



CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR



FROM NOW / RATED M / DIRECTORS Anthony Russo, Joe Russo / CAST Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Chadwick Boseman



War – what is it good for? Quite a lot, it transpires...



HEAR THAT DISTANT scream of what sounds a lot like a boardroom full of Hollywood execs going into a Hulk-like rage? That'd be the Warner Bros. top brass, trying to figure out how pitting two of the (if not *the*) biggest names in comic book history against one another (while chucking in appearances from a few other heroic heavyhitters) turned out so *wrong*, while Marvel dumped a few tonnes of salt on the wound by getting it so effortlessly *right*.

A seemingly sure-fire hit like *Batman v Superman* going off the rails really does serve to highlight how tricky these things are to successfully handle, and also underlines just how big of a success *Captain America: Civil War* actually is: here you have a taut action-thriller that juggles multiple characters skilfully while they come up against stakes that the you're actually invested in. Add the odd bit of irreverent humour and the first appearance of the MCU version of Spider-Man (a pitch perfect Tom Holland) and you've got a Marvel movie on par with their very best.

The main draw here, of course, are Marvel's two biggest cinematic guns going shield-to-metal-fist: Tony Starks/Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr bringing more regret and less sass after the balls up he caused in *Age Of Ultron*) and Steve Rogers/Captain America (Chris Evans, who has managed to make what's on paper a goody two-shoes character nuanced and compelling). Their biff is based on whether superheroes should be policed or not (Stark yay, Rogers nay), and as well played-out as the plot is, all you need to know is this: you'll bear witness to the best superhero brawl ever put to screen in a film that's a high-point in long-form storytelling. EXTRAS Making-of, featurettes, deleted and extended scenes, gag reel, commentary, more.

JAMES JENNINGS

THE EMPIRE VIEWING GUIDE

Take a deep dive inside Marvel's epic grudge match

WORDS CHRIS HEWITT



SKULL AND CROSSBONES

Frank Grillo's *The Winter Soldier* bad guy, Brock Rumlow (aka Crossbones), is blown up (something Grillo grumbled about publicly) in the film's opening sequence. "We can't imagine he

was super-jazzed," says writer Stephen McFeely. "But he's fundamentally connected to the Civil War," adds co-writer Christopher Markus. "Because of that explosion; the Avengers take the blame for it."



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FAREWELL, AGENT CARTER

An Avengers argument takes a poignant time out as Chris Evans's Steve Rogers acts as pall bearer at the funeral of his lost love, Peggy Carter, who dies off screen. "I saw someone on the internet who was bothered that we had killed Peggy by text," says McFeely. "She was 96. What scene did you want? And we had said farewell to her in the last movie, really."



CAP'S MASSIVE GUNS "Generally we don't describe specific muscles in the script," laughs Markus of the notorious moment where Steve displays his biceps and triceps as he tries to stop his old pal Bucky (Sebastian Stan) taking

off in a helicopter. "That came down from a longer set-piece where Steve tried to catch the helicopter and was flown a few blocks," adds McFeely. "The Russos shaved it down to this one image."