

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

Last year, something monumental happened at the multiplex. The release of *Avengers: Endgame* not only concluded a 22-movie, 12 year series of films, but also brought record-breaking crowds and the highest gross in Hollywood history.

It's a bit of a stark difference from cinemas around the world today, now almost all empty. You might even call it a "Tony" stark difference.

Movies have always been important to me, but they represent something special for a lot of people. While many of us are isolating at home to help combat the effects of the contagious Covid-19, now might be the appropriate time to reflect back on where most moviegoing fans were this day last year - watching an astonishing number of celebrities deal with a fake pandemic (as opposed to this year, when we're watching TV about celebrities fighting a real one.)

From April 23rd to 25th 2019, both I and three friends of mine - Jacob, Dylan and Amanda - travelled to a cinema in downtown Toronto to watch a three day marathon of all 22 Avengers films back-to-back. It was a heroic endeavour in its own right to watch superhero movies for more than 50 hours straight.

I've always been attracted to ridiculous tests of endurance because I like the stories that come out of them, and I like taking on unorthodox challenges. But like many projects where I study art in some capacity, I was interested in more than simply enjoying the experience.

What kind of things would I learn about myself physically? What kind of connections could we as an audience find when seeing the entire linear story put together? Are these films any different at all? Are they really the same?

And psychologically, what can we learn about both audiences of film today and the general population of the world? What was it that made the Avengers the biggest franchise in the history of modern culture?

Some of these questions are too big for one person to understand, and likely that of someone much smarter than I. But luckily for you, the reader - I did keep a detailed journal and timeline of events in what was three of the most extraordinary days as both an artist and a writer.

More than merely being grateful for the opportunity to be part of this event, I am also grateful to my three friends who joined me on this adventure. Some of their thoughts are here too. I hope you enjoy reading about our marathon as much as we enjoyed surviving it. Because together, we were determined to learn something new about the way we tell stories - whatever it takes.

With great thanks,  
- Tyler

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### What is included in this Diary

The “meat” of this writing is a minute-by-minute breakdown of our experience in the cinema over three consecutive days watching each of the movies. At the beginning of each film is the title, along with my general thoughts on the movie.

Following that is a set of individual scores assigned by the four of us friends for each movie: we could scale it between 0 and 10, only at full points or half points in between whole numbers. On the very last page, a ranking of all the movies with the scores averaged between the four of us is also listed.

After each introduction for each of the 22 movies (seen in order of cinematic release from 2008 to 2019) is a timeline of my individual thoughts while watching each of the movies. Side-by-side with this are descriptions of what was literally happening inside the theatre as we the collective audience watched them.

As you read these journals, please appreciate towards the end we had not slept in nearly 48 hours aside from a few short naps. Some of them are, let’s say, not *entirely* comprehensible. Because this has been edited and formatted nearly a year after the event took place, some of these thoughts and musings will simply be forgotten and sacrificed forever to the cycle of time itself....

Below is also a copy of the schedule of the event, including when each film was scheduled to start and how long the runtime is for each. At the end, there are some other features, including a food diary of what I ate, a timed list of all Stan Lee cameo appearances and some excerpts of my published review for *Avengers: Endgame*.

(Of all the memories I have reviewing film for the newspaper, none compared to writing my review of *Avengers: Endgame* overnight Thursday, after already being awake for nearly three days!)

The “unedited” notes that I journaled and wrote through the event itself begins on page 4 and ends on page 34. While they’ve been formatted to make them easier to read, and exempting only the gravest spelling mistakes, these entires appear exactly as they were written down when I was seated in the theatre.

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### THE PUBLISHED "OFFICIAL" SCHEDULE OF ALL 22 FILMS

*Tuesday April 23rd 2019:*

3:45pm - Theatre opens for seating  
5:00pm - Iron Man (2:06)  
7:10pm - The Incredible Hulk (1:52)  
9:10pm - Iron Man 2 (2:04)  
11:25pm - Thor (1:55)

*Wednesday April 24th 2019:*

1:25am - Captain America: First Avenger (2:04)  
3:35am - The Avengers (2:23)  
6:10am - Iron Man 3 (2:10)  
8:25am - Thor: The Dark World (1:52)  
10:20am - Captain America: Winter Soldier (2:16)

12:45pm - Guardians of the Galaxy (2:01)  
2:50pm - Avengers: Age of Ultron (2:21)  
5:15pm - Ant-Man (1:57)  
7:45pm - Captain America: Civil War (2:27)  
10:20pm - Doctor Strange (1:55)

*Thursday April 25th 2019:*

12:20am - Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (2:16)  
2:45am - Spider-Man: Homecoming (2:10)  
5:05am - Thor: Ragnarok (2:13)  
7:20am - Black Panther (2:14)  
9:45am - Avengers: Infinity War (2:40)

12:20pm - Ant-Man and the Wasp (1:58)  
2:25pm - Captain Marvel (2:03)  
5:00pm - Avengers: Endgame (3:02)

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Before the official note-taking began, it should be noted we began by carpooling to the GO train station near our homes and walked from Union Station in Toronto to the Scotiabank Theatre on Richmond Street. Before locking ourselves inside the cinema, we also had lunch at Blaze Pizza (THE best chain pizza, no question.)

### **\*\*Additional note**

For best effect in reading minute-by-minute diaries, consider reading them when compared to the timestamps on the movies as YOU watch them. This makes most of the jokes I made a lot funnier.

### Marvel Studios' 22-movie Marathon - NOTES

**4:30pm** - The swag and merchandise for this event is terrific. It's loads better than it was last year; including the size of the poster. But the sentimental side of me does really miss the free small bag of popcorn.

Friends from last year are seated directly in front of us. At the start, there's about 50 people of the 200 total seats sold for the event. We've received lanyards, t-shirts (all in glorious size medium, regardless your shirt size), toiletry kits (the best idea in Disney merchandising history), posters and a souvenir coin.

There are also souvenir cups to enjoy refills with for the next two and a half days. But those cost an additional \$9.81. I buy one and fill mine with the first round of the most exciting and adrenaline-pumping choice available in the machine...water with ice!

It's 5:00pm and there's scattered audiences about. Let the fun begin!

## **TUESDAY APRIL 23RD 2019**

### **IRON MAN - 5:03pm**

The whole movie is made of expert exposition and construction of the hero's world. And that doesn't just go for Tony as Iron Man - this works for the entire Marvel universe as well. Even though its less action packed than some films, we often forget how quotable, intelligent and rewatchable the film is. It's ludicrously entertaining. This is what origin stories should be like.

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Amanda's Score: 8.5/10

Dylan's Score: 9/10

Jacob's Score: 7/10

Tyler's Score: 9/10

Aggregated score: 8.5/10

5:05 - It's especially strange seeing Tony's origins now knowing where its eventually going. But it also shows RDJ knew exactly where he was going so long ago.

5:10 - Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's - tony stark just quoted the bible.

5:15 - Can we skip to the part where Tony and Pepper get married?

5:29 - Yeah that's a nice super suit you're designing. But is it really a super suit without a cape?

5:39 - they really shouldn't be shooting guns into a room full of missiles and disassembled weapons. That's just a wast of lives

5:42 - well Yensid said it better. Don't waste it tony!

5:47 - Tony can have any burger he wants and he picks Burger King?!

6:06 - why is tony so smart to build the thing but dumb enough to try it at 85k feet and not think about the temperature

6:07 - that fire extinguisher robot will never not be the best character in the movie

6:11 - Tony drives his car collection even worse than the damn suit

6:15 - Tony and Pepper almost kiss. Jacob celebrates the sweetness of the moment by being the first member of the party to fall asleep for a short nap.

6:21 - It's hero time! One of many terrific scenes in the film.

6:23 - This walk away from the tank in Gulmira was what inspired the song "Cool guys don't look at explosions"

6:26 - New Discovery; Tony's name in Rhode's phone is "The Starkster"

6:41 - Stane says "Do you really think Just because you have an idea it belongs to you?" That's a powerful idea that's going to define Tony.s downfalls for the next 22 movies. You can't deny he's a divergent thinker.

6:46 - Have they REALLY not fixed the hole in Tony's roof?

6:49 - I wonder if this robot fight was the inspiration for Pacific Rim

6:58 - Cool ending. SHEILD seems to know what they're doing. It's too bad the world doesn't know who this Iron Man who this Iron Man is.

7:00 - Question answered

7:09 - How did Sam Jackson get in here?

**7:10pm** - Were already behind and there isn't much legroom to make time up. I was concerned when it first learned of the start time but now I'm gravely concerned about the ability to manage time between movies. For the audiences hoping to maximize their time watching movies, this ineffective scheduling is going to be a problem. I think the calendars for events at the American counterparts got this right, and we should've started earlier in the day.

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### THE INCREDIBLE HULK - 7:14pm

My thought for the moral lesson of the movie is an examination of responsibility for our demons. How do we control our traumatic mementoes and process them in an emotionally healthy way? And most of all, what are the dangers of our friends and enemies as they interfere with our healing?

This is probably deeper than the intention of the filmmakers. But this social warfare is a lot more compelling than the slow, scattershot superhero drama. It's too boring to be great science fiction. And boy do I not care about Bruce and Betty's sex life.

Amanda's Score: 6.5/10

Dylan's Score: 6/10

Jacob's Score: 6.5/10

Tyler's Score: 6/10

Aggregated score: 6.25/10

7:14 - We've already fallen another minute behind. I knew these planned breaks were going to be too short. It's already been proven true.

7:17 - That's a sweaty prologue.

7:20 - That's a slap bet if I've ever seen one. And NOT one you want to lose.

7:23 - as there's a great joke on the famous line, "you wouldn't like me when I'm angry", the delicious smell of popcorn fills my nose. Dylan is the first to buy popcorn and it's pretty good.

7:34 - I'm digging the bongos/violin mix for this chase scene.

7:45 - I forgot just how much of this movie is Bruce's South American expedition. The live action Dora movie could steal some inspiration from this.

