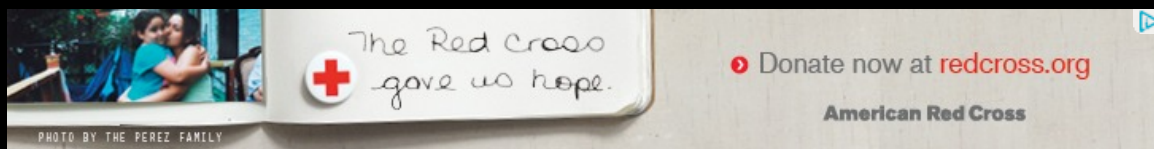


Search



Recap: The Mandalorian (Season 1, Episode 1)

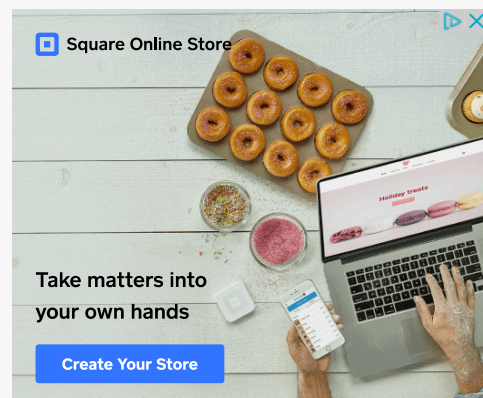
2019-11-14 16:00:00 by Chris Compendio

Star Wars, but with more shooting

0

Star Wars was never meant to be a giant pop culture phenomenon, nor was it envisioned as a prime example of the capitalist Hollywood nightmare we now live in. Yet despite the flaws and missteps of this gargantuan franchise, I've always believed that *Star Wars* is a series that justifies the existence of its expanded universe. With that in mind, I was impressed by how the premiere of *The Mandalorian on Disney+* finds its own space in that world.

"Space" pun not intended.



With *Star Wars* trying to put out as much content as any other cinematic universe in the market, the challenge that the franchise has had to face is the difficulty of breaking out of the space fantasy genre. Even when other fare like *Rogue One* and *Solo* tried to provide different angles of genre, both still depended on direct references to the original films.

The Mandalorian, however, is strictly a Western. The original *Star Wars* films certainly had hints of that, but this Disney+ show, under the tutelage of Jon Favreau and *The Clone Wars*' Dave Filoni, fully immerses itself in the trappings of the genre. And it is all exemplified by the eponymous Mandalorian, a man of few words **played by a helmeted-Pedro Pascal**.

He is a man with no name, a bit of a wanderer, and one with an ambiguous sense of morality. What this episode serves as is a sort-of character profile of this Mandalorian; even if we never see his face, we learn that there is a lot behind the helmet.



The Mandalorian starts off by going through some of the tropes of the Western, with our protagonist bounty hunter getting into a violent tussle in a bar (a space saloon, if you will) to catch a bounty of his. This Mandalorian plays cool under dire situations, and upon being bombarded with questions from his captive, he responds with total dead silence.

But the Mandalorian is not invincible, and the premiere episode is able to ground him in between moments of badassery. For one, the Mandalorian noticeably doesn't have a lot of swagger in his walk. And, more significantly, as the Mandalorian begins his hunt for the asset that his client (**played by the enigmatic Werner Herzog**) assigns him to, he is instantly overrun by some two-legged sharp tooth-creatures called Blurgs.

Thanks to a character named Kuiil, played by an unrecognizable Nick Nolte, the Mandalorian is able to tame and ride one of the Blurgs, but not before taking a number of falls before doing so. He is not perfect, he is not infallible, and as we see by the end of the episode, he indeed has a heart.



This series premiere successfully plants a lot of seeds, and it is able to create its own corner in the larger *Star Wars* universe. It reuses a lot of imagery and concepts, but it all contributes to creating a lived-in, rustic, dangerous, and gritty world for *The Mandalorian*. It is able to add humor via Kuiil and Taika Waititi's lowkey hilarious bounty hunting droid, without any gags feeling out of place. And it delivers on shoot-em-up gunslinging action that we haven't really seen in live-action *Star Wars* before.

