

Title: Superman: The Movie (1978)

Time: 2 hours 23 minutes

Box Office Value: \$135 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This movie set the standard for all superhero movies, both older and present day. The only other superhero type video media in the age was the campy, kiddy Batman and Robin TV show (starring tv's Adam West!) and the comics themselves. This movies gave the excuse for adults to really enjoy something that had already been established as something for kids. So, while the movie itself was older and not very good for the most part, it still set a sort of precedent for all types of superhero movies.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Yes, both in monetary value and in impact. It was one of the highest grossing movies of the decade and culturally, it created a whole media that the world hadn't really considered before. Or, at least, not in a serious light.

3.) Personal thoughts

The movie was amazing, even for old standards. It was the original telling of Superman's origin and although it's style is old, it's still entertaining. The problem with me is that in the final section of the movie, it seems to lose the seriousness that it had established all the way through. In this movie there are three "parts": Clark's time on the farm with Ma and Pa Kent (and when Pa Kent dies); When he's first starting out as Superman and meets Lois Lane for the first time in Metropolis; and finally when he saves the world from being destroyed. In that third part, everything seems to just fall apart. There's too many things happening at once: a dam breaking, a huge earthquake, and land slides/floods. Along with all of these things, Lois Lane (his lady) was in trouble and when Superman can't save Lois, he literally turns the Earth back on its axis... as if that would turn back time. It did, but still. It got kind of *really* stupid towards the end and lost its pizzazz for me.

Title: Superman II (1980)

Time: 2 hours and 7 minutes

Box Office Value: \$108 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

Even made 3 years after the first, it proved that you could continue the superhero movie craze. It wasn't just a one off. It was also one of the first actual sequels in movies that referred back to the first movie. It also showed the potential danger in creating direct sequels, even with the strongest characters.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Financially, it was still successful, but not as much as it's predecessor. Culturally and artistically? No. It didn't add on anything to the superhero movie genre, or even the normal movie medium.

3.) Personal thoughts

One of the problems with this was that Superman continued to get goofier. You know how I was annoyed with the lack of seriousness in the ending of the first one? Yeah, expand that into this one and you can see that I kind of disliked it. Also, it made me a little sad but Lois and Clark's relationship got less believable. They were one of the defining couples in the comic universe and in this movie it was kind of... a joke. However, it did introduce one of the most awesome villains of all time: General Zod. The first villain in black leather, he had an awesome evil british accent and was actually kind of sinister, which was a good thing for this franchise. Also? Best lines. "Oh, God..." "No, it's *Zod*."

Title: Superman III (1983)

Time: 2 hours and 5 minutes

Box Office Value: \$60 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This and its sequel (Quest for Peace) showed how *bad* superhero movies can be. So the Superman franchise went from a sort of awkward nobility to just pure... crap. It almost killed the superhero movie genre, actually.

2.) Was this movie successful?

No not all. Its money was less than half of what Superman II took in and everyone pretty much thought it was crap. Nothing was good about this movie.

3.) Personal thoughts

It was crap! It was embarrassingly bad in both story and acting. The humor was crap, considering how *racist* it was for the most part. It was amazing how fast the franchise fell with this. I just... can't really say anything about this. It's just bad.

Title: Supergirl (1984)

Time: 2 hours and 4 minutes

Box Office Value: \$14 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

First woman in the lead. This idea was actually well-taken, but with the horrible reactions to the Superman movies... It was just part of the downfall of the genre.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Financially, it was not successful, but not because it was horrible as the recent Superman movies. Artistically, it actually brought back some of the charm of the Christopher Reeve Superman movies, but it was too little too late, sadly.

3.) Personal thoughts

While the plot was lacking and the villainess' acting was *horrible*, it still held some of the aspects from the first movie that I appreciated. The kind of seriousness that you have to consider when doing a superhero movie was captured slightly in this movie. Enough to make me slightly more entertained by it, but after watching the crappy Superman III movie, it was hard to really be entertained by anything Superman related. I suppose that's how the general public felt back then, when it first came out, too.

