

# Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse



***Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*** is a 2018 American computer-animated superhero film featuring the Marvel Comics character Miles Morales / Spider-Man, produced by Columbia Pictures and Sony Pictures Animation in association with Marvel Entertainment, and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing. It was the first animated film in the *Spider-Man* franchise.<sup>[4][5]</sup> Directed by Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, and Rodney Rothman (in Persichetti and Rothman's feature directorial debuts) from a screenplay by Phil Lord and Rothman, it stars Shameik Moore as Morales, alongside the voices of Jake Johnson, Hailee Steinfeld, Mahershala Ali, Brian Tyree Henry, Lily Tomlin, Luna Lauren Vélez, John Mulaney, Kimiko Glenn, Nicolas Cage, and Liev Schreiber. Inspired by the *Amazing Spider-Man* story arc "Spider-Verse", while also taking inspiration from the Ultimate Marvel comics "The Death of Spider-Man" and *Spider-Men* that served as Miles Morales' debut, the film's story follows Miles as he becomes the new Spider-Man and joins other Spider-People from various parallel universes to save his universe from Kingpin.

Plans for an animated Spider-Man film by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller were leaked in 2014 and announced in April 2015. Persichetti, Ramsey and Rothman joined over the next two years, with Moore and Schreiber cast in April 2017. Lord and Miller wanted the film to have a unique style, combining computer animation with traditional hand-drawn comic book techniques inspired by the work of Miles Morales co-creator Sara Pichelli. The film required up to 140 animators, the largest crew used by Sony Pictures Animation on a feature film.<sup>[6]</sup> The film is dedicated to the memories of the creators of Spider-Man, Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, who both died in 2018.

*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* premiered at the Regency Village Theater in Los Angeles on December 1, 2018, and was theatrically released in the United States on December 14. The film grossed \$384.3 million worldwide against a \$90 million budget and received critical acclaim. The film won Best Animated Feature at the 91st Academy Awards—being the first non-Disney/Pixar film to win the award since *Rango* (2011) and was similarly successful at the 76th Golden Globe Awards, the 72nd British Academy Film Awards, and the 46th Annie Awards.

A sequel, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, was released in 2023 to greater critical and commercial success. A third film, *Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse*, and a spin-off film

## *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Bob Persichetti
	Peter Ramsey
	Rodney Rothman
Screenplay by	Phil Lord
	Rodney Rothman
Story by	Phil Lord
Based on	Marvel Comics
Produced by	Avi Arad
	Amy Pascal
	Phil Lord
	Christopher Miller
	Christina Steinberg
Starring	Shameik Moore
	Jake Johnson
	Hailee Steinfeld
	Mahershala Ali
	Brian Tyree Henry

focused on female Spider-related characters are in development, with a television series being considered.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Plot

New York City teenager Miles Morales struggles to live up to the expectations of his father, police officer Jefferson Davis, who sees Spider-Man as a menace. Miles' uncle Aaron Davis takes him to an abandoned subway station to paint graffiti to cheer him up. There, Miles is bitten by a radioactive spider and gains abilities similar to Spider-Man. Returning to the station, he discovers a collider built by the Kingpin, who hopes to access parallel universes to bring back his late wife and son. Spider-Man attempts to disable the collider while fighting Kingpin's henchmen, Green Goblin and the Prowler.

Green Goblin shoves Spider-Man into the collider, causing an explosion that kills Goblin and wounds Spider-Man. Spider-Man gives Miles a USB flash drive designed to disable the collider, warning that the machine could destroy the city. After watching in horror as Kingpin kills Spider-Man, Miles flees. As the city mourns Spider-Man's death, Miles tries to honor his legacy and become the new Spider-Man but inadvertently damages the drive. At Spider-Man's grave, he meets Peter B. Parker, an older and worn-down version of Spider-Man from another dimension.

The two infiltrate Kingpin's research facility to steal data for a new flash drive. They are confronted by mad scientist Olivia Octavius, who discovers that Peter will die from cellular decay if he remains in their dimension. Miles and Peter are saved by Gwen Stacy, a Spider-Woman from another dimension. They visit Spider-Man's aunt, May Parker; she is sheltering more Spider-people who slipped into Miles' universe from other dimensions due to the collider explosion - Spider-Man Noir, Peni Parker, and Spider-Ham - who are also deteriorating. Miles offers to help the others return home but they tell him he lacks experience.

Distraught, Miles retreats to Aaron's home, where he discovers Aaron is the Prowler. He flees to May's house, where Peni has completed the new drive; he is followed by Kingpin, Prowler, Octavius, Scorpion, and Tombstone. In the ensuing brawl, he reveals his identity to Aaron. Unwilling to kill his own nephew, Aaron spares Miles, but is fatally shot by Kingpin in retaliation, and dies in Miles' arms. Miles flees just as his father arrives on the scene; Jefferson mistakes the fleeing Spider-Man as Aaron's murderer. The heroes regroup with a devastated Miles. Peter chooses to sacrifice himself by staying behind and deactivating the collider.

Jefferson arrives outside Miles' door and expresses his faith in Miles, inspiring him. Miles manages to control his powers and creates his own Spider-Man suit. He joins the heroes, defeating Kingpin's enforcers and using the new drive to send them home. Kingpin fights Miles as Jefferson watches and realizes that Spider-Man isn't a menace. His encouragement of Spider-Man gives Miles strength to throw Kingpin at the kill switch, causing the collider to explode. The city is saved, Kingpin and his henchmen are arrested, and Jefferson receives evidence of Kingpin's murders of Peter and Aaron.

