

# Time to watch Starr shines in 'Hate'



By Kayla Gayle, Asst. Section Editor

"The Hate U Give," released in select theaters on Oct. 5 but available at most on Oct. 19, faces the challenge of being as good as the popular book it's based on. Thankfully, it succeeds.

With a 96% "Certified Fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes, the movie continues to spread the importance of equal rights and the consequences of racial profiling.

Based on the best-selling young-adult novel by Angie Thomas, the film shows the journey of sixteen-year-old African-American Starr Carter.

Starr, played by actress Amandla Stenberg, witnessed the death of her friend Khalil Harris. Khalil, played by Algee Smith, was wrongfully shot and killed by a white police officer in a "traffic stop gone wrong."

Starr is forced to deal with the consequences of being the only witness and separating her home life from her school life.

With the pressure from the media and the people around her, Starr decides to fight for justice.

The movie shows all the emotions and thoughts that black people in this country deal with daily. Racist stereotypes, statements like "I don't see color" and white people trying to "act black" are all discussed in the film. The writers even included comments close to #BlueLivesMatter from Starr's white best-friend, Hailey.

Although the film did not cover some of the topics deeply, the movie was amazing and is a must-watch. "The Hate U Give" will be relatable to many black people in this country, but will also touch the hearts of everyone in this world. A lot of young teens, and even some adults, will find themselves within Starr. She inspired me when I read the books and even more seeing her on the big screen.

# 'Venom' slithers into box office with \$376 million



By Jordan Brown, Section Editor

"Venom" debuted on Oct. 5 and with this film, Sony can finally be compared to the comic book titan Marvel Studios.

Directed by Ruben Fleischer, the film is Sony's third attempt at a comic book movie (the first two being "The Amazing Spider-Man" movies) and tells the story of how Eddie Brock comes into contact with Venom and the rest of the symbiotes.

Tom Hardy makes his superhero debut as the title character's host Eddie Brock along with a number of film veterans like Michelle Williams ("The Greatest Showman") and Riz Ahmed ("The Night Of").

"Venom" was produced by a studio that missed the bullseye with its first two superhero movies, so going in, I thought it was going to be another miss and more unfair hate on the top-billed actor. Thankfully, I was proved wrong.

The caliber of acting from Hardy and Ahmed made this the solo film the iconic anti-hero deserves.

Venom hasn't had any silver-screen time since "Spider-Man 3," where he got lost in the chaos that Sandman and Green Goblin brought to the table, so it was like he wasn't even in the film.

Even in "Venom," the title character has to share the spotlight with Eddie; that's the whole point of Venom finding the perfect host. Hardy did an amazing job of bringing the symbiote to the forefront while maintaining Brock's humanity, completely shattering my expectations.

Ahmed, as the antagonist, does a good job of portraying a soulless CEO with a God complex. When he bonds with Riot, they're so alike in their disregard and disgust for normal human beings that it's kind of hard to tell them apart, but the pairing makes for a good contrast with Eddie and Venom.

This movie has the kind of humor that you'd expect from Deadpool: mature, over the top zingers.

What makes this film interesting isn't its almost perfect balance between comedic zings and serious plot advancement or its odd but fitting tone throughout the film, it's the fact that critics absolutely hated this film before it was released to the public. A Reel Place blogger dubbed the film as "chaotic, noisy, and in desperate need of a stronger attachment to Spider-Man," and Rotten Tomatoes gives the film a 30 percent.

Even so, it opened at the top spot with \$30 million, \$6.5 million more than "A Star is Born," which has a 90 percent rating on the same site and is "Certified Fresh."

What could explain the drastic range of opinions between the general public and the critics? Critics usually have no sense of what the current demographic of the public is and what we like. They're the same type of people that gave Best Picture to "The Shape of Water" over "Get Out." My advice to the people looking at the Venom showtimes and debating if it's worth it: it most definitely is.

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