Title: Superman IV: Quest for Peace

Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Box Office Value: \$14 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It was an embarrassment to all things comic related. Everyone involved was embarrassed and it was the last Christopher Reeve Superman.

2.) Was this movie successful?

The movie wasn't successful at all. Despite making as much money as Supergirl made, it held none of the light hearted feeling and it was just--bad. It killed the Superman franchise for twenty years. Almost killed the whole genre entirely, but Tim Burton brought the idea back to life.

3.) Personal thoughts

I didn't think that there could be a movie that was worse than Superman II. I honestly didn't. It is one of *the* worst superhero movies I have ever seen. The plot was crap, Christopher Reeve (although he was usually amazing) was crap, there was nothing to connect to and I actually stopped half way through because it didn't capture my attention completely.

Title: Batman (1989)

Time: 2 hours and 1 minute

Box Office Value: \$251 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It revived the idea of the superhero movie. Tim Burton's style and seriousness to the genre stole back the amazing qualities that superhero movies can have.

2.) Was this movie successful?

HUGELY successful, both stylistically (Tim Burton rocks!) and financially. It made 50 million more than Batman Begins (2005) and that's a sixteen year gap! Tim Burton literally brought the superhero franchise out of it's colorful ashes.

3.) Personal thoughts

I love this movie. From the style of Gotham to Batman's costume (which I still consider to be really awesome, even now) to the Joker... everything was simply amazing. Michael Keaton as Batman was kind of a bad choice, but it didn't *really* hurt the movie in any way. It was the way that Burton pulled off Batman and his role in the world while still keeping the plot amazing and actually having a serious tone. I can believe why this made \$250 million. Heck, I'd go and see it in theaters if it was out!

Title: The Punisher (1989)

Time: 1 hour and 29 minutes

Box Office Value: \$38 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It was a much more realistic attempt. Although this wasn't very appreciated back in the year it was produced, it still led onto the idea to realistic superhero movies now.

2.) Was this movie successful?

It made a bit of money--made more than it cost--but it wasn't amazing in the financial department. They had been hoping for a groove in the franchise, but I have a feeling that this movie was just a little too early to be really popular.

3.) Personal thoughts

It was a necessary bridge between the fantastical image and style of the Burton to the more realistic style. Batman Begins and it's almost gritty, real style probably couldn't have come around if it wasn't for this movie. The plot was a straight-forward revenge thriller of a character that had come from the Marvel universe (the first of its kind) and the acting was so-so. It was... a transition, basically.

Title: Batman Returns (1992)

Time: 2 hours and 6 minutes

Box Office Value: \$163 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It showed that a sequel could actually work, considering it was more successful than the Superman sequels. It also paved the way for AWESOME female characters.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Finanically, it was successful. Tim Burton's style carried on to other Batman and superhero films in the future that was for sure. Also, he created *the* best Catwoman there will ever be, hands down.

3.) Personal thoughts

I absolutely adored this movie. I guess I just really like Tim Burton's style! Catwoman was the best thing about this movie. She was a strong female character, coupled with being amazingly sexy. She was instable and crazy, but seriously the best thing that will ever happen to that character. Again, Michael Keaton wasn't the brightest star in the box, but Michelle Pfeiffer was the most amazing Catwoman ever in the history of time. Beautiful.

Title: The Mask (1994)

Time: 1 hour and 41 minutes

Box Office Value: \$351 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This movie showed that you can play it for laughs without being condescending. It was a different angle for superhero movies, and it was highly successful.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Very much yes. Financially, it was very successful probably due to Jim Carrey and Cameron Diaz. Culturally, it sort of set a precedent for the more silly superhero or comic-related movies.

3.) Personal thoughts

I liked this movie well enough. I've never been much of a Jim Carrey fan, but it was actually funny while still having a real-feeling core to it. It wasn't *making fun* of the genre, but it was *enhancing it*, which i enjoyed very much. It was an alright movie all around and it's fun to go back and watch.