	<div><div><div><span></span></div><div><u>Lily Tomlin</u></div></div><div><div><span></span></div><div><u>Luna Lauren Vélez</u></div></div></div> <div><div><span></span></div><div><u>John Mulaney</u></div></div> <div><div><span></span></div><div><u>Kimiko Glenn</u></div></div> <div><div><span></span></div><div><u>Nicolas Cage</u></div></div> <div><div><span></span></div><div><u>Liev Schreiber</u></div></div>
<b>Edited by</b>	Robert Fisher Jr.
<b>Music by</b>	<u>Daniel Pemberton</u>
<b>Production companies</b>	<div><div><div><u>Columbia Pictures</u></div><div><u>Marvel</u></div><div><u>Entertainment</u></div><div><u>Sony Pictures</u></div><div><u>Animation</u></div><div><u>Pascal Pictures</u><sup>[1]</sup></div><div><u>Arad Productions</u><sup>[1]</sup></div><div><u>Lord Miller</u></div><div><u>Productions</u><sup>[1]</sup></div></div></div>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<u>Sony Pictures</u> <u>Releasing</u>
<b>Release dates</b>	<div><div>December 1, 2018</div><div><u>(Regency Village Theater)</u></div><div>December 14, 2018</div><div><u>(United States)</u></div></div>
<b>Running time</b>	117 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$90 million <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Box office</b>	\$384.3 million <sup>[3]</sup>

Miles embraces the responsibilities of his new life. Later, Gwen finds a way to contact Miles from her own dimension.<sup>[a]</sup> In another dimension, Miguel O'Hara, also known as Spider-Man 2099, travels to Earth-67 and argues with its Spider-Man.<sup>[b]</sup>

## Cast

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Shameik Moore, Jake Johnson, and Hailee Steinfeld promoting the film at the 2018 San Diego Comic-Con

- Shameik Moore as Miles Morales / Spider-Man:  
An intelligent and rebellious teenager of African-American and Puerto Rican descent, who is imbued with spider-like abilities after being bitten by a radioactive spider and eventually takes up the mantle of the masked vigilante Spider-Man.<sup>[9]</sup> Producers Lord and Miller described the character as unique among Spider-Men because of his Brooklyn upbringing, his African-American and Puerto-Rican background, and the fact that his family is still alive,<sup>[10]</sup> with that family dynamic being central to the film's story.<sup>[11]</sup>
- Jake Johnson as Peter B. Parker / Spider-Man:  
Miles' reluctant mentor,<sup>[12]</sup> a disheveled, jaded, and brown-haired 38-year-old counterpart of the hero from another dimension.<sup>[13]</sup> He is intended to be an amalgamation of all pop culture Spider-Man adaptations and interpretations. Lord and Miller envisioned him to be like The Karate Kid's Mr. Miyagi, if "Mr. Miyagi doesn't know anything," which they thought was a "really neat color to put onto Peter that we hadn't seen before."<sup>[11]</sup>

- Hailee Steinfeld as Gwen Stacy / Spider-Woman: A dimension-displaced counterpart of Gwen Stacy with spider-like abilities, who takes up the alias of "Wanda" (mistaken as "Gwanda") while at Miles' school. In onscreen comic books while explaining her origin story, she is referred to as "Spider-Gwen".<sup>[14]</sup>
- Mahershala Ali as Aaron Davis / Prowler: Miles' uncle, who moonlights as a masked enforcer for Wilson Fisk while keeping it a secret from his family. He is rebellious, causing him to be looked at poorly by Jefferson.<sup>[15]</sup>
- Brian Tyree Henry as Jefferson Davis: Miles' African-American father, a police officer, who disapproves of Spider-Man's vigilante actions.<sup>[15]</sup> At the age of 35, Henry had said he was too young to portray a father of a teenager, but agreed to the role after learning that Miles Morales was the only black, Latino Spider-Man.<sup>[4]</sup>
- Lily Tomlin as May Parker: Peter's aunt, who is dead in Peter B. Parker's universe, and provides refuge for the other Spider-People in Miles' universe.<sup>[14]</sup>
- Luna Lauren Vélez as Rio Morales: Miles' Puerto-Rican mother, a nurse.<sup>[14]</sup>
- Zoë Kravitz as Mary Jane "MJ" Parker: Peter Parker's wife in Miles' universe and Peter B. Parker's former wife in his universe.
- John Mulaney as Peter Porker / Spider-Ham: An alternate talking animal version of Spider-Man from an anthropomorphic universe, who was once a spider, bitten by a radioactive pig.<sup>[16][17]</sup>
- Kimiko Glenn as Peni Parker / SP//dr: A young Japanese-American girl from an alternative anime-like universe who copilots a biomechanical suit with a radioactive spider that she shares a telepathic link with.<sup>[17]</sup> The filmmakers initially considered using Silk as their Asian-American Spider-Man, but eventually settled on Peni because of her more distinctive power set compared to the other Spider-People.<sup>[18]</sup> Peni's designs went through a few iterations as her initial design was particularly "iffy." Production designer Justin Thompson considered Lord and Miller's desire to use an anime design and came up with the idea to portray her in an art style similar to Sailor Moon.<sup>[19]</sup>
- Nicolas Cage as Peter Parker / Spider-Man Noir: A dark and monochromatic alternate version of Peter Parker from a 1930s universe.<sup>[20]</sup> Cage based his character on the films of Humphrey Bogart, and the voices of actors from that era such as James Cagney and Edward G. Robinson.<sup>[21]</sup>
- Kathryn Hahn as Doctor Olivia "Liv" Octavius: The head scientist and CEO of Alchemax, and a scientific adviser to Wilson Fisk. The character uses highly advanced tentacles and is featured in much of the marketing for Alchemax, even being seen in a documentary by Miles in school.
- Liev Schreiber as Wilson Fisk / Kingpin: A crime lord and the leader of Alchemax in Miles' dimension. His ultimate motive is to resurrect his dead wife and son, who died in a car crash escaping from him.<sup>[9][14]</sup>

In addition to the six main versions of Spider-Man present in the film, Chris Pine is featured as a 26-year-old, blond-haired blue-eyed version of Peter Parker's Spider-Man native to Miles' dimension. Though he offers to mentor Miles, he is killed by Kingpin after the activation of the collider before he can do so. This version of Parker was intended to be "as competent a Spider-Man as possible," and combines elements from previous Spider-Man portrayals, but with slight differences to indicate that he is from a different universe than the others. According to Parker's eulogy, he was a graduate student and married to Mary Jane Parker.

