2016

Captain America: Civil War

Whitney Troxel

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Title: Captain America: Civil War  
Main Performers: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson  
Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo  
Reviewer: Whitney Troxel  
Studio: Marvel  
Year Released: 2016  
Run Time: 147 min.  
MPAA Rating: PG-13  
Interest Level: Young Adult  
Rating: Excellent

Review

Since the formation of the Avengers, the team has functioned as a private organization. They’re mission is to protect the world, but despite their best efforts innocent people are often hurt or killed during their operations. The United Nations drafts a law called the Sokovia Accords stating that the Avengers can only act under the direction of a UN committee. The team is split on whether they should sign the Accords or not. Iron Man, Black Widow, War Machine, and Vision agree to sign the Accords. Captain America, Falcon, and Scarlet Witch decide not to. The Accords are signed at a UN meeting in Vienna, but the meeting is supposedly bombed by Bucky Barnes (Winter Soldier). Captain America investigates and discovers Bucky was being set up by Zemo, who wants to find the five other Winter Soldiers. Captain America, Falcon, Bucky and Scarlet Witch recruit Hawkeye and Ant-Man in order to hunt down Zemo. Because they’re acting outside the Accords, Iron Man is sent to stop them. He is joined by Black Widow, War Machine, Vision, Black Panther, and Spider-Man. Captain America and Bucky manage to escape and track down Zemo. They discover Zemo’s plan was not to control the other Winter Soldiers but to tear apart the Avengers from the inside.

Captain America: Civil War is an excellent conclusion to the Captain America film trilogy. Despite being nearly overrun with other characters, the plot remains focused on Captain America. The movie does an excellent job introducing new characters and showing sincere interactions between all the characters. It is very clear that the difference in opinion on the Accords is not personal. Even during the fight sequences the audience understands that the characters still care about each other. Both sides are simply fighting for what they believe to be right. There are several fight sequences, but none of them are graphic. The movie continues Marvel’s standard of witty humor and clever quips that keep the more serious conflicts in the plot from becoming too dark. It also creates a good foundation for upcoming movies like Spider-Man: Homecoming and Black Panther. As with most Marvel movies, audience members that stay until the end of the credits get a sneak preview at what’s to come.

*Contains mild language and moderate violence.