



The U.S. Government:
Join the Green Card Program and you can win a Green Card.
Your country is eligible: [Click here](#)



roger**ebert**.com

movie reviews

Reviews | Great Movies | Answer Man | People | Commentary | Festivals | Oscars | Glossary | One-Minute Reviews | Letters | Roger Ebert's Journal | Scanners | Store

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES News Sports Business Entertainment Classifieds Columnists

LA Z BOY

NEW CHICAGO STORE

search

GO Search powered by YAHOO!

register

You are not logged in.

Log in »

Subscribe to weekly newsletter »

times & tickets

Fandango

Search movie showtimes and buy tickets.

about us

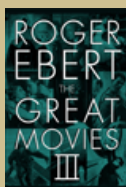
About the site »

Site FAQs »

Contact us »

Email the Movie Answer Man »

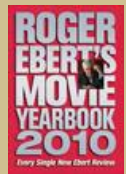
on sale now



Buy now »



Buy now »



Buy now »

THE AVENGERS (PG-13)

Ebert: ★★★ Users: ★★★ You: [Rate this movie right now](#)



The Avengers

BY ROGER EBERT / May 2, 2012

One of the weapons Marvel used in its climb to comic-book dominance was a willingness to invent new characters at a dizzying speed. There are so many Marvel universes, indeed, that some superheroes do not even exist in one another's worlds, preventing gridlock. The Avengers however do share the same time and space continuum, although in recent years, they've been treated in separate, single-superhero movies. One assumes the idle Avengers follow the exploits of the employed ones on the news.

"The Avengers," much awaited by Marvel comics fans, assembles all of the Avengers in one film: Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, the Hulk, the Black Widow and Hawkeye. This is like an all-star game, or the chef's sampling menu at a fancy restaurant. What always strikes me is how different their superpowers are. Iron Man ([Robert Downey](#)) is just an ordinary guy until he's wearing his super-suit. Thor (Chris Hemsworth) swings a mighty hammer. Hawkeye ([Jeremy Renner](#)) wields a bow with arrows so powerful they can bring down alien spacecraft. The Hulk ([Mark Ruffalo](#)) is a mild-mannered guy until he gets angry, and then he expands into a leaping, bounding green muscle man who can rip apart pretty much anything. Captain America ([Chris Evans](#)) has a powerful and versatile shield. Then there's Natasha ([Scarlett Johansson](#)), aka the Black Widow. After seeing the film, I discussed

cast & credits

Tony Stark/Iron Man [Robert Downey Jr.](#)
Steve Rogers/Capt. America [Chris Evans](#)
Bruce Banner/Hulk [Mark Ruffalo](#)
Thor Chris Hemsworth
Natasha/Black Widow [Scarlett Johansson](#)
Clint/Hawkeye [Jeremy Renner](#)
Loki Tom Hiddleston
Nick Fury [Samuel L. Jackson](#)

Marvel/Walt Disney Studios present a film directed by Joss Whedon. Written by Zak Penn and Whedon. Running time: 142 minutes. Rated PG-13 (for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action).

Watch It

Queue It

Printer-friendly »

E-mail this to a friend »



<p>iPad 2 64GB 3G up to 87% OFF \$30.67</p> <p> BID NOW</p>	<p>Amazon Kindle Fire up to 94% OFF \$30.93</p> <p> BID NOW</p>
<p>Canon Rebel T3i up to 95% OFF \$47.17</p> <p> BID NOW</p>	<p>Samsung 55" LED up to 86% OFF \$57.38</p> <p> BID NOW</p>

*Prices of previously won items
Early Black Friday Blowout

in theaters

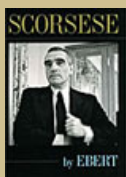
- [Dark Shadows](#) ★★★
- [Girl in Progress](#) ★★
- [God Bless America](#) ★★
- [Headhunters](#) ★★★★★
- [The Sound of My Voice](#) ★★★

[more current releases »](#)

one-minute movie reviews

still playing

- [Act of Valor](#) ★★★
- [American Reunion](#) ★★★★★
- [The Avengers](#) ★★★
- [Being Flynn](#) ★★★
- [The Best Exotic Mariqold Hotel](#) ★★★★★
- [Boy](#) ★★★★★
- [Bullhead](#) ★★★
- [Bully](#) ★★★
- [The Cabin in the Woods](#) ★★★
- [Casa de mi Padre](#) ★★
- [Chico & Rita](#) ★★★★★
- [Crazy Horse](#) ★★★
- [Damsels in Distress](#) ★★★
- [Dark Shadows](#) ★★★
- [Darling Companion](#) ★
- [Deadline](#) ★★
- [Declaration of War](#) ★★★
- [The Deep Blue Sea](#) ★★★★★
- [Delicacy](#) ★★★
- [Fake It So Real](#) ★★★★★
- [Footnote](#) ★★★★★
- [The Forgiveness of Blood](#) ★★★
- [Four Lovers](#) ★★
- [Friends with Kids](#) ★★★
- [Girl in Progress](#) ★★
- [God Bless America](#) ★★
- [Goon](#) ★★★
- [Headhunters](#) ★★★★★
- [Hell and Back Again](#) ★★★★★
- [The Hunger Games](#) ★★★★★
- [The Hunter](#) ★★★★★
- [In Darkness](#) ★★★★★
- [In the Family](#) ★★★★★
- [Jeff Who Lives at Home](#) ★★★★★
- [Jiro Dreams of Sushi](#) ★★★★★
- [John Carter](#) ★★★★★
- [Keyhole](#) ★★★★★
- [The Kid With a Bike](#) ★★★★★



