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REVIEW

Spider-Man storyline sparks PS4 fandom

By Taylor Rodriguez
Staff reporter



Insomniac Games worked hand-in-hand with Marvel and Sony to create a brand new Spider-Man experience.

Back in August, I preordered Spider-Man for the Playstation in the hopes I could obtain a physical copy on release day. After watching and rewatching the gameplay footage and trailers Sony had teased, I could not wait to get my hands on the game itself. After waiting what seemed like months, it finally arrived. Let me tell you, between the epic story and fun gameplay, Spider-Man for the PS4 is a must-have for the fall 2018

season.

On September 7, Spider-Man for the PS4 was released both digitally and physically to eager fans across the globe. Following the release, Sony reported that in the first week of sales, Spider-Man sold over 125,000 copies (comic-book.com).

In the three weeks following the release, Sony sold over 3.3 million copies worldwide. Why all the hype for one game? Let me explain why 3.3 million people, including myself, purchased and played this masterpiece of a video game.

The game sets the player in a modern Manhattan city-scape setting, following the daily life of our web-slinging crime fighter, Spider-Man. Unlike previous iterations of Spider-Man, this story never goes into detail about his origins, something every true fan should know by heart already.

However, it doesn't detract from the shock and awe the game throws at the player in the main story. One by one, Spider-Man

villains are taken down heroically. Simultaneously, crime runs free slowly deteriorating modern day New York City into chaotic martial law and anarchy in the streets.

Of course, our favorite web-slinging superhero saves the day, but at what cost? Taking down crooks and mobsters is very rewarding and natural, as are the controls for moving Spider-Man across the skyscrapers and skylines of NYC.

If there was anything Insomniac accomplished, it was phenomenal controls. Between zipping around the city and fighting bad guys, the controls are comfortable yet intricate enough to provide a little challenge in tough situations but also reward the player for their efficiency.

Everything about this game involves speed and fluidity. Movement directly centers around those two criteria. Swinging involves both precise timing and input from the player.

You get several opportunities to

maximize your speed, and transitions from one building to the next which creates seamless gameplay. Similarly, combat revolves around quickly dispatching enemies with a flurry of punches, kicks and finishers while simultaneously having to avoid bullets and other deadly projectiles. Insomniac accomplished something most game developers couldn't.

I have always been a big fan of Spider-Man. The Reimi trilogy has always held a spot in my heart, but Tom Holland in "Homecoming" is my new favorite Spider-Man. I never had a bad experience playing this game, despite a few minor camera issues and graphical errors. Insomniac created an amazing story with spectacular gameplay while displaying unlimited love for the world. I will give Spider-Man for the PS4 a 9/10.

Taylor Rodriguez is a sophomore majoring in computer science and digital arts. You may email him at taylor.rodriguez@sckans.edu.

REVIEW

Louisiana rapper releases passionate album

Qae Clark
Staff reporter



Kentrell DeSean Gauden, known professionally as YoungBoy NBA, is an American rapper, singer, and songwriter. He was born on Oct. 20, 1999, and broke his neck while wrestling as a toddler. The injury required a head brace until the spine healed, and the brace left scars on his forehead.

YoungBoy was raised mainly by his grandmother since his father was sentenced to 55 years in prison. He dropped out of ninth grade

and told his mom he wanted to focus on his music career.

When he was 15 years old, YoungBoy was arrested for robbery. After he was released from the detention center, his grandmother died of heart failure. This led to YoungBoy NBA's release of, "Life," about her.

Left without a home, YoungBoy moved in with his friend and fellow Baton Rouge rapper, NBA 3Three, also known as OG 3Three. YoungBoy didn't have a studio to record in, so he recorded in his friend's closet.

NBA YoungBoy recently released the album "Decided" with 11 songs on it. He has a song called "No Love," which is a song about his life and his feelings for a girl. In the song, he says, "I won't change for anything. I give it all up for you." He is saying she means a lot to him and he will never change his feel-

ings for her.

My favorite song on the album is "No Mentions," because he is explaining how he came up without a father figure and how he is on top after starting from nothing.

In the song, he says, "Cuz (sic) I came from the bottom can't make you forever be with somebody. Say to the day I'm not hurt Imma (sic) stack every dollar." He is explaining how he is now making millions, and he won't stop until he feels he is not hurting anymore.

YoungBoy came from a place where not a lot of people make it out. Growing up how he did, it is either death or jail.

I grew up in the same neighborhood as YoungBoy NBA. He was a kid who wanted to achieve more and he liked to make music. He was a good kid until his father went to jail. YoungBoy started hanging with Garrett Burton, better known as Da Real Gee Money.

After YoungBoy's grandmother passed away, he dropped a mix-tape, "Mind of a Menace 3," and he started to get noticed by bigger artists.

Record producers began to take interest in him. Soon after he signed with Atlantic Records at the age of 16 when he released the album "38 Baby." From this moment on, YoungBoy NBA's following grew rapidly. His newly released album, "Decided," is his 14th album. I think it is one of his top three albums he has ever made.

Some songs I would suggest you listen to on the album are "No Love," "Top Down," and "No Mentions." He is my favorite rapper and after you listen to him, he will be yours too.

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