Title: Batman Forever (1995)

Time: 2 hours and 2 minutes

Box Office Value: \$336 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This movie causes a lot of conflict. It showed what happens when a director doesn't really understand the genre that he's creating but still makes the movie somewhat entertaining. It also included one of the only parts of Robin. Seriously. He was the only robin in all seven current Batman movies and he was in two of those seven.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Financially, no question it was successful. However, people were in conflict about the cultural aspect. While some liked the sort of campy feel it reincarnated from the TV show, others hated that fact. Mostly because it followed the gritty and dark Batman Forever Michael Keaton movies.

3.) Personal thoughts

I actually liked this movie. Not so much for the impact it had to the Batman Franchise (if you ever hear anything about nipples being made onto the Batsuit, this is where it came from), but because it was actually entertaining. The director wasn't trying to make complete fun of Batman. He actually took it quite seriously... however, it didn't really *work* for most people. That's why it was so conflicting for some people... including myself.

Title: Batman and Robin (1997)

Time: 2 hours and 5 minutes

Box Office Value: \$130 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

Uh, really, the only contribution to the Modern Age is the inclusion of female characters such as Batgirl and Poison Ivy: Batgirl being a good female character (or as good as this movie could get) and Poison Ivy being a horrible female character.

2.) Was this movie successful?

No. This ended DC's true interest in movies for their superheroes for nearly a decade. It just... was't floating anybody's boat.

3.) Personal thoughts

While I liked the first movie, this one was just bad. I liked the inclusion of unusual characters such as Batgirl, Mr. Freeze and Poison Ivy, but the way that they were portrayed... oh god. The puns. I never want to hear another pun about plants or the cold in my life. It was so bad. Robin was charming and Batman was bland as ever, but just nothing about this movie interested me despite the bright colors and interesting style choices.

Oh god the puns...

Title: Steel (1997)

Time: 1 hour and 37 minutes

Box Office Value: \$1.7 million (no, seriously)

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

AKA. Shaq should never be a superhero.

2.) Was this movie successful?

No. Not. At. All. It took 60 million to make and made under 10% of that. Everybody thought it was bad. Everybody.

3.) Personal thoughts

Just a personal note to Shaq: never make a superhero movie. This movie was just *bad*. More than bad. It was horrible and embarrassing and I just wanted to hide my head in the sand for more than half the movie. It made a mockery of an actually cool character, Steel. God. It was--horrible.

Title: Spawn (1997)

Time: 1 hour and 29 minutes

Box Office Value: \$90 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It was the first independent comic movie (ie. not Marvel or DC). It showed you didn't have to be one of the big guys to make a decent movie.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Moderately successful. It wasn't a disaster, but it wasn't amazing. The only fault it had was that it wasn't a very good movie.

3.) Personal thoughts

This movie is simply... so-so. The acting was a bit on the bad side, but the plot was mildly interesting. It kept me interested for the 90 minutes that it showed. There's really not much to say about it. It's another one of those transitional movies that really didn't make a huge difference, but was entertaining nonetheless.

Title: Blade (1998)

Time: 1 hour and 32 minutes

Box Office Value: \$70 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

First successful black character and first comic book horror movie. It made some sort of a difference.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Moderately successful movie, although it did signify a niche within the superhero movie genre. The horror comic book movie area was starting up again.

3.) Personal thoughts

It was exciting and well made, although it's connection to the original comic wasn't very strong. It did solidify the black superhero and horror genre in the superhero movie world, which was good. Again, it's another one of those transitional ones. I really have nothing strong to say about it one way or the other.

Title: X-Men (2000)

Time: 1 hr and 34 minutes

Box Office Value: \$300 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It opened up the entire Marvel universe to the movies and that was *very* significant. It also started the teenage-mutant craze.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Yes, it was very successful in both financial and artistic ways. It used CGI in an interesting and new way. It was very well made.