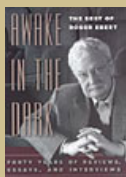
Buy now >



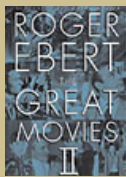
Buy now >



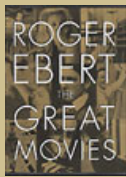
Buy now >



Buy now >



Buy now >



Buy now >

her with movie critics from Brazil and India, and we were unable to come up with a satisfactory explanation for her superpowers; it seems she is merely a martial artist with good aim with weapons. We decided maybe she and Hawkeye aren't technically superheroes, but just hang out in the same crowd.

When I see these six together, I can't help thinking of the champions at the Westminster Dog Show. You have breeds that seem completely different from one another (Labradors, poodles, boxers, Dalmatians), and yet they're all champions.

The reason they're brought together in "The Avengers" is that the Earth is under threat by the smirking Loki (Tom Hiddleston), Thor's adopted brother, who controls the Tesseract, a pulsing cube of energy that opens a gateway to the universe; through it, he plans to attack Earth with his fleet of reptile-looking monster-machines. It goes completely unexplained where Loki now resides, how these dragon-machines are manufactured, and so on. Both Loki and Thor are obscurely related to the gods of Norse mythology, as we know from last year's "Thor," but let's not drift into theology.

Nick Fury ([Samuel L. Jackson](#)) sends out a call to the Avengers to team up and meet this threat. He runs SHIELD, the Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division, which is all I know about it. He's headquartered on a gigantic aircraft carrier that's also a hovercraft and can become invisible. By bringing the Avengers together, he of course reopens ancient rivalries (i.e, my hammer can beat your shield), until they learn the benefits of Teamwork, which is discussed in speeches of noble banality. So you see this is sort of an educational film, teaching the Avengers to do what was so highly valued on my first-grade report card: the concept of Working Well With Others.

These films are all more or less similar, and "The Avengers" gives us much, much more of the same. There must be a threat. The heroes must be enlisted. The villain must be dramatized. Some personality defects are probed. And then the last hour or so consists of special effects in which large mechanical objects engage in combat that results in deafening crashes and explosions and great balls of fire.

Much of this battle takes place in midtown Manhattan, where the neatest sequences involve Loki's ginormous slithering, undulating snake-lizard-dragon machine, which seems almost to have a mind of its own and is backed up by countless snakelings. At one point, an Avenger flies into the mouth of this leviathan and penetrates its entire length, emerging at the business end. You won't see that in "[The Human Centipede](#)."

"Comic-Con nerds will have multiple orgasms," predicts critic David Edelstein in *New York* magazine, confirming something I had vaguely suspected about them. If he is correct, it's time for desperately needed movies to re-educate nerds in the joys of sex. "The Avengers" is done well by Joss Whedon, with style and energy. It provides its fans with exactly what they desire. Whether it is exactly what they deserve is arguable.

<p>TV Portals Online Video Portal Guide www.tvportals.ca</p>
<p>Mom is 51 But Looks 28 Follow this 1 weird tip and remove 20 smartconsumermagazine.com</p>
<p>Shocking Joint Discovery A comprehensive look at how thousands of www.EverydayLifestyles.com</p>
<p>Get TV channel on your PC Watch live HD TV www.tvonurcomputer.com</p>

Ads by Yahoo!

- [Kill List](#) ★★★
- [The Lady](#) ★★★
- [Lockout](#) ★★★
- [London River](#) ★★★
- [The Lucky One](#) ★★★
- [Marley](#) ★★★
- [Mirror Mirror](#) ★★★
- [Monsieur Lazhar](#) ★★★
- [Musical Chairs](#) ★★★
- [October Baby](#) ★★
- [On the Ice](#) ★★★
- [Once Upon a Time in Anatolia](#) ★★★★★
- [The Raid: Redemption](#) ★
- [Rampart](#) ★★★★★
- [The Raven](#) ★★
- [Salmon Fishing in the Yemen](#) ★★★
- [The Salt of Life](#) ★★★
- [Saving Face](#) ★★★★★
- [Seeking Justice](#) ★★
- [Silent House](#) ★★
- [The Snowtown Murders](#) ★★★★★
- [The Sound of My Voice](#) ★★★★★
- [Surviving Progress](#) ★★★★★
- [They Call It Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain](#) ★★★
- [Thin Ice](#) ★★★
- [Think Like a Man](#) ★★
- [This Is Not a Film](#) ★★★★★
- [This Means War](#) ★★
- [A Thousand Words](#) ★★
- [The Three Stooges](#) ★★★
- [Tim and Eric's Billion Dollar Movie](#) ★
- [Titanic \[3D\]](#) ★★★★★
- [21 Jump Street](#) ★★★
- [Undeclared](#) ★★★★★
- [We Have a Pope](#) ★★★★★
- [We the Party](#) ★★★★★
- [Wrath of the Titans](#) ★★

[more current releases >>](#)

on dvd

new on dvd

[more new on dvd >>](#)

coming on dvd

[more coming on dvd >>](#)

great movies on dvd

[more great movies on dvd >>](#)





Do you want a lifetime American
Green Card?

[Click here](#) for more information

