

‘Avengers: Endgame’ a fitting *send-off* for Marvel’s superheroes

If there's a single phrase that sums up the guiding principle of the Marvel Cinematic Universe—the *interdependent* series of superhero movies that, with the arrival of this week's "Avengers: Endgame," now numbers 22 films—it's this: Hold that thought.

send-off 送别

interdependent 相互依赖的

To be sure, as the MCU has evolved, growing into an epic that can be, at times, confusing, a through line has coalesced around a group of *inanimate* objects: six powerful Infinity Stones whose scattered locations have shifted from planet to planet and from person to person, like a *cosmic* shell game, as the movies came and went.

inanimate 无生命的

cosmic 宇宙的

It's helpful, before going to see "Endgame," to cast your mind back to the contradictory feelings of that final scene. The new movie, which focuses on the efforts of Captain America and the remaining Avengers to implement a do-over feels at once sad and deeply satisfying, complicated and surprisingly comic. If many of us have grown up with the MCU, the films themselves have also grown more complex, like a fine wine.

In a sense, "Endgame" is an example of the MCU *cannibalizing* itself, but it has always done so. And it does so here in a fresh way that is closer to *homage* than lazy *appropriation*.

cannibal 食同类的

homage 致敬

appropriation 拨款; 挪用

As high as the stakes are in "Endgame," it is also a very funny movie. The humor of the story has to do with surprising ways in which the lives of certain characters have changed.

If "Infinity War" was about failure, "Endgame" is, *ironically*, all about acceptance and moving on. After 11 long years, the Infinity Saga is finally, fulfilling over. There is no post-*credit* scene. But oh, what a going-away party these old friends have thrown for themselves.

ironically 讽刺地

post-credit scene 彩蛋