7:47 - New Discovery! Col. Ross just foreshadowed the superhero serum in *Captain America: The First Avenger*. That's a three year difference in phase one movies. Wow this creative team knew how to tie pieces together.

7:49 - This stiffness from an early evening start instead of afternoon is starting to catch up with me. Yeesh.

7:50 - Do you think it was this movie or *National Treasure 2* that got Ty Burrell the gig on *Modern Family*?

7:52 - This pizza trick to sneak into the building is the same way I got a ticket to the musical *Hamilton* in NYC so many years ago.

7:53 - The guy in the computer lab is Peter Parker's decathlon chaperone in *Homecoming*! It's Martin Starr! It's just a coincidence, but it's still cool.

8:00 - This "Fifty Shades of Green" drama is no different than seeing it last year. I'm taking a dinner break.

8:17pm - I'm back and I missed the college campus fight. Now it's just more fifty shades mixed with shower trauma

8:18pm - God Liv Tyler is breathy. And her purple pants...there's a lot of hat tips here.

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8:22pm - *one* accidental knock of these tight armrests around the chairs and I nearly spilled an entire cup of nacho cheese. This could have gone very badly. I still manage to enjoy my mac and cheese fritters as part of dinner.

8:34pm - It's cool how Betty calls out Col. Ross on making Banner a fugitive the same way Rhodes calls Col. Ross out on doing the same thing to Steve Rogers during *Infinity War*. This guy must really like making fugitives.

8:38pm - Abomination is an allegory for drug abuse. Get it?

8:42pm - Jacob has returned from a snack run to Bulk Barn. He has caramel corn and it's delicious.

8:44pm - Zanzibar Club is on screen; it's cool watching this movie in a cinema two blocks west of where this climactic fight scene was filmed

8:45pm - And now we see the staple NYC Tim Hortons

8:48pm - I do not like the gross appearance of the characters. I do like the Hulk using a police car as boxing gloves

8:53pm - that's not how fire works

8:55pm - This fight is darker than I remember. I can't believe Universal made a roller coaster out of this thing.

8:59pm - Is it wrong I care more about result of the Leafs and Raptors playoff scores than I do the result of Betty and Bruce's relationship?

9:00 - Dylan proposes the enjoyability of *Hulk* goes up if you look at it like a Godzilla movie instead of a superhero one

**9:10pm** - I got seriously worried about the nacho cheese spilling. There's no way I was going to make a mess on only the second movie of the event. This lack of elbow room that was so useful during last year's marathon is noticeable absent, and I'm only dreading future conundrums. I need a leg to prop up Amanda's charging block against the wall, so I'm gonna floor sit for the next hour or so.

## IRON MAN 2 - 9:12pm

This movie has held up much better than my two previous viewings. This is my first time seeing it in a cinema, but the technology and ethics of war have held up really well since 2010. Perspectives on AI technologies have changed in the last decade, but it's also interesting to see just how much they work of some actors in fully fleshed characters can affect a film as a whole.

Amanda's Score: 8/10

Dylan's Score: 7/10

Jacob's Score: 6.5/10

Tyler's Score: 8/10

Aggregated score: 7.5/10

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9:12 - we're making up a bit of time :)

9:15 - WELL THIS GUY HAS A VENDETTA AGAINST TONY STARK

9:18 - This sequence is cool. The AC/DC only soundtrack helps. Can you imagine what it was like all those years ago sitting in a theatre and watching these hot sequel movies for the first time?

9:20 - "It's not about me" - hard to know

9:21 - Wow this is scarily like Walt Disney and the real 1964 world expo.

9:23 - Senator Stern is the grimmest character in the entire MCU. Ew.

9:25 - "I'd love to leave my door unlocked. But this ain't Canada." There was a hearty laughter and applause from the Toronto crowd.

9:34 - I love this champagne robot. "Drink, don't think." That's a *dangerous* t-shirt idea.

9:35pm - Enter Black Widow! As...Natalie Rushman? Fine.

9:40pm - This blood thing is actually quite sad. It's like the early echoes of what's coming in *Iron Man 3*.

9:43 - Here comes trouble. And two whiplashes.

9:44 - Fun movie fact: this is the villain that inspired JK Simmons to write the jazz music and win an Oscar for a movie about being an aggressive band leader.

9:55 - I don't think anyone really "enjoyed" those potatoes.

9:57 - Justin Hammer is just evil Jeff Goldblum. You heard it here first.

10:04 - I'm not terribly proud of this, but by there's a pantheon of shots in this film that help make the case for Scarlett Johansson as the sexiest actor of the 21st century. The way she's costumed certainly contributes to that claim.

10:05 - It should also be noted she's by far one of the most focused and meticulously detailed performers in the MCU.

10:07 - Oh Tony is DRUNK. And that is dangerous - he's like a childish war machine.

10:08 - I didn't mean to be insensitive - I forgot War Machine enters here.

10:13pm - "Sir, I'm gonna need you to leave the donut." That was Nick Fury's first spoken line outside the end credits in this film franchise.

10:18 - Don Cheadle *really* is a better James Rhodes.

10:27 - The coolest part of Howard Stark's inspiring words to his son is the juxtaposition of the shallow gun display in the previous scene.

10:33 - That is not a safe way to drive a convertible.

10:36 - And there's the cameo of Captain America's shield!

10:38pm - Tony just carved through a cabinet labelled "flammable" with what looks like a very flammable laser.

10:46pm - It's weird there's only been two action sequences in this two hour action movie. But an action packed twist happened: Dylan and Amanda just got some more Mac and cheese fritters from the snack bar.

10:48 - Looks like the Stark Expo is moving up the closing ceremony.

10:53pm - Finally Black Widow gets to fight!

10:57 - Gotta be careful with those hammer-hoids.

10:59pm - The theatre lights just accidentally came on in the middle of the movie.

Kinda undercut when we finally got the big action scene. Whoops.

11:05 - the lights dim as Tony and Pepper kiss...

11:07 - I love being in a theatre of an engaged, dedicated audience who's loving these movies. And loving the jokes we all forgot about and love.



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11:10 - We are now having the opposite problem with the lights. They forgot to bring them up and, now done, the theatre is pitch black.

**11:10pm** - The best part of this experience is getting to rewatch these really enjoyable and clever movies. I really do enjoy watching these films. And the connective tissue between them all really does tell an incredibly detailed and textured superhero story. It's like watching 22 episodes of a television season on the big screen. Every film is another two hour epic on the big screen. (I'm also happy I got to the phone outlets early to charge batteries and get a juice input before they get fully monopolized.

### **THOR - 11:21pm**

There are some admirable parts to the movie, but it's majorly disjointed. Between the fantasy of Asgard, the science fiction of the laboratory, the politics of SHIELD, and the scattershot action, this is more of a science drama than it is a superhero epic. It's not a bad story necessarily. It's just a simple one. Worst of all, it can't decide what if many things it wants to be by the ending of the whole spectacle.

Amanda's Score: 6/10

Dylan's Score: 5.5/10

Jacob's Score: 5/10

Tyler's Score: 6.5/10

Aggregated score: 5.75/10

11:22 - That sure is a fancy van. But there's a notable change in the cinema as most people have decided to take their first nap break.

11:30 - All of us agree: these gold helmets are cool.

11:34 - for a character who's known for his words, Loki sure has been quiet so far.

11:37 - They shouldn't be mean to Loki. Let's not turn him into the villain we know he's destined to be.

11:41 - Lauffi, king of frost giants; a great part by great Canadian actor Colm Feore. He's positively menacing in this.

11:43 - I think it's gummy bear time

11:50 - Yikes. Couldn't we just have taken away his Xbox?

11:55 - All the sports scores are in. I'm jazzed the Raptors are moving on but Amanda's really sad about the Leafs. At least there's no more to worry about while we're here in the cinema.

11:59 - Is it just me or is Thor the subsidiary franchise who's had the most actors shuffled or replaced in the cast list?

12:05 - "What's Mheah mheah?"

12:17 - Finally some action around here!

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12:21am - Poor Thor really loves his hammer. One of the major themes in here is the pain we face when we don't get what we deserve or what we believe we're entitled to. That ownership is a problem for many young heroes in the marvel world. But this one makes the most clear case for showcasing the idea.

12:23 - The drowsiness is settling in. In the time in took to type my thoughts, Jacob has got out his pillow and is sleeping on my left shoulder.

12:26 - Moments like these of Loki trying to lift the hammer to meet are evidence for just how talented Tom Hiddleston is as an actor.

12:37 - do not mistake my appetite for apathy. This scene intro is awful.

12:44 - I bet one of the hardest things for Thor to do was evacuate Asgard in Ragnarok. Yet here he is choosing not to fight but aid the innocent as they escape the New Mexico town. That's great character development.

12:53 - Kissing Jane's hand. A class act.

1:04am - I'll be honest. I can't tell if this is a happy ending or not.

1:15am - After credits scene and the tesseract has appeared! Let the collection of the dangerous toys begin!

**1:15am** - I'll be honest, The lacks of breaks between movies is hindering the experience. We need more than 5mins in between movies to properly get food, take calls, rest, use the bathroom and keep the theatre clean. I'm also scrambling between each movie to keep writing notes.

I'm skeptical if I can keep this up for another two days straight. I also tried taking my first nap break and I think Cineplex actively researched which auditorium in this building had the least amount of legroom before choosing this one as a sadistic joke.

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 24TH 2019

### CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER - 1:21am

This is up there with *Iron Man* as one of the best origin stories. This is one of the best directed films with intelligent thematic cohesion throughout and some truly breathtaking action shots. It's different because it isn't another war or fantasy movie - it's a fantastic war adventure and it's treated as such.

The entire ensemble is so fully aware of all the moving parts, and it makes Steve by far the most likeable character in the MCU. It's so easy to root for him and his compassionate nobility. Watching this is like Steve getting into cheap fights - I could do this all day.

Amanda's Score: 7/10

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Dylan's Score: 7/10

Jacob's Score: 6/10

Tyler's Score: 8.5/10

Aggregated score: 7.25/10

1:20am - A woman sitting three rows in front of us is cosplaying as Teen Titans. I think she might be confused what characters may be appearing throughout the rest of the films we haven't seen yet.

