



Film

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Review

Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba Infinity Castle review – battle anime brings the visual flair

★★★★☆

In the first of a film trilogy, teenage Tanjiro seeks vengeance for his murdered family in what is a great taste of things to come

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The first part of a trilogy that will conclude the massively popular anime series Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba, this latest smash hit from Ufotable, directed by Haruo Sotozaki, is a spectacular treat. For those new to the franchise, the story is set during a mythical imagining of the Taisho era, where hordes of carnivorous demons descend on innocent civilians. Fighting in the name of his massacred family and a sister infected with demon blood, teenage protagonist Tanjiro Kamado joins the Demon Slayer Corps, determined to wipe these ruthless beasts off the Earth. The film picks up from a thrilling cliffhanger of the fourth season, where Tanjiro and his fellow comrades are thrust into the lair of the demon-in-chief, the cunning and all-powerful Muzan Kibutsuji.

Much of the film is structured around various battles between the series regulars and their sworn enemies. The challenge of sustaining the narrative is tempered by the use of flashbacks, providing a backstory for each of the formidable foes. Though packed with emotional impact, such detours occasionally hamper the pacing of the combat sequences, which are the film's visual highlights. Each demon slayer is armed with a specific breath and fighting technique, which manifests into flows of water, fire, and thunder imagery, providing a striking contrast to the cavernous design of Muzan's Infinity Castle. The latter, evoking perhaps the endless staircases of MC Escher albeit with a Japanese flair, is a handsomely animated spectacle where corridors and hallways fold into one another like endless labyrinths, while fusuma and shoji screens function as trap doors used to throw the demon slayers into unimaginable dangers.

Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba Infinity Castle | Official Trailer | Crunchyroll



The galvanising score, which ranges from orchestral to electronic, further heightens the stakes of life and death. While ardent fans might wish to see more of Muzan, this wonderful instalment gives a splendid taste of what is surely soon to come.

Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba Infinity Castle is in US, UK and Irish cinemas from 12 September, and Australian cinemas from 11 September

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