

# Well Deserved Credit for Creed

- Alicia Katz

This past Saturday, armed with popcorn and a soda, I sat myself down in the movie theater at the Liberty Tree Mall and prepared to watch the sequel to one of the most famous boxing movies of all time. Creed is the story of Apollo Creed's only living son and his ambitious goal of continuing his father's legacy. Adonis Creed, who decides to go by Adonis Johnson during the beginning of the movie, enlists the help of Rocky Balboa, the final competitor to go against Apollo Creed. The two face parallel challenges and support each other in order to achieve their goals.

One of the main concerns most people have with watching a sequel to a famous franchise is the question, should they have seen the other films first? The short answer is no. At the film's core is the story of a boxer trying to make it in the boxing world. However, having the background knowledge of the original Rocky movies is far from a hindrance. As with any movie with multiple movies preceding it, extra information allows the audience to make connections and pick up on more subtle references that enhance the experience of watching the movie. I will say that I did attend the movie with someone who had not seen the previous movies and she did not express any confusion and thoroughly enjoyed the film.

I remember the first time I saw Rocky when I was younger. The fight scenes were so incredible to me. My heart raced, my palms were sweaty, and I became engrossed in the film to the point where I forgot I was watching anything at all. I found myself cringing and holding my breath at every kick, punch, and jab. So, walking into Creed, my only question concerned the fight scenes. Would I have the same reaction? Would they hold up to the old ones?

I am sure that many fans of Rocky shared the same concerns that I held. And, as I'm sure, they were as pleased as I found myself. There were three major fights in the film, each progressively more intense than the last. Each punch thrown left me cringing and gasping. The make-up was seamless and the sounds made me shudder. My high expectations were happily fulfilled. The dialogue mimicked the old films as well. There were moments of genuine laughter - something I did not expect. Creed was successful in making me laugh and keeping me on the edge of my seat.

I enjoyed Creed, though it was not a perfect movie. Some character relationships felt forced and tired, and the product placement was all too obvious, which, at times, was very distracting. Despite small complaints, the movie was overall engaging and satisfying. I highly recommend Creed to anyone looking for a good thrill.