It is a bit surprising that in the decades of *Star Wars* franchise history, this is the first time we've gotten a live-action television series set in the universe. Perhaps in this age of "peak television," with premium channels and streaming services putting out episodes that look like blockbuster feature films, this was simply finally the time that such a concept could be realized. And I'd agree—*The Mandalorian* looks wonderful.

And with an amazing and poignant final shot, this *Star Wars* show is able to grab us with one of the classic tenants of serial television storytelling: the cliffhanger, which has lost its meaning in an era where everything is binge-able from day one. I will certainly keep watching from here on out.



From the Web

Powered by ZergNet



Gaming's Most Brutal Continue Screens



The 10 Best 'Seinfeld' Travel Episodes of All Time



Video Games That Were Banned in America



The Sad Truth About Nintendo Switch Cartridges



Babydoll From 'Sucker Punch' is an Absolute Bombshell Now



Pattinson's Struggles With 'The Batman' Keep Getting Worse

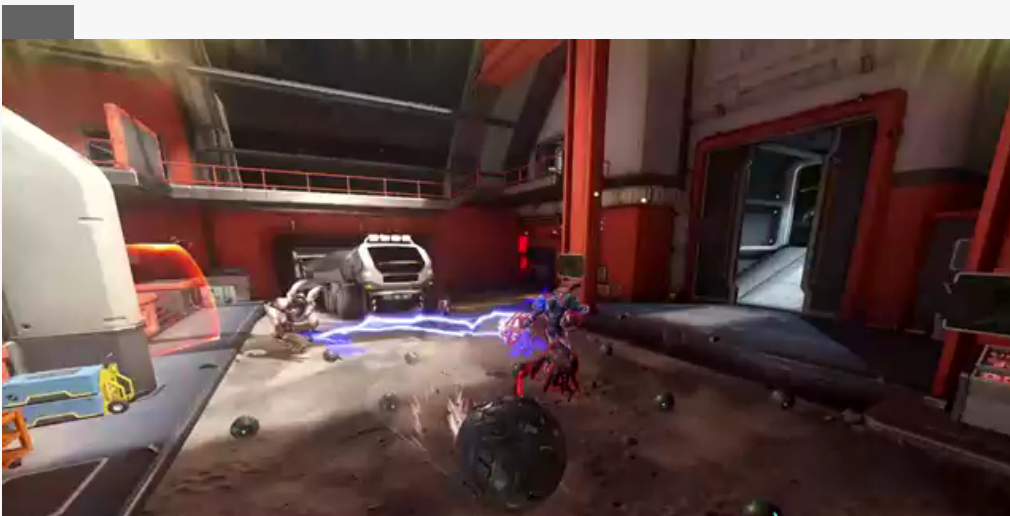


Calypso From 'Pirates of the Caribbean' is Actually a Bombshell



George Lucas Was Reportedly Angry About Palpatine's Return

reviewed by Chris Compendio



First up, Overwatch is heading to Nintendo Switch!

structoid. They are a massive MCU fan who also
. more + disclosures

It'll be releasing October 15, 2019 for \$39.99 USD.

aming #Television #TV Reviews

READER COMMENTS LOADING BELOW...

Sponsored

Brady Bunch Star Gave Crew A Little Extra

Oceandraw

Dad Sets Up Hidden Camera To Find Out Why Dog Stares At Him All Night

World Lifestyle

The Top Lawyers of 2019 in Dallas

Lawyers | Search Ads

How To Locate Anyone In 10 Seconds (It's so simple)

TruthFinder

When Engineers Drained The Niagara Falls In 1969, They Revealed A Gruesome Sight

Zen Herald

Are you on Medicare? If you live in Georgia, Read This!

Quick Medigap

Flixist Comment Policy

Welcome to our community! The #1 Rule: Please be respectful. We can't all agree, but never make it personal. Please read our [Comment Policy](#) before commenting.



0 Comments

Flixist

1 Login

Recommend

Tweet

Share

Sort by Oldest



Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS



Name

Like this article?

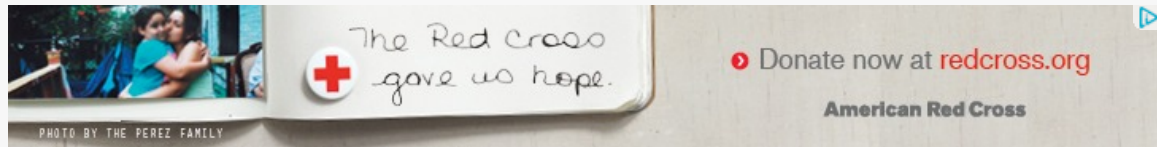


First up, Overwatch is heading to Nintendo Switch!

