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The Amazing Spider-Man 2 : Not just a re-make, but a re-hash.

A high-profile, \$200 million blockbuster that lasts for 2 hours and 20 minutes... yet there's nothing we haven't seen before.

I dislike re-makes... especially a re-make of a franchise that only started 12 years ago. A more youthful audience might argue that the dubstep music, teenage temper tantrums and cocksure attitude of Andrew Garfield's Spider-Man makes this film far more contemporary and successful with its target audience than the 2002 *Spider-Man*. OK, but the fact that the film is a re-make doesn't niggle me as much as the fact it is a re-hash of every mainstream film cliché.

The “will they, won't they?” cliché that we expect to find more in the Romance genre rather than a superhero film is heavily spread across the disappointing relationship between Gwen Stacy and Peter Parker. The constant struggle of break-ups, flirting, moving away (rinse and repeat) quickly begins to bore. At one point, I let out a giggle at the ridiculousness of Gwen pointing out that she broke up with Peter when he tries to break up with her, only to then have a group of pre-pubescent girls glare at me from behind their cinema seats.

Though they quickly shot their eyes back to the screen lovingly at the rich and troubled bad-boy Harry Osborn played by Dane Dehaan. The typical “you were my friend and now you have betrayed me!” character that Dehaan portrays was already clichéd but might have been effective if we weren't constantly try to name all the Leonardo DiCaprio film's that Dehaan was visually referencing. This 'betrayed DiCaprio' performance is a rehash within a rehash.

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Though the worst of all the clichés has to be what Gail Simone calls, “Women in Refrigerators” - this is where a female character is killed, raped or shoved in a fridge to give the male character a new lease of life and power to achieve his goal. This is predominant in the superhero genre and is exactly what happens to Gwen Stacy in the film. Her death did nothing emotionally for me, unlike the wailing teens in front of me, as I was sick of the mind-game relationship between her and Peter... on top of the fact that Garfield's sad/crying acting is cringe-worthy. After about 5 minutes of moping around emotion, Spider-Man is ready to get out and be a super-hero again – Gwen's major contribution to the film.

Perhaps this boom of re-makes, including *The Amazing Spider-Man*, *Carrie*, *Tarzan*, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *Godzilla* etc. is a path way for teenagers into films. Having a popular cast and a strong teen drama element could be film's attempt to mirror television's success with the youth audience. We may not appreciate re-makes as much as a younger audiences since, unlike them, we have watched and experienced the originals – they have lost their magic and feel unnecessary. The target audience may not realise these tropes are clichéd, and from youth's perspective, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* is an appealing mainstream film... if you're under the age of fourteen and didn't watch any films before 2010!