Additional voices for the film include: [Lake Bell](#) as [Vanessa Fisk](#), Kingpin's wife, [Jorma Taccone](#) as [Norman Osborn / Green Goblin](#), a genetically enhanced mercenary working for Kingpin,<sup>[22]</sup> [Marvin "Kronon" Jones III](#) as [Tombstone](#), Kingpin's silent and heavily armed bodyguard,<sup>[23]</sup> [Joaquín Cosío](#) as [Scorpion](#), a Mexican cyborg with prosthetic legs and a tail,<sup>[24]</sup> and [Post Malone](#) (who contributed to the film's soundtrack) as a bystander in Brooklyn.<sup>[25][22]</sup> An archival recording of [Cliff Robertson](#) from *Spider-Man 2* was used for a flashback scene involving the character [Ben Parker](#). Spider-Man co-creator [Stan Lee](#) appears in a posthumous cameo, as a character named Stan who sells a Spider-Man costume to Morales. Lord and Miller said it was important to give Lee a bigger moment in the film rather than just a passing cameo, because he was "so integral to the spirit of this movie," and the role was "extra meaningful" following Lee's death in November 2018.<sup>[11][26]</sup> Lee's character also has several brief "Easter egg" cameos throughout the film, such as when he walks over Miles and Peter B. when they are lying on the streets of New York City.<sup>[27][28][29]</sup> A young [Matt Murdock](#) from Gwen's dimension appears in an "Easter egg" cameo during Morales' final train fight scene as an alternate universe adopted son of Kingpin.<sup>[30]</sup>

Cameos during the film's post-credits include [Oscar Isaac](#) as [Miguel O'Hara / Spider-Man 2099](#), an alternative version of Spider-Man from the [Marvel 2099](#) imprint,<sup>[31]</sup> [Greta Lee](#) as O'Hara's AI assistant [Lyla](#) (respectively credited as "Interesting Person #1" and "Interesting Person #2"), and [Jorma Taccone](#) as the [Peter Parker / Spider-Man](#) from the 1967 TV series (replacing [Paul Soles](#), with the character being credited as "Last Dude").<sup>[32]</sup> [Donald Glover](#) appears on a background TV screen, which is displaying a scene from the episode "[Anthropology 101](#)" of *Community* in which Glover's character, [Troy Barnes](#), wears Spider-Man pajamas. This scene, a reference to an unsuccessful Twitter campaign suggesting Glover be cast in the lead role of *The Amazing Spider-Man*,<sup>[33]</sup> was cited by Miles Morales' creator, [Brian Michael Bendis](#), as influencing the design and portrayal of the character.<sup>[34]</sup> Glover had previously voiced a version of Miles Morales in the *Ultimate Spider-Man* animated series, and played [Aaron Davis](#) in *Spider-Man: Homecoming*.<sup>[35]</sup>

Miles Morales's best friend and roommate [Ganke Lee](#) appears.<sup>[36][37]</sup> The character originally had a bigger role, but was rewritten due to *Spider-Man: Homecoming* having the similar character [Ned Leeds](#).<sup>[38]</sup> Pixar animator [Peter Sohn](#) was cast as Ganke before the character's dialogue was cut from the final film;<sup>[39]</sup> Sohn would later voice the character in the sequel, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*.<sup>[40]</sup>

## Production

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### Development



Directors [Peter Ramsey](#), [Rodney Rothman](#), and [Bob Persichetti](#) at the 2018 [San Diego Comic-Con](#)

Following the [November 2014](#) [hacking of Sony's computers](#), emails between then-Sony Pictures Entertainment co-chairman [Amy Pascal](#) and president [Doug Belgrad](#) were released, saying that Sony was planning to "rejuvenate" the *Spider-Man* franchise by developing an animated comedy film with [Phil Lord](#)



and Christopher Miller.<sup>[41]</sup> During her time as Sony's co-chairman, Pascal approached Lord and Miller about making an animated *Spider-Man* movie, to which Lord and Miller agreed with the condition that they could adapt Dan Slott's 2014 "*Spider-Verse*" comic book storyline and star Miles Morales as the protagonist.<sup>[42]</sup> Sony executives were set to talk about the project further in a discussion regarding several *Spider-Man* spin-off films at a summit in January 2015.<sup>[41]</sup> At the 2015 CinemaCon in April, Sony Pictures chairman Tom Rothman announced that the animated *Spider-Man* film had a July 20, 2018, release date, and would be produced by Lord and Miller, Avi Arad, Matt Tolmach, and Pascal, with Lord and Miller also writing a treatment for the film. Rothman said that it would "co-exist" with the live-action *Spider-Man* films; though Sony soon stated that the film would "exist independently of the projects in the live-action *Spider-Man* universe,"<sup>[43]</sup> as it is set in an alternate universe from those films, without the version of *Spider-Man* as seen in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.<sup>[44]</sup>

That December, Sony moved the film's release date to December 21, 2018.<sup>[45]</sup> By June 2016, Lord had written a script for the film, and the studio chose Bob Persichetti to direct.<sup>[46]</sup> Miller said the film would feel different from previous *Spider-Man* films, and would "stand on its own as a unique film-going experience."<sup>[47]</sup> It was also "rumored" to focus on the Miles Morales version of *Spider-Man*,<sup>[46][47]</sup> which Sony confirmed at a presentation for its upcoming animated films in January 2017. Peter Ramsey had joined the film as a co-director by that point.<sup>[48]</sup> The next month, Alex Hirsch was named as a story contributor and Christina Steinberg replaced Tolmach as a producer; she previously collaborated with Ramsey on *Rise of the Guardians* (2012) while at DreamWorks Animation.<sup>[10][49]</sup> In April 2017, the release date was pushed up one week from December 21, 2018, to December 14, 2018.<sup>[50]</sup> Lord and Miller announced the film's full title in December and said that multiple *Spider-Men* would appear in the film. By then, Rodney Rothman, who had previously co-written the screenplay for Lord and Miller's *22 Jump Street* (2014), was added as a co-director.<sup>[51]</sup>