Hide this message

It'll be releasing October 15, 2019 for \$39.99 USD.

and hate speech to our community team. Also, on the right side of a comment you can flag nasty comments **anonymously** (we ban users dishing **bad karma**). For everything else, **contact us!**



- [Review: Bad Boys for Life](#)
1 comment · 4 days ago
- [Hey look, Confederate was cancelled by HBO! See, nobody cares.](#)
1 comment · 4 days ago
- [Disney is hoping to get Taika Waititi to direct a Star Wars film](#)
1 comment · 6 days ago
- [Colin Trevorrow's original script for Star Wars: Episode IX leaks on Reddit](#)
1 comment · 6 days ago
- [Sian's top 5 films of 2019](#)
1 comment · 1 week ago
- [Can we stop with all the 'Skywalker Saga' cameos in Star Wars media?](#)
2 comments · 6 days ago
- [Clarice is CBS' sequel series to The Silence of the Lambs](#)
1 comment · 1 week ago
- [Avatar 2 concept art shows off some horrible Mercedes-Benz monstrosity](#)
1 comment · 2 weeks ago
- [Joker composer first solo woman to win Golden Globe for Score](#)
1 comment · 2 weeks ago



Parasite wins Best Ensemble Cast at the Screen Actors Guild Awards

0

I don't have many regrets, but if I had one that's been kicking me for the past few months, it would be my review for *Parasite*. When I first saw the movie I enjoyed it, but didn't love it like most the longer I've spent away from the fact that it's been able to be so impressive. Consider this a Bong fan for life. After all, it's why that *Parasite* is currently



First up, Overwatch is heading to Nintendo Switch!

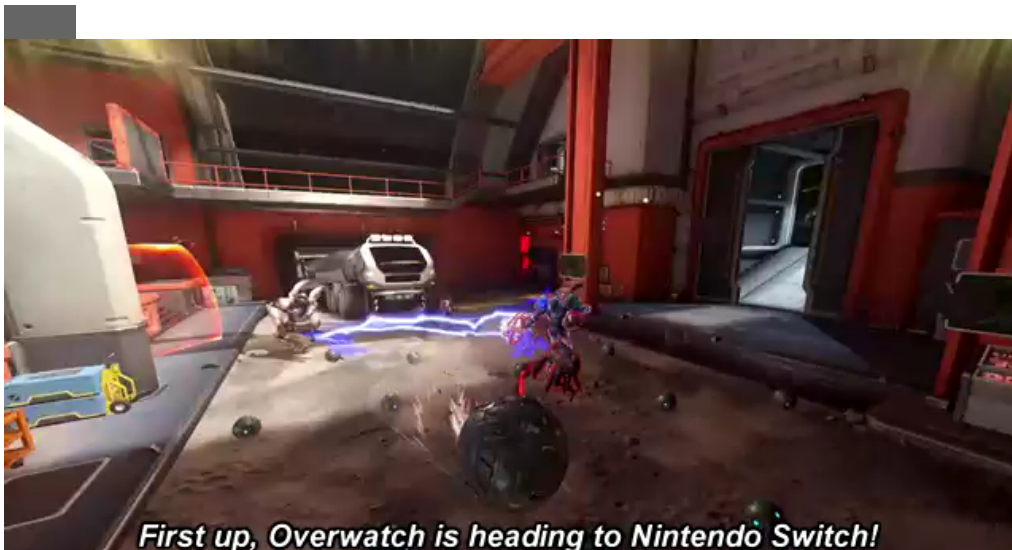
by last night at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, the first foreign language feature to win Best Ensemble Cast, but *Parasite* was able to

It'll be releasing October 15, 2019 for \$39.99 USD.

SAG award, but also the first

foreign language movie ever to win the Best Ensemble Cast in the award's 26 year history. And like a great dad, Bong Joon-Ho sat in the crowd with recording his cast accept the award with a smile beaming across his face.

expand story + comments



First up, Overwatch is heading to Nintendo Switch!