

# Kick-Ass



Photo illustration by Brian Steele Clackamas Print

## Superhero breaks free from comic nerdism

By Brian Steele  
Web Editor

A brave kid once said, "With no power comes no responsibility." His name is Dave Lizewski, though everyone may know him as Kick-Ass. "Kick-Ass" is a movie based on the graphic novel written by Mark Millar and drawn by John Romita, Jr. There are many liberties taken with the story in its adaptation to the big screen. Fans of the comic book should still like the movie because it is more than just a copy and paste from the comic. The main differences in the movie happen near the end but are a pleasant change from the comic.

Both stories are set in New York City, which has a high crime rate. With the movie being the large problem that it is some individuals have grown tired of watching things happen time and time again to people that deserve better. Some of these people decide to break free of the norm and become much more by taking the law into their own hands.

Dave is the first superhero to come out of the shadows and take up a masked persona. He has been reading comics for a long time and began to wonder why no one has fought crime in the comic books. Wanting a scuba diving mask, ski mask and wielding leather wrapped clubs, he starts to train so that he can walk the streets as its champion.

However being Kick-Ass is like the comic books. He doesn't till after he had his identity handed to him that he was able to act like the superhero he knew he could be. He gets put on YouTube after being recorded protecting a man from attacker and the world is then shown that Kick-Ass could do.

Kick-Ass meets a few other superheroes in this adventure. These characters, like him are new to the superhero scene, and they use comic books for guidance.

The first two people Kick-Ass encounters are his father and daughter. His father and daughter shows Kick-Ass that

they are more than willing to kill to stop crime by protecting him from a gangster. The third hero he meets is Red Mist. Red Mist idolizes Kick-Ass and has wished to team up with him since he became a superhero.

The movie lets you see all the characters in both their secret identities and in their alter egos. The film makes it easy to see what's going to happen before it's shown; while the comic book lets you see things unfold when Kick-Ass figures them out. This is one complaint some may have but it is an action movie and follows the basic hero-wins story structure. The comic on the other hand is quite different with its ending.

The cast of the movie was well chosen. The character Kick-Ass is played by Aaron Johnson who hasn't been in too many notable roles, but he plays this role quite nicely when you compare him to the character in the comic. Nicolas Cage plays Big Daddy really differently than his comic book counterpart. Instead of being an imposing tank of a man like the comic, Cage is a quirky older man who hunts mafia figures. Chloe Moretz plays her role, Hit-Girl, as a happy little girl well. She has mostly been in Disney movies and television show so this is a change from her previous roles. Because her character is a happy, foul-mouthed girl, it's creepy when she kills people without remorse. Christopher Mintz-Plasse was McLovin from "Superbad" and he acts similar while being the Red Mist. The comic's Red Mist seemed to be a stronger character than Mintz-Plasse portrayed him, so he didn't quite fill the role like a fan of the book might have hoped for.

This movie is a good film to watch if you're a comic book fan. If you're not into comics, this is an action packed movie that has a superhero story line. Both the movie and the book are extremely violent and are made for mature audiences. So if you have a problem with fake blood and or foul language, this is a movie you may want to avoid. Grade: A

# 'Date Night' springs more than romance

By John Simmons  
Associate Copy Editor

Despite having two of my favorite comedians in the lead roles, I went to see "Date Night" with some anxiety. Judging by the previews, I assumed it would be funny, but not very enthralling and certainly not something that I would want to see again. I couldn't have been more wrong, as leads Tina Fey ("30 Rock") and Steve Carrell ("The Office") did an amazing job pulling this movie beyond a typical romantic comedy and making it into a movie that was genuinely fun and enjoyable.

The story begins by showing a typical week for New Jersey dwellers Phil (Carrell) and Claire Foster (Fey); waking up ridiculously early to get the kids ready for school, working tedious middle-class jobs, going to boring book club meetings and then going on a weekly date night to the same restaurant to order the same food.

The romance is all but gone from their relationship, and they have fallen into a rut that neither one seems to be able to break. As another character puts it, they have become nothing more than "excellent roommates."

After the news that their closest married friends (played by Mark

Ruffalo and Kristen Wiig) decide to break their routine and go on a date to the newest and trendiest seafood restaurant in New York City, The Claw. They arrive without a reservation and cannot get a table, and when another couple is a no-show for their reservation, Phil—in a last-ditch effort to make that night different from their other dates—pipes up and claims to be them.

But it turns out the couple they are pretending to be are in some trouble with a mob boss, and the Fosters end up on a wild adventure to clear their names and get home safely.

This movie is as much an action movie as it is a romantic comedy, with lots of running, gun fights, cool technology and one particularly entertaining car chase. But there is also a more serious side to the film, and throughout the movie the main characters stop to express their feelings about their relationship and their fears about where it is headed. Although they break from the action, these scenes never felt boring or too long but instead created a nice contrast to more exciting parts of the film and helped the Fosters seem all the more real.

Fey and Carrell work extremely well together, and most of the laughs

in the movie come from them and their dialogue with each other. But there is more to their characters than the laughs they create; they are very well fleshed out and I found myself connecting with them on many levels. If it were any other actors in these roles I don't think this movie would have worked as well as it did.

The supporting cast was also great, and Mark Wahlberg was particularly good as a shirt-challenged ex-government agent. In general I don't really like his acting, but he filled this role well and was a good straight-man for Fey and Carrell. James Franco and Mila Kunis do an excellent job as a young couple in dire straits and really add to the overall humor of the movie. I did not know that Franco could be funny, but his scene was one of the best in the movie.

There were one or two inappropriate parts of the film, but they were pulled off well and were not as bad as what is allowed on television these days. Most of the PG-13 rating comes from language and suggestive topics.

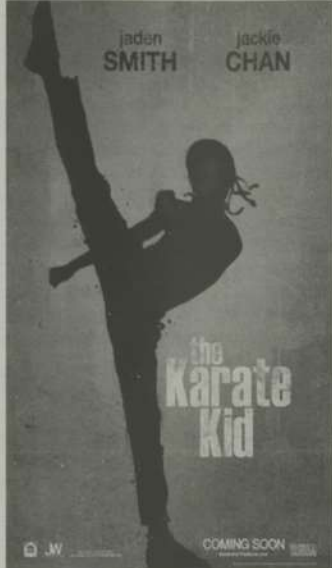
Overall, I really enjoyed this movie and would recommend it to anyone who wants a fun and mostly clean movie to watch with friends or family. Or better yet, go and see it with your significant other as part of your very own date night. Grade: B




Illustration by Kayla Berge Clackamas Print

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