1:21am - It seems like they've cut the break short and we're now actually 4mins ahead of schedule. These short breaks are maniacal.

1:26 - Seeing Hugo Weaving here only makes me sad knowing someone else takes over in Red Skull's follow-up appearance.

1:28 - Yikes. Some folks seated nearby just came back in from a smoke break and it's not a pleasant ingredient to the current scent in this theatre.

1:30 - Blood on the Hydra Badge? Joe Johnston is an amazing director. That's what I like to call foreshadowing.

1:32 - Oh gosh. We're back at the Worlds Fair.

1:45 - There's something to say for the intrepid spirit of scrawny Steve Rogers. Like a wise scientist once said, "the serum amplifies what's already inside of you"

1:58 - Why are there no injection holes in Steve's body? He just got a lot of needles and his chest looks perfectly fine.

2:00 - I love the direction and production of this movie, but we've got *The Avengers* coming up and I've seen this flick a few times. I may be in and out trying to get some sleep.

2:02am - Leave the kid alone! You don't know if he can swim!

2:03 - that's helpful. i guess you can go get him.

2:09am - Anyone who claims this isn't a terrifying battlefield has clearly never done musical theatre. Especially one with such icky lyrics.

2:11 - I love this montage of all the cities where Steve punched Hitler to adoring fans

2:35 - He may not know a thing about women, but apparently Steve also doesn't know what fondue is

2:43 - That's one heckuva zipline

2:46 - I know zi should be upset about Bucky, but this CGI is much worse than I remember it being

2:53 - Boy, after what they did to Bucky, Steve must really wanna knock on that door

2:58 - It's shots like this one of Steve throwing his shield to stop the door that show just how creative and technically savvy the filmmakers can be when at their best.

3:02 - There's no way they wouldn't fall off that little plane while fighting

3:06 - Suddenly Red Skull's reappearance in the cosmos make a lot more sense seeing his evaporation into space on the plane

3:14 - My Broadway nerd is showing, but I can tell you when this scene in Times Square was filmed because I recognize the show posters. Also clearly excel gum didn't want the product placement because I swear that ad said "eclipse" gum.

3:15 - What a great ending scene! And line!

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**3:30am** - An unexpected problem has arisen. The cinema assigned to the event this year is number 10, in the very back corner and further from the building entrance. But it's also the furthest from the bathrooms. We're at the second largest cinema in Toronto but there's only one set of bathrooms, and according to my phone it's half a kilometre round trip from our seats. When you've only got 5min breaks, that's cruel.

### THE AVENGERS - 3:30am

This original team up is a terrific feat of art. The way most people feel about Endgame as a culmination and a landmark is how many people felt about the original Avengers in 2012. But the technical intelligence, thoughtful structure and pitch perfect writing for each character makes The Avengers something really special. It's a true testament when you can watch it at 3:30am and it's still the best movie.

Amanda's Score: 8/10

Dylan's Score: 9/10

Jacob's Score: 8/10

Tyler's Score: 10/10

Aggregated score: 8.75/10

3:31am - I always forget how ominous and cool the opening to this movie is.

3:32am - And again, since we're ahead of schedule, can we PLEASE extend some of these breaks between movies?

3:33am - I love that Nick Fury just said to clear out Phase 2 and load it into the trucks. That's funny considering the next movie starts...you know.

3:38 - The setup and premise for this movie is just outstanding. There's a reason this guy is regarded as a modern masterpiece.

3:42 - Awesome start, but I need sleep before the Battle of New York two hours from now. I need rest to make it another two days.

4:03 - "Is this a submarine?" oh no it is not

4:04 - Cool designs and locations like this make me crave an *Avengers* themed ride at Disney World so badly. There's gotta be a way to make it happen.

4:14 - "I have a plan - attack" Jacob has been in and out of sleep since *Thor*. But he literally did just quote this in his sleep.

4:15 - Speaking of Thor, how did he just get back to Earth? Loki mentioned dark magic but if it was that simple he could've come back to visit Jane much sooner.

4:23 - I'm not real power...but I wouldn't mind a magazine

4:38 - This argument scene with the sceptre in Banner's lab is so well choreographed

4:40 - This accusation is a terrifying contrast between Steve and Tony. Would Tony ever make the sacrifice play? It's hard to know

4:58 - "You're going to lose. It's in your nature." Great last words

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5:10 - let's not think about how Coulson's trading cards from his locker got blood on them.

5:26 - This continuous shot of the six Avengers moving across the Battle for New York is astonishing. The best part of the movie is how Joss Whedon tried to make some of the greatest action shots in cinematic history. The battle is astounding.

5:30 - It's about time someone beat up Loki properly. Thanks Hulk.

5:40 - This movie seriously only gets better and better. It's remarkable to watch and rematch. But in my opinion, this is the best film in the entire franchise. It's composition, creativity and heart are unmatched.

5:41 - It's nice to see how seriously repercussions were taken even early in the series like this.

5:47 - Honestly the choice of credits song seems like an afterthought. It's a weird feeling after such a thoughtful film.

**5:50am** - I think Marvel's brainwashing is effectively working on me. I feel guilty about leaving the cinema for extended periods of time. I really do want to watch as much as humanly possible of these movies to see the full story in one piece. But between writing, watching the movies comfortably and my hygiene it's a lot of active thinking on my feet. Having friends helps make the ordeal fun.

## **IRON MAN 3 - 6:00am**

This is only my second time watching this movie, and I think I can pinpoint my main criticism. The character development is ferociously strong and they've certainly raised the stakes. But Tony is one of the more fun characters, and now he's a lot less fun. His PTSD is radically different than past and future movies. But like the first Thor film, its five different genres and can't decide what it wants to be. Also, it's hard to fully enjoy the movie when the villains are such crushing disappointments.

Amanda's Score: 5.5/10

Dylan's Score: 8/10

Jacob's Score: 6.5/10

Tyler's Score: 4.5/10

Aggregated score: 6.25/10

6:01am - Folks, we're into phase 2!

6:08 - The Mandarin is such a cool villain.

6:09 - The terrorist party in the first Iron Man was the ten rings. Is it just me or the Mandarin intensified the creepy logo and made it worse?

6:20 - These nightmares Tony is having are no joke. I know the principal theme of the film is how we behave in the aftermath, but this movie is getting much darker

6:23 - a human just exploded and I am scared.

6:27 - DONT GIVE HIM YOUR HOME ADDRESS!

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An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

6:30 - There is *no way* that Tony had Gluten-Free waffles for breakfast today

6:37 - This is one pretty insane property flip. That's some dangerous house demolition with a capital D.

6:43 - Poor Harley. His Dad's taking a long time buying those scratch tickets.

6:50 - After seeing such a wide variety of franchises, I think it's a fair assessment to say the Iron Man movies have, oddly, less action sequences in them than other Marvel characters

6:52 - So a lady just shot a man in the face with fire hands but I'm sticking to my last statement

6:54 - you know of all towns that probably didn't need another traumatic explosion related incident, it was Rose Hill, TN. But they sure just got one.

6:57 - I wonder how much of Tony's fondness for Peter Parker stems from his Christmas visit with Harley.

6:59 - Ben Kingsley is such an unbelievable actor. Especially since I know the ending and what becomes of the Mandarin, it only speaks higher of his talent.

7:07 - This movie is much grislier and needlessly intense than any other in the MCU

7:21 - Killian is a MONSTER. This villain isn't even fun to watch. He's just cruel.

7:34 - Is is probably not how most people imagine their first time skydiving

8:02 - I listened to the end of the movie. I know everyone's okay, but I fell asleep. I still don't like this one.

**8:10am** - So, there WAS free coffee and hot water available at the snack bar, but now there is only hot water remaining. A recent report from a fellow audience member said there were now muffins, danishes and cupcakes. The problem is those ones are NOT free. Charging \$2 each for them is a joke.

## THOR: THE DARK WORLD - 8:25am

There's nothing inherently wrong with this Thor instalment, but this one seems to be the most isolated and forgettable of the MCU entries. It's all the more weird knowing Jane Foster disappears after this. It has much of the same problem the first Thor does of hopping around, but the more comedic tone is a nice segway into *Ragnarok*.

Amanda's Score: 4.5/10

Dylan's Score: 3/10

Jacob's Score: 5/10

Tyler's Score: 6/10

Aggregated score: 4.75/10

8:27am - Amanda brought up an excellent point about many of these movies. For all of them so far (except *The Avengers*) they always start with a prologue from a different time, either before or after the events of the movie we're about to watch. This has been true of the sequels now too. We could use some variety in here.

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8:30 - There is someone snoring really loudly in here. This scene with Odin and Loki is terrific, but this snoring is hilariously loud.

8:33 - This rock monster is cool. I can definitely notice the budgets increasing.

8:38 - Chris O'Dowd is in this! What a fun cameo of a date gone bad.

8:40 - There's a poster in the background that says "Is your journey really necessary?" This is a question I'll be asking most of this film.

8:49 - Heimdall just described the convergence as a MARVEL! That's a first!

8:55 - Doesn't it bother the other prisoners that Loki clearly has the nicest prison cell? This bias is so clear and evident I'm surprised nobody is staging a revolt.

9:13 - Don't take Mom!

9:16am - I know Mom was wonderful, but where did this river come from?

9:21 - I love this examination of hypocrisy between Thor and Odin. Thor clearly sees how his father is blinded in the same way he was when confronting Lauffi and the frost giants a mere four movies ago.

9:26 - Captain America makes a very funny cameo!

9:36 - It appears most of Dr. Selvig's involvement in this story is forgettable and disjointed. Sadly that problem plagued the first Thor as well.

9:39 - Loki is one mixed up dude. He is a catatonically chaotic thing.

9:41 - I take it back. That secret plan was totally sweet.

9:48 - Suddenly being back in London feels like indescribably easy to finish out the plot of the movie. That's lazy.

10:10 - Like *Iron Man 3*, There wasn't enough steam to get me hyped up for the big finish. Instead there was a whimper and at the end I fell asleep.