## Writing

The script is credited to Lord and Rothman from a story by Lord, making it the first film Lord had written without Miller.<sup>[52]</sup> As six *Spider-Man* films had been made already, the team agreed they first needed to decide why this one needed to be made; their answer was to tell the story of Morales, who had yet to appear in a film.<sup>[6]</sup> Brian Michael Bendis, co-creator of Miles Morales, consulted on the film adaptation.<sup>[53]</sup> The first full cut of animatics and storyboards for the film was over two hours long, which is uncommon for animated films. The directors attributed this mostly to Lord and Miller, and their approach of adding as many elements to the film as they could at the outset, with the intention of seeing what it could "handle"; and then shaping the film from there. They said that the final runtime would be between 90 and 120 minutes, the standard length of an animated film. They added that a balance would have to be found between the expectations of an animated film that will have a large audience of children, and the requirements of the story. The directors felt the plot was similar to the live-action *Spider-Man* films, especially due to the large number of characters in the film.<sup>[6]</sup> One year prior to its release, Lord and Rothman opted to rewrite the story as they had to "figure out how to reshape sequences we had already boarded and animated and fold them in with new stuff". They also added that they had substantially rewritten the third act.<sup>[54]</sup>

The film was originally set to feature a romance between Miles Morales and Spider-Gwen.<sup>[55]</sup> While the idea was scrapped, *Spider-Gwen* was still featured prominently in the film, mostly due to the efforts of producer Christina Steinberg.<sup>[55]</sup> By August 2018, the directors had considered what a potential post-credits scene for the film could be, given that audiences have come to expect them from Marvel films.<sup>[6]</sup> At one point the writers wished to include a post-credits scene with cameos by all three live-action *Spider-Man*

actors, Tobey Maguire, Andrew Garfield, and Tom Holland, but this was canceled as Sony felt such a moment at the time would cause confusion and be too risky.<sup>[56]</sup> Holland recalled the scene was intended to include him as a passerby at a train station who says, "Hey, kid!" to Miles.<sup>[57]</sup>

## Casting

Shameik Moore was cast as Miles Morales in April 2017, along with Liev Schreiber as the film's then-unspecified main villain.<sup>[9]</sup> A month later, Mahershala Ali and Brian Tyree Henry joined the cast as Morales's uncle Aaron Davis and father Jefferson Davis, respectively.<sup>[15]</sup> That December, Lord and Miller said that an adult Peter Parker / Spider-Man would appear in the film as a mentor to Morales.<sup>[58]</sup> Maguire, who played Spider-Man in the Sam Raimi films, was initially considered to be cast as this version of Spider-Man, but the idea was dropped so as not to confuse the audience with the concept of the "Spider-Verse."<sup>[59]</sup> Jake Johnson was ultimately cast in the role in April 2018.<sup>[12]</sup> It was also announced that the characters Green Goblin, Kingpin, and Prowler would also appear, with their designs based on the Ultimate Marvel comic series.<sup>[60]</sup>

In June 2018, Sony confirmed further casting, including Schreiber playing Kingpin, Hailee Steinfeld as Spider-Gwen, Luna Lauren Vélez as Morales's mother Rio, and Lily Tomlin as Parker's Aunt May.<sup>[14]</sup> A month later, Nicolas Cage (who was considered for the role of Green Goblin in the first *Spider-Man* film),<sup>[61][62]</sup> John Mulaney and Kimiko Glenn were announced as the voices of Spider-Man Noir,<sup>[20]</sup> Spider-Ham and Peni Parker, respectively.<sup>[17]</sup> Chris Pine as the Peter Parker of Miles' universe and Oscar Isaac as Spider-Man 2099 were announced in November 2018.<sup>[63][31]</sup> Pine was also involved in Ramsey's previous film, *Rise of the Guardians*. Lord and Miller explained that the alternate Spider-Man characters were chosen based on the comics they had read, as well as research they conducted on Marvel Comics, with the intention of including actual characters from the comics who "were as diverse as possible."<sup>[11]</sup>

## Music

Daniel Pemberton was announced as the film's composer in July 2018.<sup>[64]</sup> A full soundtrack album was released by Republic Records on December 14, the day of the film's release, and was curated to represent what a teen like Miles Morales would listen to.<sup>[65]</sup> Artists on the soundtrack include Jaden Smith, Nicki Minaj, Lil Wayne, Post Malone, Ty Dolla Sign, Juice Wrld, Swae Lee, Ski Mask the Slump God, Vince Staples, Thutmose, and the late XXXTentacion, who was marketed as a special guest on the Lil Wayne and Ty Dolla Sign song "Scared of the Dark". A separate album containing Pemberton's score was released by Sony Classical Records on December 17.<sup>[66]</sup> On December 20, Sony Pictures Animation announced an extended play album, *A Very Spidey Christmas*, based on a throwaway joke at the beginning of the film and consisting of five Christmas songs performed by cast members Shameik Moore, Jake Johnson, and Chris Pine. The EP was released on digital platforms the next day.<sup>[67][68]</sup>

Elliphant recorded the song "To the End" for the film, where it served as the introduction music for Spider-Woman. The song was released as a single in January 2019,<sup>[69]</sup> but was not included on the official soundtrack album.

## Animation and design

The film's animation was handled by Sony Pictures Imageworks in Vancouver, who had handled nearly all of Sony Pictures Animation's prior films, as well as visual effects for all prior *Spider-Man* films. According to Lord and Miller, they wanted the film to feel like the viewer had "walked inside a comic book," and

were excited about telling the story in a way they believed the live action films could not.<sup>[58]</sup> Persichetti concurred, feeling that animation was the best medium to honor the comics, allowing the production team to adapt 70-year-old comic art techniques for the film's visual language.<sup>[6]</sup> It took around a year for two animators to create 10 seconds of footage that reflected the producers' vision; the animation work was created from there.<sup>[70]</sup> During initial development, the directors worked with a single animator, Alberto Mielgo, to establish the film's look.<sup>[71]</sup> Although Mielgo was let go by Sony before the movie had been significantly produced due to artistic differences,<sup>[72]</sup> this number eventually grew to 60 animators during production. It became clear that they could not complete the film on time, so the crew was expanded further. The number had reached 142 animators by August 2018 and at one point to 177 animators,<sup>[73]</sup> the largest animation crew that Sony Pictures Imageworks had ever used for a film. Animation work was completed in October 2018.<sup>[6]</sup>

