

COLUMN

Coffee is more than your morning caffeine fix

By Victoria Lybarger
Staff reporter



Everybody has their drink of choice - a Coke from Sonic or an iced tea from McDonald's. My drink of choice is coffee... good coffee.

I bet you're wondering why I'm writing about coffee. You might be thinking, "Dude, it's just coffee. I can get that at a gas station for like 50 cents." If you're thinking that exact thing, I'm a mind reader. If you aren't

but are still kind of wondering what the big deal is about coffee, good. I love coffee. I can tell you what the big deal is.

What I love the most about coffee is the connection that comes along with it. I mean the connection that happens when we work on homework with friends while drinking coffee. I mean the meaningful conversations that take place while your hands are wrapped around a warm cup of coffee.

I love the connections I see between local coffee shops and artists. The shops make it a point to connect local artists to their community by having their work on display or having musicians play a show. Outside of coffee shops, coffee is used to help build connections at church, or even in the office workroom while people are on their break.

Hanging out in coffee shops or just visiting them to try their coffee has become more of a pastime in the last 10 to 15 years. Before that, coffee shops were a place to stop by and get your caffeine for the day. With the shops becoming more in demand, coffee-making became more of an art than it had ever been.

Now, you can get a latte with an intricate design or a drip coffee that has its own unique flavor. I'd say there are more than 10 ways to brew coffee and each of them can get a different flavor or boldness from the exact same kind of coffee bean. Fun fact - a coffee bean is actually the seed, or pit, of a cherry-like fruit. Weird, huh?

My favorite coffee shop is right here in Winfield, College Hill Coffee. I'm probably a little biased though, because I was in and around College Hill Coffee

a lot while growing up. The owner, Blenda Hoskinson, is my grandma. I would definitely say this played a part in my current coffee addiction. I do visit other coffee shops while I travel and no matter where I've gone, there's nothing like coming home and getting my favorite drink - an oat milk latte with brown sugar.

A challenge for you - next time you drink your coffee, cut back on the sugar and creamer. Or cut it out entirely. I can tell you honestly that I used to load my coffee with cream and sugar because I thought it made it taste better but all it really does is make your coffee taste like a dessert and take away from the natural flavors of the coffee. I didn't understand that until I stopped using cream and sugar. Another plus side to drinking black coffee is that one cup only

has one-to-two calories in it. Not bad at all.

While I encourage you to check out our local College Hill Coffee, I also encourage you to think a little more about what coffee can represent. It can represent the life's work of a coffee farmer. It can represent a friendship growing stronger. It can represent a passion of someone, an artistic outlet. Or, it could simply represent a way to start your day.

Be a little adventurous when it comes to coffee, get it made a different way, think more about it, even if you're just thinking about that 50 cent cup of coffee you can get at the gas station. Hopefully that's not all you're thinking about.

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REVIEW

Sony brings spark to animated 'Spider-Man' film

By Taylor Rodriguez
Staff reporter



Everyone who has seen a "Spider-Man" movie seems to have a favorite. If you are a fan of the Reimi Trilogy, the "Amazing Spider-Man" remakes, or the introduction of Marvel's "Homecoming Spider-Man", you will thoroughly enjoy the story and love what Sony put into "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

In "Into the Spider-Verse," Miles Morales, voiced by Shameik Moore, an Afro-Latino teenager, finds himself in the middle of an intense battle between the classic Spider-Man, Chris Pine, and his greatest enemy, Kingpin, Liev Schreiber.

Kingpin, who is depicted as a 10-foot-tall, building of a man, is messing around with a machine that creates portals to other dimensions in an attempt to bring back alternate versions of his lost love and only son.

However, something goes terribly wrong, gravely injuring Peter Parker and bringing in various alternate versions of Peter Parker into his world from other dimensions. He first meets a lazy and jaded version of Peter Parker, voiced by Chris Pine. This new Peter takes Miles under his wing and attempts to train him for his newfound role as the Spider-Man of Earth-1610.

This then leads to a handful of other Spider-Heroes to be sucked into this dimension to help defeat Kingpin and his self-motivated plot to connect to other dimensions. First we meet a more experienced and level-headed Spider-Gwen, voiced by Hailee Steinfeld, during Miles Training.

Soon after, we meet the rest of the heroes. We are introduced to Spider-Man Noir, voiced

by Nicolas Cage, Peni Parker, voiced by Kimiko Glenn, and Spider-Ham, voiced by John Mulaney, all Spider-Men and Women who have their own standalone comics.

This motley crew bands together to train Miles and eventually save the world before their time runs out. Let me tell you why this is now my new favorite "Spider-Man" movie.

Just to start, I have always been a huge fan of "Spider-Man." Regardless of what film or cartoon, if Spider-Man is involved I am sure to enjoy it. When I first heard about this movie I was ecstatic. The rumors behind the animation and the characters were enough to grab my interest before even heading to the theaters.

Traditionally, movies and animated films are created on a 24-frames-per-second basis to give a smooth quality to the flow of the characters and action in said movies. However, this is not what Sony wanted.

Normally, in animation it is natural to animate on "ones"

or every frame. However, to develop more of a comic book-esque quality to the film, they animated on "twos" or every two frames. This allows the animation team to show fluidity in high-intensity moments when there is a lot of movement while keeping that same visual style of a comic book during the slower, plot driven moments.

Sony gave this movie a very distinct visual style, classic 1970s comic book style. Not to mention, each of the other Spider-Heroes has their own unique style. Spider-Ham is straight out of "Looney Tunes," pulling wooden mallets and cartoonish anvils seemingly from nowhere, while Peni Parker has stepped out of an anime world, sporting a futuristic cyber mech and Spider-Man Noir is in monochromatic black and white while being followed by a brooding storm wherever he goes.

These heroes all have distinct personalities that help turn Miles Morales into the Spider-Man he needs to be. They really do add tons of charisma and wit to

the plot storytelling of "Into the Spider-Verse."

The total runtime of "Into the Spider-Verse" is just under two hours. Two. Hours. Generally, animated films are shorter due to the time and money it would take to manually animate 3D models or drawings frame by frame. This just goes to show the amount of love and dedication Sony put into this movie.

I highly recommend going to watch this movie. Even if you aren't a comic-book buff or haven't seen a single "Spider-Man" movie, I greatly recommend seeing this while it is still in theaters.

I give "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" a 9.5/10 for the devotion, love and commitment put into this beautifully animated masterpiece. It is an homage to the comic book greats of the past and a great example for the movies to come. Please go and watch it while you can.

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