**10:20am** - The good news is another, closer bathroom has been found nearby our screen. The bad news is it's definitely getting colder in this theatre. And with no extra space in the seats to stretch, dynamic motion and physical activity is gonna be tough to stay warm in here. Dylan and Amanda have gone for crêpes across the street. Any other day I would have joined them.

But because I'm insane, I am determined to go on.

## CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER - 10:22am

Both Steve Rogers and Natasha Romanoff are two of the most likeable characters in the MCU, so to have them as they prominent figures for an entire movie is a huge win. Add in great new characters like Peggy's granddaughter Sharon and Falcon (Sam), and then a great spy-themed plot and you've got a refreshing change of pace that's focused and well directed.

While all Captain America films have great direction, this is also the first from Endgame directors Joe and Anthony Russo. The cherry on the sundae? It's the first Marvel movie I ever saw in theatres. :)

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

Amanda's Score: 9/10

Dylan's Score: 8.5/10

Jacob's Score: 5.5/10

Tyler's Score: 9/10

Aggregated score: 8/10

10:23am - Finally! An opening that isn't a time jump; just a logical first event in the proper order of events

10:26 - I do think Steve should ask out Kristen. But that doesn't take me out of how likeable his character is.

10:29 - "Secure the perimeter first, THEN find me a date." "I'm multitasking!" This is the kind of chemistry between heroes that makes this particular movie great.

10:35 - Did anyone else know the SHIELD headquarters in DC was called the Triskelion? I don't think that comes up again.

10:36 - Nick Fury just joked how last time he trusted someone he lost an eye. Having seen Captain Marvel, that joke hurts a bit more, but it's also much funnier.

10:40 - I guarantee you Steve is very proud of his Harley Davidson motorcycle

10:41 - Could you imagine what it must be like for a Steve to be seeing his own museum exhibit like this?

10:48 - Something about this Veteran's support meeting scene really touches me

10:52 - the only thing better than Nick Fury finally getting an action scene is knowing that his air conditioning is still working in the car.

10:55 - Look out! It's the Winter Soldier!

11:07 - the actors in this film notably are all so good. Robert Redford's Alexander Pearce may not be the best villain, but he's one *solid* character.

11:10 - ELEVATOR FIGHT!

11:18 - I wonder if either Steve or Natasha enjoyed kissing each other on the escalator. "I'm 95, I'm not dead"

11:27 - As Armin Zola proposes, "Humanity needed to give up its freedom willingly" If that's not a terrifying idea than I don't know what is

11:34 - This Senator Stern schmuck is back! BOOO!

11:36 - Hello Falcon! The Avengers only keep growing!

11:37 - New Discovery! During the roof interrogation about Zola's algorithm, this guy was rattling off names of potential threats and he just said Stephen Strange! Cool!

11:40 - with all these shootouts, I can't imagine what the broken glass budget on this movie was

11:45 - Not to be a snob, but if you haven't figured out who the Winter Soldier is by now you would have to be asleep. Strangely enough, some people here are.

11:53 - You better believe Captain America is giving the orders now

11:55 - I can't put my finger on why, but this probably the best Stan Lee cameo yet

12:00 Noon - I hate that this strike team jerk becomes Crossbones.

12:09pm - Nick Fury reminds us to keep both eyes open. His line delivery here is they textbook definition of cool as we know it.

12:15 - the Hydra targeting system just named President Ellis from Iron Man 3

12:17 - I don't wanna think about how much money went into these helicarriers



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12:21 - This is probably the longest action sequence since the Battle of New York. And both the audience and I love it.

12:28 - This is a really great movie. Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely are also my favourite writers.

**12:40pm** - One of the things that's most disappointing about this year's marathons is that shorter breaks means less socializing with new friends. One of the coolest things about these events is the people you meet. But this, with all breaks under 10mins and most only 5, that whole part of the experience is absent.

## GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY - 12:44pm

The lesson we learn from the *Guardians* is the cheesiest, but maybe it's also the clearest. None of the five individual guardians are much of anything until they come together and learn to depend and trust one another. But even stronger than that, the Guardians teach us it's not about what you've done but what you choose to do now that defines who you are. It's also really funny and has the best soundtrack by a mile.

Amanda's Score: 8.5/10

Dylan's Score: 10/10

Jacob's Score: 7.5/10

Tyler's Score: 8.5/10

Aggregated score: 8.75/10

12:45pm - Aaaaand we're back to the prologue openings

12:47 - I'm likely gonna take some cat naps in this one because I've seen it such a large number of times. But this one is so original, creative and fun.

12:49 - I always dance along to the opening titles. I have the widest variety of memories watching this movie than any of the others. Lots of viewings over the years and lots of friends I've shared it with.

12:52 - He really wants to be called Star Lord, doesn't he.

12:56 - I don't wanna contradict Ronan, but that cure for Xander looks kinda sticky

12:57 - Ronan just mentioned Thanos' name! Oh it's all building up to something big!

1:04 - Sure is handy we have John C. Reilly for all that character exposition

1:07 - That thing tasing Peter Quill looks a lot like a frost giant from Thor...

1:14 - Thanos' gross turtle minion is the same who coached Loki in the Avengers

1:15 - Ladies and gentlemen, Thanos has spoken!

1:29 - PQ just made the Jackson Pollock joke. This crowd is having a blast

1:49pm - Even though Tony Stark and Peter Quill don't meet for another eight movies, it's interesting when they work with a team for the first time, the two unlikeliest guys to make the sacrifice play are the ones who do. It's no wonder the two of them meeting on Titan in *Infinity War* is the firework show that it is.

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The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

1:53 - I forgot how much I miss having adult Groot around since we lost him in this stage so long ago

2:02 - Look at them. A bunch of jackasses standing in a circle

2:04 - It makes me happy that Yondu bought that trinket

2:22 - Dance off! When it's the 11th hour, it IS the only practical solution

2:26 - This is a really, tremendously powerful image. That shared responsibility and forged trust is the only thing that can control the power stone.

2:31 - A nice lead in to the next film, Gamora is quoted telling Drax that his family at last will have been avenged

2:34 - This is one of the best written films. James Gunn is a dynamite writer/director

**2:45pm** - We seem to be finding a second wind. Lots of people are getting reenergized by the mid-afternoon and the halfway point that's coming up after *Age of Ultron*. The friends are sharing blankets and pillows, snacks are being shared, and power outlets seem to be used diplomatically. Jacob went on an A&W run and, being awesome, he's offered to play delivery guy for me.

## AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON - 2:53pm

One of the core ideas of this movie is the hubris of mankind - often it is trying to protect ourselves from danger in the social battle against peace that we create the danger we are trying to avoid.

It's so appropriate that this movie is the halfway mark in the Infinity saga because it marks the turning point for the Avengers. The team is rapidly expanding with every mission this is where the cracks starts to form, and the team will need to re-examine management or buckle in for the tumultuous fights we know are going.

Amanda's Score: 6.5/10

Dylan's Score: 7/10

Jacob's Score: 5.5/10

Tyler's Score: 7.5/10

Aggregated score: 6.75/10

2:53pm - We have abandoned all hope of actually sticking to the schedule as planned. There pretty good last year, but not this time.

2:55 - This opening sequence of storming the fortress heralds the high points of teamwork from the Battle of New York in the first *Avengers* movie.

2:58 - It looks like this area of the world has pretty firm opinions of the Avengers

3:01 - This one is a long boy, but also the ones where things really start to change

3:03 - Hard to think that's it's already more PTSD for Tony. Also hard to believe that it's his sixth out of eleven movies, and he's gonna be in a total of ten by the finale.

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- 3:12 - Tony and Bruce discussing AI is the exact portal that was the basis for Hydra. You can't totally control defence without comprising the freedom of the masses - that's the hypocrisy Tony is missing and that's what vilifies Ultron. However slow the pacing is in this movie (and for each weird subplot) the irony is they just beat Hydra two movies ago and now the threat is being made all over again.
- 3:15 - The birth of Ultron is such a cool scene.
- 3:19 - Holy cow do Bruce and Natasha deserve to be together. I AM SHIPPING IT!
- 3:22 - Captain America almost moved Mjolnir and Thor's face was priceless. It gets one of the best laughs of the marathon so far. Maybe Steve can move it again...
- 3:35 - We get our first reference to Wakanda and mining Vibranium
- 3:47 - Come on. We know shooting at Hulk isn't gonna do anything.
- 3:49 - Now Hulkbuster gets to fight. This is another one of the great established examples where the Avengers are suddenly held responsible for collateral damage.
- 3:54 - Hawkeye's family are no doubt the nicest characters in the series
- 3:59 - You could cut the sexual tension between Bruce and Natasha with Loki's sceptre and it wouldn't make a dent
- 4:02 - Steve just ripped a log. HE RIPPED - A - LOG.
- 4:04 - As Nick and Tony talk, there are lots of questions buzzing in my head. Tony mentioned the Endgame earlier, and how he's talked about his legacy after the final fight. So what IS going to happen?
- 4:12 - I know it's no surprise, but damn Ultron is self conscious
- 4:24 - The more new bodies for computer that keep popping up the eerie this whole Marvel universe gets. And Ultron is going to creep me out.
- 4:30 - To quote the writer David Erlich, "Jarvis is an Irish lady now."
- 4:33 - One of the biggest challenges for the *Avengers* sequel was always going to be finding a final battle that's worthy of the franchise and its characters. The lead up in Age of Ultron isn't perfect, but this final fight? Yeah it meets that goal.
- 4:55 - I forgot just how long this movie is. I don't think I've ever watched it without getting sleepy as I did.
- 4:57 - whoever designed the falling city doesn't know how physics work
- 4:58 - maybe I'm hallucinating because of the altitude the city was just at, but breathing is getting harder in the cinema. I think the air is getting thinner in here.
- 5:04 - what a great final note. It's time for the team to assemble.
- 5:06 - especially since, you know, here comes Thanos

^ Oh look, it's Thanos :P

**5:10pm** - Midpoint! I know we have to move soon, but one of the best choices we've made on this event was our seat location choice. We are so perfectly in the centre in the theatre, with a perfect, comfortable view of the entire screen. Our surrounding comrades aren't all friendly, but in terms of seat selection was a 10/10. And I'm also glad we get the same seats when we transfer to theatre 11 for the second act.