3.) Personal thoughts

Although it was successful for the most part... I didn't really like it. It was very bland and not very memorable. I can remember zoning out through full sections of the movie and that's not very good. Maybe it's because I'm desensitized to CGI, so that when I see older CGI it just doesn't float my boat? I'm not quite sure why it didn't stick in my mind very well, but it just wasn't very interesting to me. However, I do love the universe they created it in.

Title: Blade II

Time: 1 hour and 57 minutes

Box Office Value: \$155 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It just showed that you could do a successful series. Marvel's done pretty well at that, actually.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Fairly successful.

3.) Personal thoughts

Again, it didn't really float my boat. Blade simply doesn't interest me. The horror aspect wasn't scary enough to keep my attention and the idea wasn't all that interesting. I can see why some people would like it--the style is very interesting and I did like *that* part. But nothing else really interested me.

Title: Spiderman (2002)

Time: 2 hours and 1 minute

Box Office Value: \$821 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It was Marvel's huge break out. It was styled amazingly and the director really understood how to make this kind of a movie.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Very successful. Almost ridiculously so. It was the start of the real Modern superhero movie craze.

3.) Personal thoughts

I really liked this movie. Although I don't like Tobey Maguire's SpiderMan, because I find Maguire himself kind of arrogant, it was still really entertaining. It showed a lot of promise for the future movies. It used CGI to its fullest (at the time) and the costume was actually well made, which is hard to say for some of the older movies. The costumer really did well with it. All in all it was actually a fairly good movie to me. Too bad the trilogy wasn't consistently this good.

Title: Daredevil (2003)

Time: 1 hour and 43 minutes

Box Office Value: \$179 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It was rather disappointing actually. It had all the same aspects of Spider-Man, but none of them seemed to work in this case. They miscast a lot of people, including Daredevil himself.

2.) Was this movie successful?

It wasn't unsuccessful? It took a really good concept and just kind of... made it die.

3.) Personal thoughts

Boring. Boring. So boring. Ben Affleck was boring. The story was boring. Kingpin was black for some reason. Elektra was cool. Even the CGI was boring. Just... overall boring and there's really nothing else to say for it, other than they should make a new Daredevil movie.

Title: X2: X-Men Unlimited (2003)

Time: 1 hour and 43 minutes

Box Office Value: \$407 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It just demonstrated the ongoing ability for Marvel to keep making money. This kind of started the more fertile time for superhero movies. This franchise in general legitimized the whole genre of superhero movies.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Yes, like most X-men movies. It introduced more characters and interesting situations for the X-Men team. It was all around interesting.

3.) Personal thoughts

I actually liked this better than the first movie. It was just a bit more entertaining and more Wolverine is always a good thing. Also, the CGI got much better and things didn't look as awkward as they did. The story was interesting and led onto the other movies nicely. It wasn't my favorite, but it was an interesting adaptation of a comic book movie. Basically? One step above transitional movies.

Title: X-Men: Last Stand (2006)

Time: 1 hour and 44 minutes

Box Office Value: \$459 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This was the first movie that was actually a really good showcase of a good story, good characters and one of the only movies of a series that didn't suck.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Very. The whole series was really popular. Culturally, it was even more so because it showed the more human aspect of these characters.

3.) Personal thoughts

While this was the best movie out of the X-Men series, it kind of bothered me that it was so separate from the actual comic universe. People were out of the age group they were supposed to be in and it was a little too hectic. It was simply over complicated and too much of a fanboy movie. So, I bet all of these people went to see it for the characters, but not so much for the actual plot points and story.

Title: Hulk (2003)

Time: 2 hours and 18 minutes

Box Office Value: \$132 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It was the first movie appearance of the Hulk. If it showed us anything, it showed that you had to give a good story and not just some CGI up on a screen.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Financially, it made a decent amount, but artistically, it wasn't all that mind blowing at all. It didn't stretch the limits of what CGI could do.

