

Arts & Entertainment

FILM REVIEW: 'Captain America: Civil War' Cluttered, Over-Ambitious Action-Adventure



Avengers split into factions over whether or not they should abide by governmental regulations in 'Captain America: Civil War'

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

After overkill during an Avengers mission gone horribly wrong in Lagos, Nigeria exacts a terrible toll in terms of collateral damage, the U.S. Secretary of State (William Hurt) calls the team of superheroes on the carpet. He proceeds to chew them out for behaving like vigilantes with unchecked power, before suggesting they agree to be supervised in the future by a United Nations panel.

While a remorseful Iron Man (Robert Downey, Jr.) is willing to submit to the Anti-Hero Registration Act, Captain America (Chris Evans) is much more suspicious of these Sokovia Accords ratified by 117 nations. Next thing you know, the Avengers have split into factions over whether or not they should abide by the governmental regulation. What ensues is a visually-captivating battle royal in which the allies-turned-adversaries inexplicably fight each other rather than resolve their ethical differences civilly. What does that tell you about whether they might need to be reigned in?

Among those siding with Iron Man are Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson),

War Machine (Don Cheadle), Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman), Vision (Paul Bettany) and Spider-Man (Tom Holland). And Captain America's freedom lovers include Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan), Falcon (Anthony Mackie), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen) and Ant Man (Paul Rudd).

Fans of the franchise are certain to delight in seeing so many of their favorite superheroes together in the same episode. Regrettably, that is both the primary strength and weakness of this 13th installment in the Marvel Cinematic Universe series. For co-directors Anthony and Joe Russo ("Captain America: Winter Soldier") have cluttered the screen by introducing and then failing to develop over a score of prominent characters, unless engaging in combat counts.

Too bad they couldn't come up with anything more interesting for the shattered, Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. confederacy to do besides battling each other. Clocking in at two and a half hours, even the eye-popping special f/x-tend to gets a little tedious once the wow factor wears off.

An underwhelming exercise in sound and fury strictly for brains on pause.

Fair ★

Rated PG-13 for extended sequences of violence, action and mayhem in English, German, Russian, Romanian and Hausa with subtitles

Running time: 146 minutes

Distributor: Walt Disney Pictures

'Apprentice' Winner Explains His Opposition to Trump Candidacy

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

Dr. Randal Pinkett has established himself as an entrepreneur, speaker, author and scholar, and as a leading voice for his generation in business and technology. He is the founder, chairman and CEO of his fifth venture, BCT Partners, a multimillion-dollar management consulting and information technology solutions firm headquartered in Newark, NJ.

Dr. Pinkett has received numerous awards for business and technology excellence including the Information Technology Senior Management Forum's Beacon Award, the National Society of Black Engineers' Entrepreneur of the Year Award, and the National Urban League's Business Excellence Award. He has been featured on

Apprentice."

Raised in New Jersey, Dr. Pinkett is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and attends First Baptist Church in Somerset, NJ, where he resides. He is happily married to his wife, Zahara, and they are the proud parents of their daughter and two sons. Dr. Pinkett firmly believes that "for those to whom much is given, much is expected," so throughout his endeavors, he places great emphasis on his desire to give back to the community.



Dr. Randal Pinkett

Recently, Dr. Pinkett and several

“To people who keep wanting to dance around the question of whether he's racist, sexist or xenophobic, let me suggest that he has a pattern of this kind of behavior

nationally televised programs such as The Today Show, Live with Kelly and Michael, Nightline and CNN. In 2009, he was named as a potential candidate for Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey.

Dr. Pinkett is the author of *Campus CEO: The Student Entrepreneur's Guide to Launching a Multimillion-Dollar Business* and *No-Money Down CEO: How to Start Your Dream Business with Little or No Cash* and co-author of *Black Faces in White Places: 10 Game-Changing Strategies to Achieve Success and Find Greatness*, which was named one of the Best Black Nonfiction Books of 2010 by the Los Angeles Sentinel.

He holds five degrees, including a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers University, where he competed as a high jumper, long jumper and captain of the men's track and field team; a M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Oxford in England; and a M.S. in Electrical Engineering, MBA, and Ph.D. from MIT. Most notably, he was the first and only African American to receive the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship at Rutgers University and was the first, African American winner of Donald Trump's reality television show, "The

other "Apprentice" alumni held a press conference to voice their opposition to Donald Trump's candidacy. Here, Randal explains why he feels Trump is unfit to be President.

Kam Williams: Hi Randal, thanks for the time. How you been, bro?

Dr. Randal Pinkett: I've been blessed, my brother, I've been blessed. How are you?

KW: Great! How's the family?

RP: Everybody's well, my friend. Thanks for asking. How're things on your end?

KW: Let's get down to business. Five years ago, Donald Trump pointed at his picking you as the winner of "The Apprentice" as proof that "He's the least racist person there is." What does it mean that you are now saying he's unfit to be president?

RP: I find his use of me as his defense against allegations of racism as not only absurd but as also misguided. Consider the history of our relationship, particularly my finale on "The Apprentice" when I expressed concerns then and, maybe my opinion now, that his decision to ask me

to share the title was either racially insensitive or just straight racist. To display that behavior toward me, the only person of color he'd ever hired on the show, and to then say I'm the evidence that you're not racist means that your privilege has so sufficiently blinded you that you don't see the insidiousness of what you did then or of what you're saying now.

KW: How do you feel about his reaction to the six of you, calling you "failing wannabes?"

RP: [Laughs heartily] His reaction was un-presidential, petulant and sophomoric.

Read the full interview at
TheSkanner.com

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