**5:15pm** - HUGE UPDATE! Management just told us they've decided not to move us into a new theatre. We get to stay where we are. Hooray for our laziness!

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### ANT-MAN - 5:19pm

*Ant-Man* is special because it's a pure comedy. It successfully melds a comedic structure of story with superhero and crime in ways the other high-profile Marvel characters can't. It's fun to be in this lower scale world because it's not about the insignificance of an ant. It's about size...and your relative relationship to it.

Amanda's Score: 7.5/10

Dylan's Score: 9/10

Jacob's Score: 7.5/10

Tyler's Score: 8/10

Aggregated score: 8/10

5:20pm - It's ANOTHER flashback! Amanda's starting to get miffed on the predictable opening scene

5:26pm - I didn't want one before, but now I'm really curious about these mango fruit blasts from Baskin-Robbins

5:29 - I love how Stark Industries has become the east coast vibe business of the Avengers project, but Pym Industries is still representing Golden State style

5:33 - How can anyone in their right mind see the Yellowjacket and not think it's the most obviously evil villain costume ever made?

5:36 - While Scott is fighting with Maggie over seeing his daughter, there's another heroic battle taking place in the seats; Dylan has taken my ginger ale and now he must pay for his betrayal

5:38 - My ginger ale has been returned. All is well.

5:44 - One thing I really admire about this movie is the diversity in its primary casting for the new franchise. It continues with expansion of Ant-Man and the Wasp, but it's the most diverse Marvel property besides Black Panther. And it's noticeable.

5:48pm - Darren Cross is cold. This guy goes through more lamb than a steakhouse.

5:50 - I'm not going to lie, there's still a weird taste in my mouth as I sip my once stolen ginger ale. As Hope will soon forgive her father, I must forgive Dylan.

5:58 - the best part of *Ant-Man*? The whimsical tone and endless creativity of the tiny worlds for him to explore.

6:07 - While Scott Lang prepares to steal the Yellowjacket, Dylan has stolen the topper on my souvenir cup. He must be eradicated.

6:10 - Hank Pym is describing the horrors of going subatomic. This would be the perfect way to exact my revenge on you-know-who.

6:11 - My Thanos souvenir cup topper has returned. Here's hoping Thanos appears on screen before I run out of this delicious ginger ale.

6:13 - Dylan and I have agreed to put our differences aside to defeat a common enemy. The exposition scene about all the different kinds of ants have lulled Captain snooze-a-lot back to dreamland. And somehow he's gotten louder.

6:24 - This is a fun scene with Falcon. It's nice to see the connective tissue as we start to add the last few heroes to the roster.

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6:43 - There's some great build up to this standoff scene in the vault. The writers did an awesome job building the stakes to this moment

6:49 - "And...there's a tank" YEAH THERE IS!

6:51 - Oh look. Yellowjacket is the bad guy. No one is allowed to be surprised.

7:02 - That's familiar....I wonder if the subatomic world and Dormamu are cousins

7:05 - Paxton is actually kinda cool. Maybe he could be "Police Man"

7:06 - I heard it right after saying it out loud...

**7:35pm** - We just had a half hour break and it was terrific. Seriously, last year's event was far more leisurely. This year feels like a nonstop challenge, and balancing time during and between movies truly is difficult. This is really becoming a challenge for the unprepared, and several folks have abandoned the hope of seeing all 22 movies.

## CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR - 7:45pm

There is one, clear, fundamental question that Civil War addresses: what is the boundary of control in power when you pose a threat to those you hope to protect? Accountability is an uncomfortable question in most stories but here's it done in a nuanced and exciting way with intelligently built stakes. When it comes to the basics of drama on film, Civil War has objectives, tactics and one huge threat. It's great.

Amanda's Score: 8/10

Dylan's Score: 7/10

Jacob's Score: 7/10

Tyler's Score: 8.5/10

Aggregated score: 7.75/10

7:46pm - I wonder if Peter Parker suggested Homecoming as one of the code words for Bucky's activation sequence

7:52pm - the new Avengers team in Lagos is awesome! Too bad Crossbones has to cramp everyone's style

7:55 - I don't know why Crossbones had this stand out for me, but this whole franchise has more swearing in it than I remember. Between this and the violence this whole series isn't really appropriate for anyone under 10. I'd even say 13+ is best.

7:57 - Red Wing IS kinda cute

8:02pm - I don't watch "Community", but Jacob tells me he's now seen two actors from the show. The new one was as Tony came off the stage at MIT.

8:04 - Look at Tony's face. In any story, there are turning points. Here's a big one.

8:06 - Vision looks good in a sweater. Colonel Thaddeus looks bad in his face.

8:10 - I don't think the word Cleveland has ever been so big on a movie screen.

8:18 - Sharon's back! Is Captain America blushing?

8:22 - it's horribly tragic, but T'Challa has arrived on the scene. And he's making quite an entrance ahead of what he'll be up to soon.

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The Three Day Marvel Marathon

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8:40 - This movie has a lot of city names in large white letters plastered on screen

8:45 - I love watching Steve and Tony spar. It's fabulous acting.

8:54pm - Steve Rogers is literally holding a helicopter trying to take off from a building using only his bare hands. That's pretty strong.

9:03pm - I love Spider-Man and I love Tom Holland. I still don't fully understand why he's incorporated into the *Avengers* saga here.

9:11pm - Sharon and Steve kissed! Love will always prevail! (I must be getting really sleepy if this is what I'm writing)

9:20 - Airport fight! This iconic scene never really gets old. This is the literal civil war; it's the heroes vs heroes onslaught we'd been hoping for. But did anyone really win?

9:23 - Another things that's standing out to me more than normal - but it looks like the heroes on opposite teams are having to much fun with each other. Is this whole escape really just a GAME to the heroes with weaker constitutions?

9:25 - As War Machine put, "Okay, tiny dude is big now. Tiny dude is big now"

9:37 - That sure is a giant military prison in the ocean.

9:49 - and here is the climax. Who was truly responsible for December 16th 1991? Who are the victims? The answers aren't *totally* obvious.

9:52pm - Again with the lights!! They CAME ON during the climactic fight between Steve and Tony! Come on!

9:55 - Black Panther has the wisest words: "Vengeance has consumed them. It consumed our fathers. I am done letting it consume me."

9:57 - You know, Steve really does have a knack for getting up just when you think he's done the fight. But maybe now isn't the time for your famous, cheeky one-liner.

10:00 - Within the last minute, the lights went down again. When the movie ends a minute later, they do not come back up. Because of course they don't.

10:02pm - This end is notably heartbreaking because we know that this is the last time Tony and Steve speak until *Endgame*. That's it!

**10:15pm** - Blankets! There was a late shipment from the USA but for our second night in the theatre, everyone gets a souvenir blanket to snuggle with. And thank Thor and the other gods because they are so soft.

*\*\*Added note, April 2020:*

Sometimes in formatting, titles and headers just don't line up. But hey, you're more than halfway through this. Reading this thing must be a marathon in an of itself, huh? Thanks for sticking it out so far - I hope you like it! (If you haven't yet, now is a great time to take a break.)

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### DOCTOR STRANGE - 10:18pm

The origin story of Stephen Strange is similar tied to Iron Man's destruction of vanity and altered sense of purpose based on scientific discovery. The biggest difference is Dr. Strange's ego is worse and he wasn't naturally gifted at his skill right away.

For someone often compared to the origin stories of Tony Stark or Peter Quill, but his unfiltered frustration and craving of connection make him unique. This film walks a fine line, but unlike many phase two works, this one succeeds with grace.

Amanda's Score: 6.5/10

Dylan's Score: 7/10

Jacob's Score: 8/10

Tyler's Score: 7.5/10

Aggregated score: 7.25/10

10:19pm - There really is no rhyme or reason to when exactly we start each movie. This continues to annoy me.

10:23pm - I've never noticed how the first four shots we see of Dr. Stephen Strange are his hands prepping for surgery. But it's his HANDS! Very poetic for a film where we're going to be talking about his hands for the next two hours.

10:28pm - Of course he has a prized watch collection. They're for his hands! Maybe he should be watching the road instead of his weird hand obsession.

10:29pm - Told you he should've been watching the road.

10:34 - I feel bad for Stephen because his life is truly fixed on this one idea. But his snarkiness is only fun because of how meticulous the delivery and characterization of Benedict Cumberbatch is in his performance. Hard to like, but worth the effort.

10:46 - "I do not believe in Spirit" OH is Stephen about to eat his words

10:48 - These visual effects really are jaw-dropping. The shapes, colours, textures and the creative metamorphoses of them all is unlike any other film

10:52 - I can't put my finger on it exactly, but I do really enjoy the classic story set-up of adventures in going to school for a strange subject. Here, that means two things

10:54 - Librarian Wong joins the team. As Stephen guesses, "Just Wong? One name, like Adele? (Beat) Aristotle? (Beat) Drake?"

10:58 - If the visual effects don't cut it for you, check out Kaecilius' eye makeup

11:05 - "No more questions", "What's that?", "That's a question"

11:12 - One of the qualms I have with this film is the how much background information there is. There's just an insane amount of exposition to have the story make sense and give it context for entertainment.

11:28 - Christine just brought Stephen back to life with the defibrillator. But I think some of these cute, funny jump scares are a bit too much for this very sleepy crowd.

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11:32 - I love the problem Stephen is facing with his doctor's complex. He swore as a doctor to save lives and not take them. But deep down he knows he must as master and protector of the New York sanctum.

11:34 - What spells DOES the ancient one use? Stephen isn't the only selfish one.

11:38- You know, the only thing missing here would be The horrendous, inescapable snoring of three different people in to theatre.

11:39 - Wishes DO come true!