3.) Personal thoughts

This is what happens when you let non-geek directors muck around with your characters. Visually, it was kind of boring, but *alright*. But the story was crap and the characters weren't interesting at all. It almost felt as if it was a practice run for the other Hulk movie that came five years later.

Title: Hellboy (2004)

Time: 2 hours and 2 minutes

Box Office Value: \$99 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It's another example of how an independent comic could create a big splash with people in general.

2.) Was this movie successful?

The movie, according to box office values, wasn't very popular. However, culturally? It made a rather big splash and the DVD sales were numerous. People enjoyed it, although they didn't go to the theaters to see it.

3.) Personal thoughts

I really liked Hellboy. It was a step back from the normal and from the sort of "stereotypes" we see with superhero movies. From the interesting characters to the way the story was laid out, everything was just so smooth. The sad part is, though, is that it was kind of inconsistent. It felt like it would be too simple in one direction while crazy complicated in another. I'm not sure how to describe it other than it was simply inconsistent. But this is still one of my favorites out there.

Title: Hellboy II (2008)

Time: 2 hours

Box Office Value: \$160 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

Shows the strength of a non-standard comic book protagonist. Also, it made a crap-ton overseas, which shows that this stuff shouldn't just be advertised heavily in America. It's not only American now.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Very much. Especially over seas. It took the artistic style of the first one and made it even better with Guillermo del Torro's vision.

3.) Personal thoughts

I enjoyed this movie too, if only for the art. I personally didn't find the story all that interesting, but dang can Guillermo del Torro make an amazing set. His characters designs are hauntingly beautiful. Also, Hellboy's a good example of the multi-media brand. It has comics, graphic novels, animated features, movies and Guillermo del Torro and Mike Mignola (the artist of the comic), both of whom I adore, are one-hundred percent behind it. It's amazing the loyalty these two have towards it and I really hope to see more from them.

Title: Spider-Man 2 (2004)

Time: 2 hours and 8 minutes

Box Office Value: \$783 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

The whole Spider-Man franchise was wildly popular. This whole series in general can show you that sequels aren't necessarily bad.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Yes, this movie was very successful. like with Hellboy II, it was more successful overseas, probably due to the artistic value that was added to the suit and the setting.

3.) Personal thoughts

Sam Raimi really loved comics. I could tell in the way that he portrayed Doc Oc that he really did *genuinely* enjoy comic books. Although I hate Tobey Maguire's idea of Spider-Man and I dislike the man himself, I think the movie was actually pretty good. The series didn't do so well for me in general, but this was one of my favorites.

Title: Spider-Man 3 (2007)

Time: 2 hours and 19 minutes

Box Office Value: \$890 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This shows the overwhelming popularity of the Spiderman character. However, it also showed that a movie's story and image gets damaged when the star himself gets too full of himself.

2.) Was this movie successful?

It was, again, mostly successful overseas, despite the story being horrible. The artistic value of Venom was very high and it seemed that a lot of people enjoyed it for that reason.

3.) Personal thoughts

I hated this movie. I hated it so much. Tobey Maguire's a piece of crap for belittling the image of Spider-Man. He didn't respect the character or the idea and took full reigns of the whole thing, which annoys me even more. This movie simply makes me angry and although I did like the way that Venom looked, I couldn't bring myself to care.

Title: Catwoman (2004)

Time: 1 hour and 44 minutes

Box Office Value: \$82 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

Basically, it shows that there are good ways to show a character and bad ways to show a character. This was one of the bad ways, sadly.

2.) Was this movie successful?

The movie wasn't successful in any sense. It actually lost money and won the Razzie that year for worst movie.

3.) Personal thoughts

It doesn't really make me angry, this movie. It actually makes me kind of sad. Catwoman has always been one of my favorites and it's sad to see how fragile her character can be when put in the wrong hands. The movie was horrible, but instead of making me angry or indignant, it was just over all disappointing.

