

## **Review on Equestria Girls - By Connor Cheely AKA D-Pad the Brony Inquisitor.**

### **MASSIVE SPOILER ALERT**

In the place of the movie theater it was about as expected in that it was partly parents and young children mixed with bronies big and small. Across from me was a family of a mother, father, and two little girls and right behind me was a man in his mid 20's with a tanktop shirt and tattoos on his arm. It's always a funny contrast to behold.

First let me begin on some critical points, as in actual criticism of the movie, to cover the more negative angles that some of you may or may not expect. The movie has extremely good points but also bad points and I feel those would be better to explain first.

In the first place and probably the biggest issue with the movie AS a movie is that it's extremely series heavy. Anyone who hasn't seen the most recent season of MLP will be hard pressed to fully understand the story in it's entirety however simplistic it may be. At the very least it won't be as fun for them. Another issue is that there are some odd explanations about such things like the Element of Magic which apparently has powers of it's own that can be exploited not only on one's own but by a villain who obviously hasn't embraced friendship and just wants to be a tyrant. On the same note, Sunset Shimmer goes to Twilight and tells her she knows something that Twilight doesn't about when you bring an element of Harmony into another world. How in the world would she actually know that? The simple fact is that she couldn't have. It doesn't make sense for her to.

There's also, of course, the high school element in which the interactions are very typical of general high school related cartoons with various cliques that are always present and for some reason almost every single female character is wearing a skirt or dress of some kind. True Rainbow Dash at least is wearing pants underneath but it doesn't explain the lack of personality in their clothing choices. It seems like it was done primarily by stereotyping.

One of the foremost issues alongside the need for backstory is that they circumvent the need for Twilight's explanation, which could have been a heartfelt or moment of intensity, by having Pinkie Pie just somehow know everything on a "hunch". Many of you may say "well that's just Pinkie Pie" which is fine for us but in the world of cinema that doesn't cut it. A lot could have been done with that moment and I find that it was a missed chance. When this happens, the human equivalent of our pony heroines are a bit too quick to accept this as true. You would think that they would be somewhat skeptical about this new girl being from another world and being a pony princess. This isn't the only instance of this, as our villain, Sunset Shimmer, once defeated, very quickly accepts the change that Twilight Sparkle and friends set for her. Then kind of out of the blue comes Principal Celestia who for most of the movie was just a principle, is suddenly wise and telling this new girl about how she's got what it takes to be a princess. Not exactly this Celestia's jurisdiction. There's also just a small nitpick, more of a personal one really, where the CMC are present and they ARE very well represented but they're looking for what I suppose must be their special talent but that doesn't really make much sense in a world without cutie marks so their purpose of research is very unclear.

Stepping back onto Sunset Shimmer for a moment, once she has the Element of Magic, she can for some reason transform herself into a demon monster that hypnotises the students and transforms the humanized Snips and Snails into similar demon servants. Sure would have been nice to know that Twilight could use crazy powers like that just by wearing the crown before. But critically speaking it's very strange for a character who stole the crown and thereby has never had it before to be so totally familiar with power that it's owner isn't even aware of.

From the negative side, the problems were mostly focused on the character end of things since they had bizarre knowledge of things they shouldn't and the viewer would need to have watched the show prior to understand the character implications. It almost seems like it was made for the bronny audience which of course isn't the case.

Now to begin on the movie positives and summary, it was a simple beginning with alicorn Twilight and her friends having just made their way to the Crystal Empire for reasons that unfortunately went unnamed throughout the film. For those frightened or worried about what Twilight may have become in her new alicorn position you can dispense with those worries because Twilight Sparkle is exactly the same neurotic, bookish young student of Princess Celestia. Her new position as an alicorn, however, does not go unreferenced as we see some pretty cute humor concerning Twilight's unfamiliarity with her wings causing her some duress while she tries to sleep at night and can't seem to find a knack for tucking her wings so they just spring out and throw her blanket off multiple times. Wingboner jokes are inevitable much as I'd like to say it doesn't add to them.