11:42 - The way the ancient one describes her visions of this moment in time is a beautiful and positive way to talk about our inevitable ends

11:46 - "Dr. Palmer" was just paged for in the movie, and I swear half the room perked up from their slumber, terrified they were being called over the theatre PA system

11:55 - That's familiar...I wonder if Dormamu and the subatomic world are cousins

11:57 - To prepare for this time loop in the film, I imagine Benedict Cumberbatch did research by riding "Its a Small World" at Disneyland for two weeks straight.

12:11am - I love this post credits scene. This has me most curious about happens to Mordo next, and I want to see it.

**12:20am** - One of the godsend for this event has been all the terrific snacks. I brought a whole bunch in my Avengers-themed lunchbox, but also people have been eating fruits, veggies and classic movie treats all day. Some people even got a souvenir tin and get unlimited popcorn.

## THURSDAY APRIL 25TH 2019

### GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 - 12:18am

James Gunn is still among the more skilled writers in the MCU, though this one is much more predictable than the first. It seems to be a trend in the MCU where the second film in trilogies are slightly weaker than their originals. This one, like *The Dark World*, feels irrelevant to the greater *Avengers* story being told. It's still fun and energetic, but it also doesn't have the timelessness of the first one.

Amanda's Score: 5/10

Dylan's Score: 7/10

Jacob's Score: 6.5/10

Tyler's Score: 7/10

Aggregated score: 6.5/10

12:18am - I don't know who's in charge of the start time for each movie, but we've been off schedule every single film for two days straight now.



## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

12:26 - These gold people are horrendously obnoxious.

12:31 - Maybe it's because I'm tired, but this instalment feels a lot less funny than the first *Guardians* film. Whether it's skewered or not, this one is definitely less rewatchable than the original

12:42 - Kurt Russell's Ego, one of the weirdest characters in the MCU, walks off his spaceship and into our hearts

12:43 - Howard the Duck says one of the worst lines ever

12:45 - Guys, Taserface is my favourite. The MCU needs more courage like his

12:48 - Toronto native Pom Klementieff speaks for the first time as Mantis and she's a delightful explosion of energy.

12:50 - Gamora has the best contingency plans.

12:57am - Though no encore was requested, the revolting symphony of snoring is starting up again.

12:58am - Speaking of sleep, I've been contemplating a big decision. I want to try out my new blanket, but I don't want it getting dirty or needing to re-roll it. Hmmm....

1:00am - (Sigh) Nebula, you knew those weren't ripe

1:06 - Star-Lord asks a good question. If Ego answered about Peter's mom Right away, we could skip the next 45mins

1:35 - I got out the blanket and napped for half an hour

1:39 - What a terrific scene between Gamora and Nebula. Maybe having a sister is better than being a winner. Or maybe, the privilege of family is greater than the permanent need for validation from an empty source

1:47 - That revelation brought Peter back to Earth pretty quick

1:55 - the biggest problem with *Guardians 2* is how long it takes for ten stakes to be raised into truly epic proportions. But once it's there, it's awesome

1:58 - I could watch Groot's enthusiastic quest to push that button all day (or night)

1:59 - Gosh you could label this pretty easily if someone had some tape

2:01 - IT'S MARY POPPINS!

2:05am - Man oh man I am starting to get really sleepy

2:06 - This blanket only taunts me with more temptation

2:17 - I really like a lot of what Peter says for Yondu at the end. The whole production design of this scene is emotionally satisfying

2:25am - I'm not crazy about the several credit scenes in this one. Many of them are red herrings or annoying tidbits that aren't part of the Avengers saga.

2:31 - The Grandmaster in Ragnarok appeared dancing in a credits bubble?

**2:40am** - Im impressed with the longevity of the iPad and phone charges aim getting from the side wall in the theatre. I've been furiously typing for 36 hours non stop and I've still got another full day to go, but the tech is holding up. I definitely do have to switch postures and seats however so I have enough elbow room to type.

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

### SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING - 2:43am

Peter Parker's life as a superhero naturally has to be different because of his age, experience and relationships. The charm of the spider-man adventures is the balance of the villains teenagers face and those a superhero faces. How do those worlds intertwine? And what is the appropriate timeline for that integration to happen? Spider-Man teaches us all things happen exactly at the time they were destined to do so.

Amanda's Score: 9/10

Dylan's Score: 10/10

Jacob's Score: 7/10

Tyler's Score: 7.5/10

Aggregated score: 8.25/10

2:44am - This is one of the more creative openings to an origin film. And the transition at the end is nice too. It would've been nice if we could've delayed the entire NY Battle recovery for later in the movie.

2:53am - That decathlon supervisor looks a *lot* like the Grad student at Culver City University 14 movies ago.

2:57 - Don't call robbing a bank something good.

3:00 - Peter just rescued a neighbour after a bank robbery went south. But here's what I'm honestly thinking: it's 3am on a Thursday and there's still a full day of this ahead. This thing really is a marathon; 22 movies is a LOT of movies.

3:01am - That is a *lot* of LEGO effort that just went down the drain

3:05 - I can't be the only person who thinks it's weird how everyone in Queens is obsessed with Aunt May and how good looking she is.

3:06 - Michelle is absolutely doing sit ups while raising her book in the air

3:18 - You know I'm enjoying the harmonic state of a movie if I get snacks and feel compelled to just sit back, relax, enjoy the experience, and I finish my gummy bears

3:20 - That ringtone is awful

4:30am - was there a nap that took place for about an hour? Survey says it's very likely, but I was still super paying attention.

4:32 - There's something pretty special about Peter's choice to save the Vulture. That acknowledgement and mutual respect is a key characteristic that exemplifies Peter's integrity, and in a weird way, Vulture's too

4:40 - Holy cow that is a lot of reporters waiting for a big announcement. But has Happy really been holding on to this since 2008?!

4:41 - This is the best ending of all the movies. Let's see if *Endgame* can top that.

**5:00am** - We're now in the fourth quarter. People are asleep all over the theatre. All the movies from here out are conclusions to a story, and all of them have been released theatrically in the last 18 months. For six movies left, that's a lot to have seen and be released in such a short amount of time.

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

### THOR: RAGNAROK - 5:01am

Location, location, location. *Ragnarok* is the most radically different from its siblings associated to another hero. It's still a fantasy setting, but now more set in outer space than physical worlds. But it teaches us a lesson in geography and ownership. Who is truly a ruler? And is a place its location, its people, or simply an idea? What we learn is that places can become what they are destined to be.

Amanda's Score: 8.5/10

Dylan's Score: 10/10

Jacob's Score: 8.5/10

Tyler's Score: 7/10

Aggregated score: 8.5/10

5:03am - I wonder who Thor's friend used to be.

5:04am - This spinning is pretty inconvenient. Thor has already become relatively comedic. What inspired this new perspective and outlook?

5:09 - Two big problems with Thor seem to finally be addressed. Not only is the story's focus clearer but the pacing is better too.

5:13 - Luke Hemsworth and Matt Damon's cameos here as the actors playing Thor and Loki are two of my favourite in the whole series

5:18 - Stephen Strange seems to have comfortably settled as master of the New York sanctum

5:24 - Among the interesting trends that seem to be defining several recent Marvel stories is how our heroes process the loss of parents. Both mother and father to Thor and Loki, Yondu and Ego to Star-Lord, even Howard to Tony and T'Chaka to T'Challa in Civil War. What is the impact of our final moments? What do they mean?

5:26 - Well someone just brought the hammer down!

5:32 - That button Valkyrie uses looks an awful lot like Obadiah's paralysis gizmo...

5:38 - New Discovery! Are the Grandmaster of Sikkar and the Collector on Knowhere related somehow? That would be a neat connection in the "rich weirdos in space who use units for currency and collect people/creatures"

5:45 - Corg's optimism is such a refreshing change in this busy Marvel world

5:46 - Okay I thought I was hearing things but Hela is making Trump jokes with her single word jabs and punches.

5:46am Cont'd - Seriously! Listen to how she says "sad", "fake" AND that goes best of all when she pushes the infinity gauntlet from its pedestal. (I forgot this is where the gauntlet actually came from.)

5:50 - Like the first two Thor movies there are several genres and subplots, but this one does the best job of clarifying what is happening when.

6:00 - It's early in the morning of day 3. Jacob's been gone for a few hours and Amanda and Dylan have been asleep most of this movie. Energy conservation is key.

6:04 - Hulk in a hot tub is weird. It takes getting used to seeing this.

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

6:15 - Sometimes the ball you throw at a window bounces back. But then you catch the ball - because that's what heroes do.

6:28 - These Asgardians have a fundamental problem with wanting to stab things

6:31 - Say what you will about Thor and Loki's rocky relationship, but they are an unbelievably harmonious team. These two work very well together.

6:37 - Sir Snore a lot is at it again! And he's setting new decibel records to keep things in the theatre interesting

7:02 - this ending is so delicate and touching. It makes it totally heartbreaking to know how *Infinity War* opens here.

**7:15am** - Right now the biggest challenge is staying awake. Now that it's the final day there's a clear finish line in sight. BUT everyone is exhausted and barely walking; most people are just lumbering around or camped out on the floors and hallways of the theatre. It's more like a Marvel themed campground. Right now all four of us are taking intermittent sleep breaks solo so we get rested.

## BLACK PANTHER - 7:17am

What makes *Black Panther* different is how deeply steeped in culture it is. While there are references and inspirations from dozens of real life African cultures, this is Marvel's greatest achievement in creating a world. Wakanda is detailed and totally captivating, and the characters in it scream authenticity and determination. It's a total sensory treat with the most dynamic story and ascension to superhero.

Amanda's Score: 8.5/10

Dylan's Score: 9/10

Jacob's Score: 7/10

Tyler's Score: 9.5/10

Aggregated score: 8.5/10

7:17am - "Papa, tell me a story"

7:23am - I know this is the same prologue template that everyone loves and Amanda can't stand, but I think it works better here because they bookend the movie with the same court in Oakland at the very end to bring it around full circle

7:30 - That reveal of the developed city inside the Wakandan mountain range will never not be awesome

7:32 - "Just because something works does not mean it cannot be improved"; if only more of the world thought like Shuri did

7:36 - You know, these impulses Killmonger has are what make him such a rich, complicated and scary villain

7:40 - God the production design, the costumes, the sets, the cinematography? this whole movie just looks amazing.