Title: Elektra (2005)

Time: 1 hour and 37 minutes

Box Office Value: \$56 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It was interesting how the two earliest movies in the twenty-first century were both spin-offs from their male counterparts. Though, they didn't have the ability to stand on their own.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Not at all, really. It didn't bring anything new to the table.

3.) Personal thoughts

Again, this movie just made me sad and disappointed. From the pretty bad acting of Jennifer Garner, to the craptastic story and uninteresting style... everything was just kind of... boring. I wish there were more *good* female protagonist superhero movies out there.

Title: Blade Trinity (2004)

Time: 1 hour and 43 minutes

Box Office Value: \$129 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It shows how far you could push a pretty thin franchise and actually have it be kind of good.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Moderately. There wasn't anything new it brought related to the other Blades.

3.) Personal thoughts

I thought it was cool. Entertaining and a moderate break out for Ryan Reynolds and Jessica Biel. Other than that, there's nothing more to say. It lacked a crazy amount of attention-grabbers, but it still floated my canoe down the river. It helped that it was written by a comic book writer and that fact showed nicely.

Title: Batman Begins (2005)

Time: 2 hours and 20 minutes

Box Office Value: \$372 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This is the beginning of the Golden Age of superhero movies. With this movie, it kickstarted non-geeks into really getting interested.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Financially, Moderately but culturally? It was huge. It brought a certain kind of credibility to the superhero movie genre.

3.) Personal thoughts

I know that a ton of people love this series. I don't. Actually, I find it kind of insulting for comic book fans. Christopher Nolan took his own spin and went completely left-field with it. I know that everyone has their separate interpretations of stories, but this was too much. It's lacking connection to the comic book turned me off completely considering Batman is one of my favorite characters and I find him pretty dang flawless.

Title: The Dark Knight (2008)

Time: 2 hours and 32 minutes

Box Office Value: \$1.1 billion

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This is where a sequel builds and is better in every way to its predecessor.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Obviously this movie was hugely successful in both cultural aspects and financial ones. It set a precedent for comic book movies that hasn't really been met until Avengers.

3.) Personal thoughts

I actually liked Dark Knight a lot more than Batman Begins. I still find it to be a mockery of the comics and that pisses me off, but the Joker (Heath Ledger) was *amazing*. He had to be the best villain I have ever seen in a comic book movie; heck, in any movie! I'm so sad to see that Heath died so soon after making the movie. He was an amazing actor and an amazing person and I wish I could have seen more of these with him in it.

Title: The Fantastic Four (2005)

Time: 1 hour and 46 minutes

Box Office Value: \$330 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

In this movie, Marvel is still trying to find its feet.

2.) Was this movie successful?

When compared to the money it used to be made, not very successful in the financial side.

More people are going to see it because the idea of superhero movies is really entertaining now, but it wasn't all that exciting.

3.) Personal thoughts

It was a... bland movie. Nothing in it was new and although some of the visuals were cool, it wasn't what I was expecting out of an awesome group like the Fantastic Four. Jessica Alba should have never been cast for Sue, though. Sue Storm is not latino. She is far from latino, actually. The Thing was perfect. Mr. Fantastic was boring. Human Torch (or as my Mom likes to call him: Flame-On Boy) was amazing. Yep.

Title: Superman Returns (2006)

Time: 2 hours and 34 minutes

Box Office Value: \$391 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This kind of shows that Superman is still *the man*. He's the hero that everybody knows and will go and see and he's durable enough to come back and get it right. This was also more of a homage to the original movie.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Moderately, and probably only because of Superman himself. It was a homage, and it... worked for that aspect, but by itself, it wasn't all that interesting.

3.) Personal thoughts

Again, it was an homage, but it only fit that purpose. We haven't really seen a sincere effort to put Superman on screen. He's been treated as a children's toy or an artifact and that's just... kind of lame. I wish they could put more seriousness into the Superman mythos.

Title: Ghost Rider (2007)

Time: 1 hour and 57 minutes

Box Office Value: \$228 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

Some people make comic book movies out of an immense personal love for the character. This should never happen.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Not really. People went to see it once and then tried to forget it. It's among one of the most hated comic book movies of the age and for good reasons.

