



Courtesy

The first 'Rocky' film made its debut nearly 30 years ago and now has four sequels.

'Rocky' sequels pack a punch for underdogs

Forgotten films

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Senior Pulse Reporter

It's hard to believe Sylvester Stallone at one time represented the underdog.

The actor bumbled his way to superstardom as the ultimate hundred-to-one shot, Rocky Balboa, nearly 30 years ago. Audiences fell in love with the humble boxer from Philly and made Sly the number one box office star of the 1980s. The irony of Stallone's career is that he gave us two of the most memorable underdogs in film history — the other being John Rambo — then proceeded to destroy them both by turning them into comic book hero jokes and vessels

for his inflated ego. But time is the great equalizer, and Stallone himself proved to be the joke.

That's unfortunate for Rocky, because if Stallone had been half as humble as his alter ego and stopped at "Rocky III," the series may have been remembered as a good solid trilogy instead of a deadly case of sequelitis.

While the original "Rocky" retains most of its shiny reputation, all the sequels have been lumped into a "Who did he fight in that one?" category. But "Rocky II" deserves a spot right beside its Oscar-winning predecessor. It accomplishes all the goals a sequel should. It stays true to its characters while expounding on the evolution of their lives and providing the next

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