7:41 - why don't you really tell us what you don't have, M'Baku?

## **WHATEVER IT TAKES**

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

7:47 - We know these locations on the ancestral plane have deep meaning. So what does this mean to T'Challa?

7:56 - Leave it to Shuri to literally invent sneakers

8:05 - Andy Serkis has never looked so happy as when Ulysses Klaw made it rain

8:08 - Ryan Coogler is really flexing his muscles with this car chase scene. The composition of camera, character and conflict is technically brilliant. It's clean, doesn't move too much, and it's a real adrenaline rush. Best car chase in Marvel.

8:15 - Is it really any wonder this won three Academy Awards and was nominated for Best Picture? This really is a terrific movie. It doesn't get old on repeat viewings either. There's enough engrossing detail to find new things every time.

8:19am - "Another broken white body for us to fix"; well, let's hope Bucky is okay

8:35 - He has a lot of marks on his chest

8:36 - I'd like to think the thing that Killmonger is missing is that killing for the privilege to kill is not a privilege, nor is it honourable in any way. He's not worthy of leadership; he's simply a trained killer.

8:40 - Okoye asks a relevant question, who should we be loyal to?

8:46 - Burning the sacred flowers is among the most horrifying things in a Marvel movie. To me, it's proof he's a violent, maniacal dictator

8:48 - Erik's Plan is along the themes of Marvel's best villains - cleanse the world by mass killing. Lauffi. Loki. Pearce. Ultron. Thanos. It's all the same story.

8:55 - "We let the fear of our discovery stop us from doing what is right. No more."

9:06 - All I can think is "What an awesome movie"

9:20 - These end titles of the projected colours on black is cool

**9:40am** - The theatre has been dressed and decorated with lineups and posters everywhere. Right now everything is planning for a giant party, culminating with the release of the biggest movie in human history. The lobby looks really cool.

## **AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR - 9:37am**

Well, this is where things start to get serious. I remember watching the premiere show of THIS movie in the same cinema I'm in now almost exactly one year ago today. This film still holds up extremely well in the scope of this big, complicated world - especially as they start to tell the story of how the world is finally going to finish coming together.

Amanda's Score: 7.5/10

Dylan's Score: 10/10

Jacob's Score: 8.5/10

Tyler's Score: 9.5/10

Aggregated score: 9/10

9:37am - Who's ready to RUMBLE??

9:46 - "No resurrections this time"; Thanos has made a bold, scary promise

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

9:48 - Title Card!

9:50 - Isn't it interesting that Wong is the one who gets to share this exposition with our heroes and the audience?

9:51 - Even better is the immediate follow up of Avengers Ben & Jerry's flavours

9:56 - Looks like Squidward isn't leaving without a fight

10:00am - This really is the crowd you want to watch these kind of movies with.

Everyone's laughing alone and having an awesome time together in here.

10:02 - Tony just invited Wong to the wedding. Wedding scene in *Endgame*? :D

10:04 - The way the Guardians look exhausted is how most of this cinema feels now

10:18 - One of the best parts of the movie is how every character gets an awesome entrance into the action

11:35 - I napped for about an hour. *Infinity War* is one of my favourites, but health comes first and I've seen this one a number of times. I'm not ashamed I needed the sleep, but I'm sorry I can't type more notes for this massive entry in the series

11:46 - For years, the Battle of New York in *The Avengers* was the gold standard for the massive, character driven fights, not just in superhero movies but all films. What the Russo brothers did for the Battle of Wakanda successfully topped it.

11:52 - He should've gone for the head...

11:54 - I remember what it was like being in this same cinema one year ago watching this for the first time, and what it felt like with the finger snap being the big payoff to our marathon adventure

12:03p - I've missed Nick Fury. That the kind of presence we need more of in phase 3.

**12:10pm** - Now that *Avengers: Infinity War* has come and gone, we're living in the world of movies that begins to unravel the complex web that Kevin Feige has spun. So close to the finish line, the excitement for *Endgame* is starting to reach a feverish level of enthusiasm. A third wind of sleep helps too.

## ANT-MAN AND THE WASP - 12:10pm

This movie is about conflicting responsibilities and discoveries. What's the right way to investigate new frontiers? What are people willing to do steal what you've already found? Both themes on using what's yours and how do you choose what's the right place to be when people are counting on you...they both connect to the same idea. Those who steal never come out on top - it's always those who do the work.

Amanda's Score: 7.5/10

Dylan's Score: 8.5/10

Jacob's Score: 7/10

Tyler's Score: 8/10

Aggregated score: 7.75/10

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

12:14pm - This playhouse is the coolest thing in the entire world

12:19 - This rules explanation is *exactly* you would normally do. Please stop sucking mister FBI man. Be more like Scott. Do more close up magic.

12:20 - The motif of the close up magic and the sincere amazement is a great thing to play in this movie. Especially in a film about the amazement of scientific discovery, it's a great way to use comedy to support an idea.

12:23 - Hey Scott, are you having an *Iron Man 3* moment?

12:31 - WOAHA who was that by the building? Was that a g-g-ghost?

12:37 - This kitchen chase with the Wasp is another great example of the endless opportunities Ant-Man allows for cool fights like this

12:43 - Who are those characters on screen? They look familiar, but I can't tell because of those hats and sunglasses

12:54 - Hannah John-Kamen's level head and cool personality make her a really terrific new character to this world

12:55 - Also, based on the 5 new characters, again *Ant-Man* wins props for the diversity in their casting

1:04 - If it looks, smells and feels like truth serum, it's truth serum

1:06 - part of what makes Foster and Ghost such interesting antagonists is that there are clear ethical lines they will and will not cross

1:09 - Luis on truth serum is one of the best monologues in the MCU

1:19 - This is turning into quite a large hunt for the lab

1:22 - If Snorevellus Snape doesn't stop this snoring crap right now I will volunteer as tribute and wake that sucker up.

1:23 - ants making arrows in the sky is cool

1:29 - the falling bricks on the winding road is, yet again, a genius move on the writers part for how to creatively tell THIS story. Bravo.

1:32 - Well hello, kitty

1:36 - Seriously, with all the heroes going in and out of the quantum realm, there's probably a market for a GPS system for this place

1:39 - How DID he have time to buy a ticket?

1:45 - is Scott going need mouth to mouth

1:46 - well he got it

1:51 - So either Mrs. van Dyne was taking night classes in the quantum realm or she's been lying about her magic science powers

1:54 - Ana and Foster made me think; there's another great motif in this movie of fathers and daughters. Ana and Foster, Hope and Hank, Cassie and Scott. Each of them are are strangely the same as they are different.

??? - after the adventure we've been on, This credits scene is even more heartbreaking. It was a tough road to get here, and now we gotta do it all over again.

**2:10pm** - Were starting to finish all of the snacks. Dylan got fries, I'm handing out mango and veggies, and we're getting our final delicious beverages. My biggest conundrum at the moment, seriously, is trying to decide what I want to eat during the grand finale in a few hours.

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

### CAPTAIN MARVEL - 2:13pm

Carol Danvers quest is about home. It's not just about her discovering her own origins and identity, but also her compassion to others who have been treated like her. That's why it's so important she helps other civilizations find the same peace she had to discover for herself.

But of all the Marvel properties, Captain Marvel is the most fluid in her being as both a human and superhuman. How can she be both? My friend Chris once said while DC is heroes trying to be people, Marvel is people trying to be heroes. In that examination, Carol is the strongest and most interesting tightrope walker.

Amanda's Score: 6.5/10

Dylan's Score: 5/10

Jacob's Score: 5/10

Tyler's Score: 6.5/10

Aggregated score: 5.75/10

2:14pm - the audience applauds with the Stan Lee logo introduction to the film. Half the crowd rises to their feet.

2:16 - The font and title styling of locations is a throwback to *Guardians of the Galaxy*. This small detail helps with the interconnectivity of this movie, which otherwise, it's kinda late for the introduction of a new main character.

2:17 - it's neat seeing the city of Hala in the Kree civilization. With everything we've learned, it teaches us sometimes the lines of good and evil often show qualities of both sides. It's never black and white.

2:20 - It's that bounty hunter from *Guardians*! Fun fact: Djimon Hounsou is also in DC's *Shazam!* playing in the theatre next door.

2:22 - This movie is so well cast, perhaps one of the best

2:27 - I don't want the iPad to die during *Endgame*, so I'm charging it while sitting on the side wall, along with my phone too. Jacob is sitting with me, and between a bite of his vegan burger and watching *Captain Marvel* again I feel very socially conscious

2:30 - boy this movie must've been an editors nightmare

2:32 - the first act of this movie would be so confusing if you came in totally dry

2:37 - Heh. Blockbuster Video.

2:39 - As the Skrulls are coming up onto the beach, I think it's really poetic that just as Iron Man began in Southern California, Carol's origin begins here too.

2:41 - I don't know what's better: young Nick Fury or the return of Phil Coulson!

2:50 - obviously there was going to be a jab at 90s sexism. I'm glad it was on a motorbike, and done in the way it's still common today

2:56 - 90s Nicholas is awesome. Sorry, 90s Fury is awesome.

3:03 - Waitaminute, that's not his name...

3:07 - ten years from now, it won't matter if you lose your pager privileges



## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

3:12 - with the exception of Gamora and Nebula in *Guardians 2* in the save, this is the only other example so far of the Bechtel test being passed in the MCU (It should be said there cases in *Iron Man 3* and *Black Panther* that came close)

3:25 - ENOUGH WITH THE SNORING

3:28 - Sometimes we need our friends to remind us of who we are. That's a gift.

3:31 - There is something to be said that after two days in a hazy, superhero coma, the style of these films can start to blur together. There's constant driving underscore, the formulaic discovery of what makes a new hero, and prevalent rules of three in most characters quests. But hey, the template works for a reason.