3.) Personal thoughts

I don't care that Nic Cage has a personal love for Ghost Rider. I don't care that he bought the rights to the character. I don't care that the CGI was actually kind of cool. Nic Cage should go fall into a pit of bees and never make a movie again, especially if it's in comics. Never. Again.

Title: Ironman (2008)

Time: 2 hours and 6 minutes

Box Office Value: \$585 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

Marvel finally figures it out! This is the start of the huge rush of loosely-knit Marvel Movies!

2.) Was this movie successful?

This is an “on-going” movie. It started off the craze for superhero movies from Marvel and really started off with a running start. It, along with Dark Knight, set the standard for comic book movies.

3.) Personal thoughts

I. Loved. This. Movie. It started off the craze for Marvel’s monopoly on awesome superhero movies and with good reason. Robert Downey Jr. was the best pick for Tony Stark. He became the character that was so well loved in the comics and he brought him to life. Everything about this movie was flawless, from the CGI to the humor, to the story. I would watch this movie again and again without getting bored.

Title: The Incredible Hulk (2008)

Time: 1 hour and 52 minutes

Box Office Value: \$263 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It really showed the amazing prowess of CGI handling. They recreated Ed Norton into the Hulk.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Yes. It re-energized the standard for the Hulk and people really enjoyed it.

3.) Personal thoughts

I enjoyed the movie well enough. I thought it was amazing what they did with the Hulk itself. The CGI was top-notch. However, the story left much to be desired. The love interest, who was supposed to be a scientist played by Liv Tyler wasn't all that... well, scientist-ish. She was kind of ditzy and spacey and really only followed Bruce Banner (Ed Norton) out of blind devotion. It was just kind of boring in that aspect. Although I love the standard it set for the Hulk. I actually started *liking* the Hulk because of this movie.

Title: Ironman 2 (2010)

Time: 2 hours and 5 minutes

Box Office Value: \$623 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

Another essential part of the Marvel vision of stitching all the movies together to create the Leviathan it is today.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Yeah, the movie was successful. People love Ironman. Although it had some story flaws, people still enjoyed the entertainment it brought to the superhero genre.

3.) Personal thoughts

Again, I liked this movie well enough. The changing of Rhodey from one black actor (Terrance Howard) to a second black actor (Don Cheadle) for no apparent reason was weird... and the villain was just kind of disgusting (and not in a good way). A brilliant, but immensely dirty, Russian convict is not very interesting to me surprisingly. But, again, RDJ was brilliant and I admire everything that man has done for the Iron Man character.

Title: Thor (2011)

Time: 1 hour and 54 minutes

Box Office Value: \$449 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

A long-loved character finally brought to the screen in all of his mystical glory and done well. There was a reason why a Shakespearean taught director made it. It demanded that kind of wide action.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Oh yes. It was one of the movies that really hinted at something more and got people excited for what could come next.

3.) Personal thoughts

I do love Thor. It's one of my favorites within the pantheon of the Avenger's movies. The villain, Loki (played by Tom Hiddleston) had to be one of the most *human* (but not really) characters in all of the Avenger's movies. He's one character that people could honestly connect to despite being a villain. Thor himself (Chris Hemsworth) was amazing as well and one of the things that I *really* loved about this movie was their costumes. Their costumes were *freaking gorgeous*. I could not contain myself the first time I saw them in all of their splendor.

Title: Captain America (2011)

Time: 2 hour and 4 minutes

Box Office Value: \$368 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It took a *well loved* character that was obviously supposed to butt heads with Tony Stark and gave the general public his lesser known origin. It basically connected everything from movie one to movie six (this one) in subtle ways and it did it well.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Yeah, it was. It took a character and made him really believable and sympathetic. It also got people way more pumped for the Avengers movie.