The CGI animation for the film was combined with "line work and painting and dots and all sorts of comic book techniques," to make it look like it was created by hand, which was described as "a living painting."<sup>[58]</sup> This was achieved by artists taking rendered frames from the CGI animators and working on top of them in 2D, with the goal of making every frame of the film "look like a comic panel."<sup>[74][75]</sup> Lord described this style of animation as "totally revolutionary,"<sup>[10]</sup> and explained that the design combines the in-house style of Sony Pictures Animation with the "flavor" of comic artists such as Sara Pichelli (who co-created Miles Morales) and Robbi Rodriguez.<sup>[10][11]</sup> The film's tone and visual style also drew influence from Japanese anime and manga works such as Hayao Miyazaki films and Akira (1988).<sup>[76]</sup>

To make the film feel more like a comic book, it was animated without motion blur, instead using an older technique of 2D animation called motion smearing, as seen in the 1942 Looney Tunes short The Dover Boys. The frame rate varied between 24 images (animating on ones) and 12 images (animating on twos) per second, the latter case using the same image twice. The producers described the effect as making the animation "crunchy." Sometimes, the two frame rates would be used in the same scene, such as when Miles and Peter Parker swing through the forest; Miles was animated at 12 frames to show his inexperience while Peter was animated at 24 frame to give him smoother movement.<sup>[77]</sup> With characters being held up for one, two and three frames, it made their motion look jittery, which was named stepped animation.<sup>[78]</sup> To create depth of field, another technique was used: deliberately misaligned colors, as if the colors had been slightly misprinted, as happens with ink printing in real comics. Other methods to make the film look more like a comic were halftones and Ben-Day dots to create colors, tones and gradients, crisscrossed lines to create texture and shadows, Kirby Krackle to create the illusion of energy, motion lines to show movement, and onomatopoeia, words on the image, to represent sounds and motion.<sup>[77]</sup>

Rather than using animation principles like squash and stretch, the animators came up with substitute versions, "so that in texture and feel it felt different, but it still achieved the same goal—to either feel weight or anticipation or impact or things like that."<sup>[79]</sup> Different comic styles were emulated throughout the film for the different characters, with Spider-Gwen's animation based on the designs in her comics, Spider-Man Noir having a black-and-white color scheme, Spider-Ham being designed as "cartoony" as possible,<sup>[80]</sup> and Peni Parker being based on Japanese anime and manga such as Sailor Moon.<sup>[76]</sup> Former Disney concept artist Shiyo Kim served as overall character designer,<sup>[80]</sup> while Craig Kellman designed the exaggerated look for Spider-Ham.<sup>[75]</sup> Justin K. Thompson served as production designer after having done so on the Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs films for Lord, Miller, and Sony Pictures Animation.<sup>[81]</sup> Danny Dimian, who had worked on both the 2002 Spider-Man film and the first Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs film while at Imageworks, served as visual effects supervisor for the film. He compared the approach the company took with Spider-Verse to the 2000 film Hollow Man.<sup>[82]</sup> Animation co-director Patrick O'Keefe said that committing fully to each Spider's unique art style was like "making five movies."<sup>[75]</sup> In-universe comic-books in the film were designed as a combination of the artwork of Steve



Ditko and John Romita Jr.<sup>[11]</sup> Chris Pine's Peter Parker's cover was designed by Keith Pollard while Erik Larsen designed the cover for Jake Johnson's Peter Parker, and Miles Morales's co-creator Sara Pichelli also contributed art for the film.<sup>[83]</sup>

The directors all felt that the film would be one of the few that audiences actually "need" to watch in 3D, due to the immersive nature of the animated world created, and the way that the hand-drawn animation elements designed specifically for the film create a unique experience; Persichetti described the experience as a combination of the effects of an old-fashioned hand-drawn multiplane camera and a modern virtual reality environment.<sup>[6]</sup> One scene in Aaron Davis's apartment includes an image of Donald Glover in the background, which references Glover's part in fan campaigns to see a non-white version of Spider-Man, as well as a scene from the Community episode "Anthropology 101" where Glover's character of Troy Barnes wakes up in Spider-Man pajamas.<sup>[11]</sup> Glover also portrayed Aaron Davis in *Spider-Man: Homecoming* and voiced Miles in the *Ultimate Spider-Man* television series.<sup>[84]</sup>

## Marketing

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A thirty-second sizzle reel from the film was shown at a Sony Pictures Animation presentation in January 2017, revealing that the film focuses on Miles Morales. Scott Mendelson at *Forbes* said the footage "looked incredible [*sic*] stylized and resembled a cross between an Alex Ross image and a psychedelic [comic] cover," but felt the most significant element of the presentation was the confirmation of Morales, meaning "2018 will offer another comic book superhero movie featuring a hero of color, during the same year as Marvel's *Black Panther*."<sup>[48]</sup> A teaser trailer for the film debuted at the 2017 Comic Con Experience, and was then released online.<sup>[51]</sup> Chris Cabin at Collider felt the trailer "looks much better than it ever needed to. The style and design that is on display ... is vibrant and immediately engaging on a visual level, showing a genuine sense of personality to the production."<sup>[85]</sup> io9's Julie Muncy called the trailer's visual design "elegant" and "fresh," and highlighted the use of music by Vince Staples, which was also used for the *Black Panther* trailers.<sup>[86]</sup>

