

'Venom' director's Hollywood path began when he saw 'Batman' as a teenager

Filmmaker Ruben Fleischer realizes a **boyhood** hope today, with the official opening of his first comic-book movie, "Venom," Sony's \$100 million attempt to build out its Spider-Man **cinematic** universe. The film, which **reaped** an impressive \$10 million from Thursday-night screenings, is expected to **gross** more than \$55 million in its domestic **debut**, potentially setting an October record.

boyhood 同年, 少年时代

cinematic 电影的; 影片的

reap 收获

gross 总收

debut 初次登台; 首映

venom 毒液; 恶意

It was in 1989, while at Georgetown Day, that Fleischer was moved by one of the year's biggest movies. "What really got me was Tim Burton's Batman," says the "Gangster Squad" director. "I was in high school, and I remember seeing the posters with the Batman symbol all over town. I was **intrigued**."

Intrigued 好奇的; 被迷住的

"Venom" --- about an alien symbiote that brings costly superpowers to its host, the **down-on-his-luck** journalist Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy) --- would allow Fleischer to tap so many of his influences.

down-on-his-luck 运气不好的

Fleischer says "Venom" **nods to buddy** comedies like "48 Hours" and "Midnight Run," As Edie **wages** an **ongoing**, amusing war of words with his parasite.

Nod to 致敬

buddy 伙伴; 好友

Wage 组织; 发动

Ongoing 不间断的; 进行的

Yet this dark body-takeover comedy within a superhero adventure **pays** direct **homage to** a film in a similar narrative vein: 1981's "An American Werewolf in London." "For me, that was the biggest influence in my movie," says Fleischer.

Pay homage to 致敬

vein 特征; 风格

And central to "Venom," the director says, is how to mine the host-parasite relationship for black humor. "They **forge** a real friendship, and, ultimately, they decide to work together through that journey," he says. "They go on and learn to like each other."

Forge 锻造, 建立