The intro movie and song is slightly misleading at first because, although we already know it's going to be humans, it starts with a series of little pastel figures of our pony heroines but soon turns to their human variants which clears up the momentary confusion and seems to make it somewhat clever.

Moving onto the story's antagonist, Sunset Shimmer. Sunset is introduced when Twilight is sleeping and Sunset takes this opportunity to try to steal Twilight's crown which is also the Element of Magic. Her attempt to stealthily take the crown fails when Sunset Shimmer steps on sleeping Spike's tail and wakes them all up. After a chase scene and Sunset hopping into a portal to the "human world", Princess Celestia explains that Sunset Shimmer was a student of hers as well but left her studies when she didn't come as far as fast as she had wanted. So she decided to be a jerk instead. Totally justified.

Since I know everyone is eager to know about it, yes there is some Luna dialogue. She makes an appearance, gets a few lines in explaining the functionality of the portal to the new world, and we see a little more of her later with Principal Celestia and Vice Principal Luna (Forever second best~).

We see some very familiar meetings to our new human ponies when we meet Fluttershy whom has roughly the exact same introduction to Twilight that she had right in the beginning of the series. This is just one of many very cute callbacks, references, and cameos. We get a party cannon reference, Vinyl Scratch doing Thriller, Twilight Sparkle doing a humanized version of that ridiculous dance she did in "Sweet and Elite" and it's on hands and feet so it's still ridiculous. And yes folks, there IS a Derpy in

there. She's very brief but in one of the early lunch room scenes she can be seen at the bottom right corner of the screen. I happened to be looking in the right place at the right time. All in all though there is very little fan service which absolutely makes for a better movie overall.

Speaking of Derpy, we see a number of very welcome cameos including a Trixie who takes center stage on the screen for a short while (rejoice Sethisto rejoice). Some interesting dances from all of them too. I couldn't help smiling when I saw Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon doing their ever famous "bump bump sugarlump rump" in dance form. It's a little odd seeing characters like Photo Finish and Spitfire in high school but it didn't take anything away from the movie so be glad for it.

On the subject of characters I must touch up on something EVERYONE wants to know about and that is the infamous "Brad" Twilight's so-called love interest. Most important point here is that his name is NOT Brad but in fact "Flash Sentry" which comes from his pony equivalent in Equestria who is a newly recruited guard in Canterlot Castle. Second, there is SOME romance between the two but nothing very heavy. It was added in more to be a part of the life of a high schooler than to actually be a love interest.

What I think I can revere most about this movie though is how it falls so deeply within the spirit of the show itself. There are many lessons of friendship, nicely written songs, and well written characters. It's very comparable to what we had in Season 1 when everything was fresh and new. A trashed gymnasium is restored to it's former luster by Twilight and friends who soon are joined by all the various cliques of the school who work together and form a wonderful synergy to make sure the school dance goes as planned.

There are many more points I could go on about but I feel that I've spoiled more than enough to give you an idea of the movie. I actually found the movie to be quite clever for it's story simplicity and it had a few great laughs and was wonderful to watch. I can recommend this movie to those who are still on the fence about seeing it, for support if for no other reason.

From a Brony standpoint, in which the audience will almost certainly know everything going on and be drawn in by the familiarity of it all, I give Equestria Girls an 8 to 9 out of 10. 4 out of 5 stars I'd say.

From a Critical standpoint, however, in which those who are looking from a more objective point of view won't understand the many references and characters that have very little development due to the need to watch the series, Equestria Girls can be given a 6 to 7 out of 10. 2.5 to 3 stars. Maybe less.

I hope this review helped some of you understand a few things about what Hasbro has done with their first MLP movie. I urge to watch the movie. It's made by the team we love and it holds very true to it's claim to My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic.

And I suppose I have a duty to our podcast to plug us. To see more of our work and have something to do Monday Nights 9PM EST go to [www.thebronysshow.net](http://www.thebronysshow.net) or [www.livestream.com/thebronshow](http://www.livestream.com/thebronshow).

Thanks for reading and hope you all enjoy the movie!