The official trailer for the film was released online at the start of June 2018, and was praised by Chaim Gartenberg of *The Verge* for its "absolutely gorgeous" art style. He also highlighted the non-Peter Parker Spider-people appearing in the trailer, Miles Morales and Gwen Stacy.<sup>[44]</sup> For Cartoon Brew, Amid Amidi praised the trailer for focusing on drama rather than action, and for seemingly targeting "a slightly hipper, more urban, and teen-oriented crowd." He felt that animated films were usually focused on pleasing "all-ages, all-audiences," which marked this film as a "radical change for United States feature animation."<sup>[87]</sup> Dani Di Placido of *Forbes* praised the trailer for inspiring interest in the Spider-Man property after several different incarnations of the character had appeared in films. He said it achieved this by leaning into the comic storyline of the Spider-Verse and having multiple versions of the character in one film, and by its "beautifully rendered" visuals, that differentiated it from other major animated films. Placido said, "it's nice to see a movie just go nuts and embrace the weirdness of comic books and their eternally shapeshifting storylines."<sup>[88]</sup> The trailer generated 164 thousand conversations across social media platforms within a day of its release, and in three days had been viewed 44 million times, making the film one of Sony's most viral, alongside *Sausage Party* (2016).<sup>[89]</sup>

Sony released a second trailer for the film in October 2018,<sup>[52]</sup> ahead of a promotional panel at New York Comic Con where the first 35 minutes of the film were shown.<sup>[52][90]</sup> Lord and Miller explained that they chose not to show clips from throughout the film because they would lack context for the audience, so instead aired an extended sequence for the presentation, even though it had some unfinished animation and music.<sup>[90]</sup> At the time, Sony's film *Venom* was playing in theaters, featuring another extended clip from *Into the Spider-Verse* as a post-credits scene. The scene confirmed that the shared universe that *Venom* is part of is one of the universes connected within the "Spider-Verse" multiverse.<sup>[91]</sup>

In November 2018, Sony launched *Spider-Verse Web AR Experience*, a mobile augmented reality experience created by 8th Wall and Trigger to run on Amazon Web Services. Inspired by the film, the AR experience allows users to include Spider-Man in photos they take of their environment.<sup>[92]</sup> The film also received a \$115 million promotional "boost" from various companies—one of the largest such campaigns for a Sony film—including the Ad Council, who included the film's characters in an anti-bullying campaign; McDonald's, with a unique Happy Meal TV spot created in the film's animation style, as well as a special "double height" Happy Meal box for Australian McDonald's locations, designed like a skyscraper that the characters can swing from; Synchrony Bank, as part of their "Save Like a Hero" campaign; Nike, who sold the Air Jordan shoes that Morales wears in the film; General Mills cereal; official toy lines from Hasbro; themed cruises with Genting Cruise Lines; a "comprehensive" social media-based campaign in China by Tencent QQ, a brand that can be seen in the film; and other technology partners eBay, Vodafone, Garmin, Adobe, and Wacom.<sup>[93]</sup>

On December 21, 2018, an unlockable costume based on the Spider-Man suit worn by the Peter Parker of Miles' universe was added to the PlayStation 4 video game *Marvel's Spider-Man* to promote the film. On December 29, Sony published the movie's screenplay online.<sup>[36]</sup>

## Release

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### Theatrical

*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* was released by Sony Pictures Releasing under its Columbia Pictures label on December 14, 2018.<sup>[50][94]</sup> In April 2015, Sony had made its first official announcement that an animated Spider-Man film was in development, with a release date scheduled for July 20, 2018.<sup>[5]</sup> It is the first animated Spider-Man feature film, and is independent of the timelines of other Spider-Man universe films.<sup>[5]</sup> At the end of 2015, the release date was changed to December 21, 2018, and was moved up by one week two years later.<sup>[43][45][50]</sup> Sony premiered the film at the Regency Village Theater in Los Angeles on December 1, 2018, and included tributes to Stan Lee and Steve Ditko.<sup>[95][4]</sup>

### Home media

*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* was released on digital download by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment on February 26, 2019, with Blu-ray, Ultra HD Blu-ray, and DVD releases following on March 19.<sup>[96]</sup> All releases were accompanied by a short film featuring Spider-Ham entitled *Caught in a Ham*.<sup>[97]</sup> An extended cut called the *Alt-Universe Cut*, featuring 30 minutes of unreleased footage, including some scenes with Miles' roommate, Ganke, and a deleted cameo with Tom Cruise and James Cameron, was also featured on its home video release.<sup>[98]</sup> *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* was also released in Blu-ray 3D format in several regions, outside of the United States and United Kingdom, on April 10, 2019.<sup>[99]</sup>

In the United Kingdom, it was aired on Sky Cinema Premiere in 2019. It drew 1.1 million viewers, making it the year's eighth most-watched film on pay TV channels.<sup>[100]</sup>

In April 2021, Sony signed a deal with Disney giving them access to their legacy content, including *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* and its sequels, to stream on Disney+ and Hulu and appear on Disney's linear television networks. Disney's access to Sony's titles would come following their availability on Netflix. *Into*

*the Spider-Verse* had previously been available on [Starz](#) and [FX](#).<sup>[101][102]</sup> The film became available on Disney+ in the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan on June 17, 2022, and on September 9, 2022, in Ireland, Latin America and Europe.<sup>[103]</sup>

## Reception

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### Box office

*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* grossed \$190.2 million in the United States and Canada, and \$194.0 million in other territories, for a total worldwide gross of \$384.3 million, against a production budget of \$90 million.<sup>[3]</sup> On January 31, 2019, the film surpassed *Hotel Transylvania 2* to become [Sony Pictures Animation](#)'s highest-grossing film domestically, unadjusted for inflation.<sup>[104]</sup>

In the United States and Canada, *Into the Spider-Verse* was released on the same weekend as *Mortal Engines* and *The Mule*, and was projected to gross \$30–35 million from 3,813 theaters in its opening weekend.<sup>[94]</sup> It made \$12.6 million on its first day, including \$3.5 million from Thursday night previews, and went on to debut to \$35.4 million, finishing first at the box office and marking the best ever December opening for an animated film.<sup>[105]</sup> The film made \$16.7 million in its second weekend, finishing fourth, behind newcomers *Aquaman*, *Bumblebee* and *Mary Poppins Returns*, and then \$18.3 million in its third weekend, finishing fourth again.<sup>[106][107]</sup> In its fifth weekend the film made \$13 million, finishing in fourth for a third straight week.<sup>[108]</sup> On March 1–3, the weekend following its Best Animated Picture win at the [Academy Awards](#), the film was added to 1,661 theaters (for a total of 2,104) and made \$2.1 million, marking a 138% increase from the week before.<sup>[109]</sup>

