

Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice

- Jacob Keller

Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice... box office hit? Yes! Terrible movie? Another yes! Why would I see a movie that I've only heard negative things about? I felt impelled to see if it lived up to its reputation. That, or I like wasting my time. So I trekked to the theater and purchased a ticket for the movie - which had Portuguese subtitles for some unknown reason - and waited for the movie to begin as I sat in my seat.

I will say, the first few minutes of the movie made me think that I could like this movie. The cinematography seemed good, there was interesting imagery, and the character history was being set up well. There was the typical scene where Bruce Wayne's parents are killed. *Man of Steel*, a related movie, was tied into this one. Everything to be expected.

Slowly, things started to bother me. The goings-on of Batman and Superman were incessantly and confusingly switched without much context. It was difficult at times to understand what was going on, especially when Batman had nightmares (which didn't really do anything for the movie), and you couldn't tell if was reality or not.... The movie was all over the place.

Not to mention that parts of it were flat-out ridiculous. The villain leaves all of his valuable information behind an unlocked glass door without any guards: the scene was like stealing candy from a baby. The villain gets access to an alien body. The villain understands how to use alien technology. The government shoots a nuclear bomb into... I won't spoil that priceless scene. Batman, a character who is supposed to be cunning and highly logical is deceived countless times. The list goes on and on.

Batman wasn't just irrational, he was boring. He had no personality. You could have replaced him with anybody. There was nothing special about him other than his parents were murdered, which affects some of his actions. Basically he didn't resemble the real Batman and was a glorified cop. Superman also lacked personality. He was a bland do-gooder.

The whole conflict between Batman and Superman was stupid, to put it bluntly. Each thought that the other was egotistical and got into a schoolyard fight because Superman decided not to tell Batman something important. Batman is able to get close to killing Superman, then they start talking about their moms and suddenly become friends. That was the writer's choice in resolving their conflict. That's right. They talk about their moms and turn into friends. The writers seemed like they were bored and didn't know what to do. They also threw in: an identity crisis, a damsel in distress, and messages about how politics are bad and how the media distorts things. The only message that was clear was that "people hate what they don't understand."

The movie felt endless. I wanted to leave. Badly. But for the sake of the review I pushed through. This really wasn't something you could invest yourself in. The only good thing about *Batman vs. Superman* was Jesse Eisenberg, who did a good job being a crazy guy. However, his performance alone doesn't save the movie, which was just like a feud between angry neighbors.