

'Spider-Man' Swings With Amazing Effects and Action

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"With great power comes great responsibility" was the memorable quote from Sam Raimi's original *Spider-Man* in 2002, which helped propel a film franchise into the box-office stratosphere and launched a plethora of comic book blockbusters.

Arriving only five years after *Spider-Man 3*, *The Amazing Spider-Man* doesn't feature a similar memorable quote, but it's probably safe to say this about Sony's reboot of the Marvel Comics' superhero: "With great special effects and action plus strong character development comes great response at the box office."

Independent filmmaker Marc Webb (*500 Days of Summer*) takes over for Raimi and a Brit who has never been in an action movie before (Andrew Garfield, *The Social Network*) takes the reins from Tobey Maguire as the wisecracking, web-swinging teenager Peter Parker. Also, blond-haired Gwen Stacy (Garfield's real-life girlfriend, Emma Stone, *The Help*) is Spidey's love interest—not the fiery red-head Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst).

Webb's film makes deliberate departures from Raimi's original, focusing heavily on the hero's high-school life as a skateboard-riding outsider and expanding on Peter's quest to understand why his parents disappeared when he was young. His search puts him on a collision course with Dr. Curt Connors (Rhys Ifans), his father's former partner whose evil alter-

ego, the Lizard, becomes Spider-Man's nemesis.