### Critical response

On [Rotten Tomatoes](#), the film has an approval rating of 97% based on 400 reviews, with an average rating of 8.8/10. The website's critical consensus reads, "*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* matches bold storytelling with striking animation for a purely enjoyable adventure with heart, humor, and plenty of superhero action."<sup>[110]</sup> On [Metacritic](#), the film has a [weighted average](#) score of 87 out of 100 based on reviews from 50 critics, indicating "universal acclaim".<sup>[111]</sup> Audiences polled by [CinemaScore](#) gave the film a grade of "A+" on an A+ to F scale, and those at [PostTrak](#) gave it a 90% overall positive score, an 80% "definite recommend," and a 5 star rating.<sup>[105]</sup>

David Ehrlich of [IndieWire](#) gave the film a "B+" and called it "hilarious and ultimately even poignant," writing, "An eye-popping and irreverent animated experience from the marvelous comic minds who brought you *21 Jump Street*... *Into the Spider-Verse* is somehow both the nerdiest and most inviting superhero film in a long time; every single frame oozes with fan service."<sup>[112]</sup> Oliver Jones of *The New York Observer* gave the film 3.5 out of 4 stars and wrote, "The greatest triumph and biggest surprise of the film is that it is an LSD freak-out on par with *2001: A Space Odyssey*."<sup>[113]</sup> Johnny Oleksinski of *The New York Post* gave the film a 3.5 rating out of 4, hailing it as "the best stand-alone film to feature the iconic character so far," and praising Miles' characterization as "more fleshed out than the usual Marvel heroes."<sup>[114]</sup> Christy Lemire of *RogerEbert.com* praised the film's atmosphere and visual effects, adding that it "has a wonderfully trippy, dreamlike quality about it."<sup>[115]</sup> Todd McCarthy of *The Hollywood Reporter* wrote, "the freshest and most stimulating aspect of the film is the visual style, which unites the expected Marvel mix of 'universes' (it used to be assumed there was only one universe in creation) with

animation that looks both computer-driven and hand-drawn, boasts futuristic as well as funky urban elements, moves the 'camera' a lot and brings together a melting pot of mostly amusing new characters."<sup>[116]</sup>

William Bibbiani of *The Wrap* felt the film "represents some of the best superhero storytelling on the market," and that it "captures the sprawling interconnectivity of comic-book universes in a way that no other feature film has," calling it the best Spider-Man film since *Spider-Man 2*.<sup>[117]</sup> Justin Chang of the *Los Angeles Times* said that "What distinguishes *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* in the end is that it takes its mission seriously, even when it's being transparently silly."<sup>[118]</sup> David Sims of *The Atlantic* said that the film "somehow, through sheer creative gumption, does something new in the superhero genre," particularly praising the use of comic book's "visual language" as well as the characters' dynamic, and felt that the "anarchic fingerprints" of producers Lord and Miller were "all over the movie."<sup>[119]</sup> Katie Walsh of *Tribune News Service* said that the film is "unlike any other superhero or animated film that has come before," comparing the animation to "watching a comic book come to life," and feeling that the film "firmly exists in a post-*Deadpool* environment, where it seems the only fresh way into a century-old superhero is to skewer the tropes, make fun of the merchandising and acknowledge the cultural significance of it all in a cheeky and self-reflective manner." She added that Lord, who wrote the story and co-wrote the screenplay, was "the key to the balance of self-aware and sweet" present in the film.<sup>[120]</sup>

## Industry response and impact

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Actor Tom Holland, who plays Peter Parker / Spider-Man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, praised *Into the Spider-Verse* as "one of the coolest films [he has] ever seen,"<sup>[121]</sup> and he would later reiterate his statement on the film in 2023, calling it "the best *Spider-Man* movie that's ever been made."<sup>[122]</sup> Chris Pratt, who worked with Lord and Miller on *The Lego Movie* films, described it as an "emotionally moving, cutting edge, progressive, diverse, funny, meta, action-packed, silly, visually stunning masterpiece!"<sup>[123]</sup> Comedian and actor Patton Oswalt, who worked with Lord and Miller on *22 Jump Street* (2014) and appeared on Marvel's *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D* (2013–2020), called the film "brilliant," and continued, "This has been a non-stop year for me and I'm glad I'm ending it in such a cinematic high-note. Not only is it the best superhero film ever made, it's flat-out a game-changing MOVIE. Seeing it again tomorrow!"<sup>[124]</sup> Kevin Smith reviewed the film on his podcast *Fatman Beyond*, stating, "I always liked Spider-Man but this movie made me love Spider-Man on a Batman-type level," and continued, "It just goes to show you that any character in the right hands can be a transformative experience."<sup>[125]</sup> Barry Jenkins, writer and director of the Academy Award-winning film *Moonlight* (2016, which also starred Ali), praised the film, calling it "magnificent" and citing it as the best *Spider-Man* film, one of the best films of 2018, and the best tentpole film since *Edge of Tomorrow* (2014). Jenkins continued, saying, "I was stupefied. I mean just tremendous, tremendous work, so grounded and full of verve; visceral. Saw it on the biggest screen I could find, just a viscerally enthralling experience. I salute you."<sup>[126]</sup> Rian Johnson, writer and director of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017), described the film as "the Velvet Underground of superhero movies", believing it will be an influential film.<sup>[127][128]</sup> James Gunn, writer and director of *Guardians of the Galaxy* (2014), has named *Into the Spider-Verse* his favorite superhero film.<sup>[129]</sup> Marvel Studios president and MCU producer Kevin Feige said that he "loved it."<sup>[130]</sup> Many other filmmakers including Edgar Wright, Guillermo del Toro, Yance Ford, and RaMell Ross have listed the film as one of their favorites of 2018.<sup>[131]</sup>