3.) Personal thoughts

I love Captain America. On top of it being a really good movie, the love story and interest in it as very believable and actually kind of awesome. Peggy Carter floated my boat in this movie as well as Chris Evans as Steve Rogers. It showed the amazing development of a man who grew up too fast, but embraced his new role entirely. It was very entertaining and I loved it.

Title: The Avengers (2012)

Time: 2 hours and 23 minutes

Box Office Value: \$1.1 billion dollars

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This movie *defines* the modern age of superhero movies and comics.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Avengers was the most successful superhero movie ever. Even two weeks after it was released, there are theaters getting sold out. People love this movie. They go and see it once and then come back a second time with friends.

3.) Personal thoughts

This movie was perfect. Simply perfect. From the fact that it related to everyone who watched it (comic book nerd and not), to the fact that it took from *six other movies* and made it into a plethora of amazing continuity. Joss Whedon is my God and I will marry him one day for this. His take on the Avengers was the best interpretation in the history of time. I actually have nothing to complain about in this movie. Nothing. And I'm a usually very judgemental person when it comes to comic book movies.

Title: Watchmen (2009)

Time: 2 hours and 43 minutes

Box Office Value: \$185 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

This movie shows the gritty realistic style and also, it followed the graphic novel pretty well.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Sadly, not so much. Culturally, it wasn't nearly as popular as the graphic novel itself, but it was still moderately entertaining for some.

3.) Personal thoughts

I liked the movie. I'm actually not sure what some people thought was so wrong with it. I found it cool that there were some scenes that were directly from the graphic novel. The character and costume designs were beautiful and the storytelling might have been a bit excessive, but it was good. I think it could have been made into two movies and done a lot better, to be honest. It would be interesting to see how that would have gone, actually.

Title: X-men Origins: Wolverine (2009)

Time: 1 hour and 47 minutes

Box Office Value: \$373 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It further expanded on the Wolverine character, which was the most popular character in his universe who didn't have a predecessor of any kind.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Moderately successful in financial area and majorly successful in the cultural aspect. Much like Robert Downey Jr. was Tony Stark, Hugh Jackman *is* Wolverine.

3.) Personal thoughts

I didn't like the movie, really. I loved Hugh Jackman, don't get me wrong... but he was the only good thing about it. It was slow and boring and he *ruined* Deadpool for me. I'm so glad that they're making a separate Deadpool movie in 2014. All in all, it was just kind of bland.

Title: X-Men: First Class (2011)

Time: 2 hours and 13 minutes

Box Office Value: \$353 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

Textbook case on how to revive a failing franchise.

2.) Was this movie successful?

It was actually pretty successful financially, with getting more than twice it's production value.

Culturally? It brought back a whole franchise and made people excited once more.

3.) Personal thoughts

This movie has to be my favorite non-Avengers superhero movie out there. From the dynamic interaction of the characters to the subtle plot and easy to follow pacing, it was... amazing. Everyone in it was at the best of their acting and it really showed a history for Magneto (Michael Fassbender) and Professor X (James McAvoy) that really enlightened me and most of the people watching it. It took the sensitive side of these two characters and really made them shine. I love this movie both for the emotional value and the action packed fight scenes. It also had the best use of subtle CGI.

Title: Green Lantern (2011)

Time: 1 hour and 54 minutes

Box Office Value: \$219 million

1.) How does this movie relate to the modern age?

It was an attempt for DC to do the same thing as Marvel and it didn't work in the slightest.

2.) Was this movie successful?

Not financially or culturally. Financially, it was made for 200 million and only got 19 million more than that *worldwide*. Culturally, people just kind of wanted to forget the movie rather than bathe in its glory.

3.) Personal thoughts

There is... not really anything I can say for this movie. I found its storytelling horrible, but the acting and casting pretty good. Ryan Reynolds as Hal Jordan was the best person you could have chosen. I just wish they had gotten a better storyteller to write this whole thing out. It spent too much time on the universal war and less on the character himself. It was just kind of boring for the most part.