3:40 - Holy cow this de-aging CGI on Samuel L. Jackson is a marvel of technology

3:48 - Carol did just end it. I guess that was the a-bridge-d fight

3:58 - Fighting is hard. Not fighting is harder. Carol's right; she doesn't need to prove anything to the Kree.

4:00 - I can't tell you how furious I am that Goose is the reason Nick lost his left eye. I would've been perfectly happy for that one mystery to remain unsolved.

4:06 - The Protector Initiative - LOL

**4:30pm** - At long last! All we have to do now is wait for *Endgame* to start. The audience is prepped and everyone is eagerly awaiting the start. This one is actually our longest break yet because the ones between movies have been shortened and we've been starting the back half of movies ahead of schedule. Now we have some down time, and Jacob did another A&W run so I'm having a late breakfast. (This will also help fool my body into staying awake to write a newspaper review when I get home!)

**4:59pm** - After a decade of filmmaking, 21 other stories, two and a half days of movie watching - the conclusion is ready. It's time for AVENGERS: ENDGAME!

## AVENGERS: ENDGAME - 5:06pm

It's a satisfying conclusion and a great end to the entire saga, rounding out almost every question. The entrance into final battle scene is something else. Fans are going to have an unbelievable experience.

\*\*EDIT: Those are my only thoughts that I wrote at the end of the viewing, not knowing when this would all be read. I didn't want to spoil what happens for anyone else.

Amanda's Score: 9/10

Dylan's Score: 10/10

Jacob's Score: 9.5/10

Tyler's Score: 9.5/10

Aggregated score: 9.5/10

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

5:00pm - Everyone cheers as the lights dim to half. Then everyone laughs when instead of *Endgame* beginning, it's a trailer for *The Lion King*.  
5:01 - We're eternally grateful there are no product ads or last minute surprise 3D glasses before we start.  
5:04 - Were linked with trailers for *Star Wars 9* and *Dark Phoenix*.  
5:06 - The movie opens with Hawkeye and his daughter in an archery lesson  
5:09 - Dead characters were cut from the Marvel Studios logo at opening. Yikes.  
5:23 - Is Thanos...gardening?  
5:25 - And suddenly, this is going to be a very different movie than what everyone was anticipating. So NOW WHAT?!  
5:26 - That's What, I guess  
5:29 - Nice Ken Jeong cameo  
5:40 - That's a Webkinz plush on the picnic table!  
5:45 - I hate this version of Hulk  
5:53 - I knew it! I called something about the GPS in the quantum realm!  
5:55 - This Hulk is growing on me  
6:06 - You heard it here first. *Back to the Future* is bullshit.  
6:18 - Did Tony just mention the city of Toronto?  
6:25 - This is the greatest elevator scene ever  
6:29 - It's true. They can do this all day.  
6:39 - the crowd is having a clap along to a Guardians song  
6:45 - STAN THE MAN!  
6:47 - Jacob tells me that's the third actor from TV's *Community* in the MCU  
7:24 - This is will go down as one of the greatest scenes in Hollywood history  
7:26 - the audience hasn't stopped gasping for 5mins  
7:31 - That's a good twist. Literally.  
7:41 - the play that wouldn't happen did  
7:46 - This kid is in every way her fathers daughter  
7:55 - credits roll

8:30pm - We're now outside the theatre. We've bought Sweet Jesus Ice Cream cones as a reward for somehow surviving.

I am speechless. I have no words. This ice cream is delicious. My friends are terrific people and I love them.

Review of *Avengers: Endgame* on the next page

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

*An excerpt from my review of AVENGERS: ENDGAME, published the next morning:*

*Avengers: Endgame* is a milestone in filmmaking. This movie, as an artwork, is one that will be revered in history books for ages to come. Simply put, it is among the most extraordinary creative works ever made. And it's a lot of fun to watch.

First and foremost, the collection of characters, plots and ideas that have been gathered to tell *Endgame's* story is a brilliant concept. It's nearly impossible to describe specific moments or components without potential spoiling most of what happens.

What can be said (from a limited pool of information that is risk-free) is two things. One, there aren't so many shocking moments of surprise as there are smart moments of suspense where multiple things could happen. That means most of the fun in watching is waiting with bated breath at what *precisely* is going to happen next.

Secondly, this is not the movie you will be expecting to see. The three hour runtime can be intimidating to some, but worry not. The entire three hours moves at lightning speed so there's no time to dawdle, and the creative events chosen to finish the Avengers story is a satisfying change from the ordinary and predictable.

Every meticulous detail is exceptional. The set decoration and production design brings dozens of worlds to life. The visual effects really make fantasy come alive as if it were truly here on Earth today. And did we mention how dedicated the cast is?

An easy compliment would be to reference the dozens of moments where audiences laugh, cry, and gasp together. But in *Avengers: Endgame*, they really do happen. The moments are so striking and deeply rich in characters formed over a decade its hard not to be fully invested.

This feels more like the season finale to a television program than a stand-alone movie. But maybe that's because that's exactly what it is. The scope and scale of the adventure is just so much larger than what anyone thought possible.

It really is a spectacle unlike anything you've ever seen. If you have even the smallest inclination or interest in the superhero saga, you'll be at the edge of your seat. And you'll come out of a tail about perseverance ready to assemble your own team of heroes.

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

### The “Stan Lee” Tracker

This is a pulled list of all the appearances of Marvel legend Stan Lee when he appeared in all 22 films. This’ll make it easier to identify and find these special moments.

#### *Tuesday Night:*

6:11pm - He’s mistaken for Hugh Hefner on the gala red carpet. I begin a polite clap.  
7:27pm - Stan shouldn’t have sipped that soda. I think the idea has caught on with a slightly bigger but still polite golf-like applause.  
9:20pm - Now Tony Stark thinks Stan Lee is Larry King. But nobody clapped.  
11:53pm - Stanny needs a new truck after Thor’s hammer messed it up. The clap was politely enthusiastic.

#### *Wednesday Morning:*

2:35am - After seeing Captain America, Stan is surprised he’s so short. Let people sleep instead of clap. I miss it by two seconds.  
5:41am - Stan seems to be enjoying his game of chess. The claps were satisfying.  
7:05am - He must’ve really liked that pageant contestant to give her a 10/10. The applause was small but passionate.  
9:15am - Dr. Selvig needs to give Stan his shoe back. The applause is tepid.  
11:55am - Stan Lee might not get to keep his museum security job gig. But it’s his funniest cameo yet. The applause is pretty good.

#### *Wednesday Night:*

12:58pm - I wonder who Stan is talking to on Xandar. The clapping is growing.  
3:18pm - Stan yells “excelsior” after drinking with Thor and a mighty chuckle is exuded from the crowd.  
7:05pm - Bartender Stan Lee is, as Luis would say, “Crazy Stupid Fine”. More claps!  
10:00pm - Look who’s here with the mail! People are definitely getting into clapping.  
11:36pm - Whatever he’s reading on that bus, apparently it’s hilarious. Despite the time, the ritual of applauding Stan Lee has been firmly established.

#### *Thursday Morning:*

1:42am - Now he’s an astronaut and talking about his adventures.  
2:56am - Why does Stan need to know how Marjorie’s mother is doing?  
5:53am - I guess those weekend hairstyling classes are really paying off for our favourite comic book writer. The applause is steady.  
8:01am - What a smarmy gambler!  
9:55am - I wanna talk with this bus driver on exactly how many spaceships he’s seen.

#### *Thursday Night:*

1:31pm - I hope Stan didn’t have anywhere super important to be with that car.  
2:44pm - Why, of all things, is he reading Mallrats? There’s gotta be an inside joke.  
6:45pm - “Make peace, not war.” Great last words. Thunderous claps.

## **WHATEVER IT TAKES**

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

### *The Food Diary*

Here is a time-stamped list of everything I ate over three days. Consider this my application to a TLC or Slice channel reality weight-loss show.

#### *Tuesday:*

11:30am: Peanut butter toast and apple juice  
3:30pm: Half of a Blaze Pizza  
4:30pm: Souvenir Cup #1; water  
8:15pm: Thai Chili Wings, Mac and Cheese Fritters, Pretzel Bites  
11:45pm: Gummy Bears

#### *Wednesday:*

1:15am: Souvenir Cup #2; water  
6:00am: Cranberry Scone  
3:30pm: A&W Chicken Burger, Fries, Root Beer  
5:15pm: Souvenir Cup #3; ginger ale  
8:30pm: Yesterday's leftover Blaze Pizza  
11:15pm: Oat and Quinoa Bar, Souvenir Cup #4; water

#### *Thursday:*

2:45am: Souvenir Cup #5; ginger ale  
8:00am: A Mango! (Yummiest thing the whole 3 days)  
1:30pm: Souvenir Cup #6; water  
4:40pm: A&W breakfast

Associate bites: Popcorn, Caramel Corn, Small Pretzel, Carrot Sticks, Cookie, Fruit Pieces, Peanut butter cup, broccoli, cubed mango, sour jujubes, nachos.

## **WHATEVER IT TAKES**

The Three Day Marvel Marathon

An overlong essay by Tyler Collins

### **RANKINGS OF THE FILMS**

Each of these scores is calculated out by finding the average of our four individual scores out of 10.

Avengers: Endgame (9.5)

Avengers: Infinity War (9)

The Avengers (8.75)

Guardians of the Galaxy (8.75)

Iron Man (8.5)

Black Panther (8.5)

Thor: Ragnarok (8.5)

Spider-Man: Homecoming (8.25)

Captain America: The Winter Soldier (8)

Ant-Man (8)

Captain America: Civil War (7.75)

Ant-Man and the Wasp (7.75)

Iron Man 2 (7.5)

Doctor Strange (7.25)

Captain America: The First Avenger (7.25)

Avengers: Age of Ultron (6.75)

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (6.5)

Iron Man 3 (6.25)

The Incredible Hulk (6.25)

Thor (5.75)

Captain Marvel (5.75)

Thor: The Dark World (4.75)