The film's success influenced other projects using a mixed 2D and CGI animation style.<sup>[132]</sup> The animation techniques created for *Into the Spider-Verse* were notably reused for *The Mitchells vs. the Machines* (2021), another Sony Pictures Animation film that Lord and Miller co-produced,<sup>[133][134]</sup> and similarly influenced the animation style for DreamWorks Animation's *The Bad Guys* and *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* (both 2022).<sup>[132][135][136]</sup> Directors Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah said *Spider-Verse* inspired them to create the hand-drawn style of visual effects for the live-action MCU series *Ms. Marvel* (2022).<sup>[137]</sup> *Mitchells* co-

director [Jeff Rowe](#) also cited the film as a major influence for his directorial debut *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem*, claiming that it “showed that a movie can look like the concept artwork and can be critically and financially successful. That opened a lot of doors and I think we tried to take that football and run with it on ‘*Mitchells*,’ and then on ‘*Turtles*.’”<sup>[138]</sup> The film was similarly cited as an inspiration for the animation of the [Marvel/Disney](#) series *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur*.<sup>[139][140]</sup>

During a special lecture at [Takarazuka University](#), anime director [Yoshiyuki Tomino](#), best known for creating the famed *Gundam* anime series, expressed that it's necessary that people in the anime industry ought to surpass *Into the Spider-Verse* and other high-profile American animated features, while also commenting on the film's Best Animated Feature win at the Academy Awards as "At first glance, it looks like a live-action film, and it's very experimental in various places. For American filmgoers, it may be their first time watching an animated film that isn't expressly for kids. I won't appraise the film's quality, but on a technical level, I can see how much hard work the staff put into it."<sup>[141]</sup>

Director [Kemp Powers](#), who would later co-direct the sequel *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (2023), watched an early cut of the movie with the crew of [Pixar's](#) *Soul* (2020) and said that despite Pixar being "a tough crowd" when judging animation, they were quickly impressed and agreed that the movie would revolutionize the medium.<sup>[142]</sup>

## Accolades

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*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* won [Best Animated Feature Film](#) at the [76th Golden Globe Awards](#),<sup>[143]</sup> and won the same award at the [24th Critics' Choice Awards](#)<sup>[144]</sup> and the [91st Academy Awards](#),<sup>[145]</sup> among several other awards and nominations. It was the first non-[Disney](#) or [Pixar](#) film to win [Best Animated Feature](#) since *Rango* (2011), becoming the 6th non-Disney/Pixar film to win the award.<sup>[146]</sup>

*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* appeared on many critics' top ten lists. According to [Metacritic](#) it appeared in first place on 5 lists.<sup>[147]</sup> Critics at *New York Magazine* listed it at 9 on their list of the best films of the decade.<sup>[148]</sup> In December 2021, the film's screenplay was listed number 71 on the [Writers Guild of America's](#) "101 Greatest Screenplays of the 21st Century (So Far)".<sup>[149]</sup>

## Franchise

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### Sequels

In August 2018, the directors were still focused on completing the film but acknowledged that the introduction of the Spider-Verse in the film could create the potential for many different stories to be told, depending on the success of this film.<sup>[6]</sup> By the end of November, Sony had greenlit a sequel and a spin-off from the current film still in development due to the "incredible buzz" surrounding it.<sup>[74]</sup> [Joaquim Dos Santos](#), [Kemp Powers](#), and [Justin K. Thompson](#) are set to direct the sequel from a screenplay by [David Callaham](#), [Lord](#), and [Miller](#),<sup>[150][151]</sup> which would continue Miles's story. In addition to Lord and Miller returning as producers and co-writers, the sequel would also feature [Takuya Yamashiro](#), the main character of the Japanese *Spider-Man* series,<sup>[152]</sup> and *Spider-Woman*, who would be voiced by [Issa Rae](#).<sup>[153]</sup> The film entered production by June 2020.<sup>[154]</sup> Sony announced that the sequel would be released on April 8, 2022,<sup>[7]</sup> but the release date was later delayed by six months to October 7, 2022, due to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#),<sup>[155]</sup> then again to June 2, 2023.<sup>[156]</sup> In December 2021, Lord and Miller revealed that the film was being split into two parts, after they had written down the story they wanted to tell for the sequel and

realized that it was too much for a single film. Work on both parts took place simultaneously, with the second part, *Beyond the Spider-Verse*, set to be released on March 29, 2024.<sup>[157]</sup> In July 2023, *Beyond the Spider-Verse* was removed from the release schedule, in part due to the SAG-AFTRA strike.<sup>[158]</sup>

## Spin-offs

*Spider-Women*, a spin-off film focusing on three generations of female Spider-related characters,<sup>[159]</sup> will include Spider-Gwen and feature Jessica Drew / Spider-Woman and Cindy Moon / Silk.<sup>[55]</sup> The film has Bek Smith as screenwriter and Lauren Montgomery was in talks to direct.<sup>[55][150][159]</sup>

John Mulaney also expressed interest in a potential spin-off film starring Spider-Ham, suggesting its plot as a "Watergate-like story" along the lines of *The Post* or *All the President's Men* while focusing on his character's career as a reporter.<sup>[160]</sup>

## Possible television series

Following the release of *Into the Spider-Verse*, the studio discussed the possibility of television series featuring the characters. Lord and Miller both expressed interest in seeing a series of shorts starring Spider-Ham,<sup>[161]</sup> while Sony was announced to be developing animated spin-off TV series focusing on various characters.<sup>[162]</sup>

By April 2019, Lord and Miller signed a five-year deal with Sony Pictures Television to create animated Marvel television series alongside Sony Pictures Animation, including a possible TV series based on *Into the Spider-Verse*.<sup>[163]</sup> Discussing these series in August, Miller could not update where or when the series would be released but said there would be several live-action series and that they would each be "their own unique experience" while still being related to each other.<sup>[164]</sup>

## Notes

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- a. In *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (2023), this scene is established to take place sixteen months later.
- b. This scene is a reference to a scene from the 1967–1970 Spider-Man TV series episode "Double Identity", in which the villain Charles Cameo dresses up like Spider-Man to impersonate him; the episode's scene has since become an Internet meme.<sup>[8]</sup>

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## External links

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- Official website (<http://www.intothespiderverse.movie>) 
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