

## Marvel's Uncanny Ability to Entertain

The Marvel Cinematic Universe has gone through a numerous amount of changes during the past years, some of which have been successful, and some of which haven't (ahem *Daredevil*, *Hulk*, and many others). However, through all these changes, the Marvel Cinematic Universe has managed to entertain audiences all over the world. But on November 17, they did more than just entertain us; they impressed us.

Following the release of Marvel's Phase Three timeline on this date, the Talon has compiled a brief timeline of Marvel films from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, beginning with *Iron Man* and ending with *Marvel's The Avengers: Age of Ultron*. For the time being, films before *Iron Man* aren't an active part of the MCU, and therefore won't be mentioned in this article.

*Iron Man* was released in 2008, receiving a notable score of 93% on Rotten Tomatoes, and overall being popular with critics all around the country. The film marked the beginning of a new age of super hero films, those that would be able to infuse the fun of superhero films with the power and relatable aspects of every day life.

The next film to be released in 2008 was *The Incredible Hulk*, receiving a lower score of 67% on Rotten Tomatoes, and being less of a gem for critics. The film was given 2.5 out of 3 stars from Roger Ebert, but many other moviegoers disagreed with his consensus, and found the movie to stunt the growth of what *Iron Man* had created.

Next up was *Thor*, a film most moviegoers thought to be a decent representation of the character, while others struggled with the character's lack of heroic charm. *Captain America: The First Avenger* was soon released afterward, pleasing audiences with its stylistic and "retro" filmmaking aspects, along with its faithful interpretation of the hero with a heart: Steve Rogers aka Captain America.

Then, with all heroes slated with films and their respective followings, *the Avengers* blew the nation away with its flawless incorporation of everyone's favorite Marvel characters, among for a one of the most fun and successful films of all time. The success of *the Avengers* brought on films such as *Iron Man 3*, *Thor: The Dark World* *Captain America: Winter Soldier*. These films mostly referenced specific graphic novels, which had correlated with the Marvel Comic Book Universe, such as *Iron Man: Extremis* for *Iron Man 3* and *Captain America: Winter Soldier* for the film of the same name.

Following these films' success was a wildcard from Marvel, but one that undoubtedly paid off: *Guardians of the Galaxy*. This film managed to emulate the humor and teamwork mentality from Avengers, yet made the material grittier and used characters many people had not previously heard of.

This summer, the world is preparing for *Marvel's the Avengers: Age of Ultron*, the sequel to the blockbuster film that spawned the MCU. One thing is for sure: the Marvel Cinematic Universe cannot fail in its efforts to entertain.