

You know, I'm something of a Spider-Man fan myself



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Spoiler alert for Marvel's "Spider-Man No Way Home"

Marvel's "Spider-Man: No Way Home" is a huge nostalgia bomb, in an effective way for me. A lot of people thought it was too much and relied too much on appearances of characters from the past Spider-Man movies.

I loved it.

When I was around five or six years old, my older brother introduced me to the Sam Raimi Spider-Man movies with Tobey Maguire. "Spider-Man" (2002) came out a year before I was

born, with the following movies coming out in 2004 and 2007. When he showed me the movies, I was in love. It took me a while to fall in love with the story but watching him swing through New York and fight crime was the coolest thing ever to me.

Ever since then, Spider-Man was my favorite superhero, no doubt about it.

I was Spider-Man every year for Halloween apart from two or three years. Unfortunately, my suit was covered by a coat most of those years because the Midwest likes to roleplay as Antarctica in late October, so if anyone needed saving from a crime I was not at my full potential. That did not stop me from jumping up and erecting

my arm and doing the iconic hand pose to shoot out a web or beat up my family members that were dressed as villains.

We rewatched those movies until the discs ran out. Then in 2012, Marc Webb's "The Amazing Spider-Man" was released, featuring Andrew Garfield leading, with the sequel following two years later. These two films were not taken well at all. Fans did not like them, and they have always lived in the shadow of Raimi's, and even still when the MCU's (Marvel Cinematic Universe) trilogy took over.

Contrary to popular opinion, my brother and I loved them. We loved the atmosphere, the comedy, the suits, and most importantly

Garfield's portrayal, even down to his movements, using his body to show emotion when his face was covered by the suit. As I learned about the character, and just movies in general, I grew to

the final film of the MCU Spider-Man trilogy was released in 2021 and one of the most anticipated films of all time with constantly growing rumors and hopes of Raimi and Webb's Spider-Men

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like them less for how they are as films, and more toward Andrew Garfield's performance and the memory of watching them with my brother.

Then in 2016 the MCU debuted their version of the character, with his solo film coming out the next year and another coming out two years later in 2019. "Spider-Man: No Way Home,"

returning. The trailers featured villains from both respective universes after confirming that it was a multiverse movie which was what sparked these rumors of Maguire and Garfield returning.

Spoiler Alert: They did.

When I went to see No Way Home, I went with seven friends, and we were barely able

to sit still in our seats. We had our tickets for a month and had been anticipating the movie for much longer than that. When I saw each villain from the movies that made my childhood come on screen one-by-one, I was practically leaping out of my seat. Don't even get me started on the small things such as Willem Dafoe's Norman Osborn saying the iconic line "Ya know, I'm something of a

scientist myself."

They had so many moments that transported me back to my childhood watching these movies with my brother.

Then it happened.

A portal opened and Andrew Garfield ran through it and took off his mask. The theater erupted in cheers. It was one of my favorite moments in life. Then seconds later another portal opened and

out came Tobey Maguire.

The cheers and screams increased tenfold.

After the cheers we all watched in amazement as we saw our childhood heroes interacting on screen together. We then watched them fight the villains of their own movies and each other's movies. We even got a conversation between Maguire's Parker and Alfred Molina's Doctor Octavius, with

both of their lines referencing what they said to each other when they first met in "Spider-Man 2."

It was a phenomenal experience.

Getting to see the heroes of my childhood onscreen together for the biggest Spider-Man movie of all time was one of the best experiences of my life. When I was nine years old and there were officially two Spider-Men, and then again

when I was 13 and there were three, I never conjured the idea of someone putting them all together, let alone thought it would be something even remotely possible. Seeing them interact and how smooth the chemistry with them was topped what almost any superhero movie could do for me for the first time since I was five.



Me photoshopped as Spider-Man onto Tom Holland's body. This is from a photoshoot that was published with all three of the live-action Spider-Men. GRAPHIC BY: JEREMIAH BOOTH