipation for the next instalment of the franchise.

Screening courtesy of Ster Kinekor Baywest.

ABOUT NATALIE LE CLUE

Pop culture enthusiast and writer

- *A Quiet Place Part II*: One of the best sequels to be produced in some time - 3 Jun 2021
- *Wonder Woman 1984* is ambitious, emotional and uncynical - 17 Dec 2020
- The top 5 performances of 2019 - 24 Dec 2019
- *Joker* is less of a *tour de force* and more of tragic caricature - 10 Oct 2019
- FEs Con.nect Convention thrills - 7 Oct 2019

[View my profile and articles...](#)