“Deadpool”- by now you’ve seen him all over FYE and Hot Topic. He’s that “LOL SO RANDUMB” comic book character fifteen year olds love. I believe he is the first and so far only comic book character to basically become well known solely because of the Internet. He’s a violent, smartass, fourth wall breaking high energy character, but how well does an internet sensation translate to cinema?

I went in having seen the trailers, which mostly made me cringe. Thank God (and to my surprise), the movie actually has a fair bit of heart in it. Sandwiched between jokes that range from cringe to clever are moments of genuine heart and emotion. Yes, the movie actually has a semi-decent (although generic) story.

“Deadpool” (Ryan Reynolds in an example of perfect casting) is a science experiment gone horribly wrong. He is a horribly disfigured man seeking revenge on his creators. Original, right? Where “Deadpool” succeeds so well is in the way it tells its generic story. Instead of wallowing around and bitching, “Deadpool” instead presents its story in a violent, high energy manner, which goes along perfectly with its darker, more heartfelt origin story flashbacks. Mentioning origin story: Thank God the writers really kinda breeze over it. The whole movie builds at such a rapid pace, it isn’t until the final scene that the whole “I’m so edgy” smartass humor starts to wear down.

All the actors do well in their roles, but they aren’t given much to work with. They all exist to either direct or banter with Deadpool, that’s it. The direction is more than competent, and the action scenes are gleefully over-the-top and bloody. They also have almost zero shakey cam, which is fucking great. The writing for the most part is good, but with so many jokes, some are bound to miss, and the fourth wall breaking seemed to confuse the audience I was with.

My only real complaint is that the movie thinks it is far smarter than it actually is. Every time something “generic” happens, Deadpool will turn to the viewer and wink and make some smartass crack. Sorry writers, being aware of your writing doesn’t make it good. This is a small complaint, though, as I’m still blown away with how well this movie turned and how big of a disaster the whole crew avoided.

In every single way, Deadpool’s second appearance on screen (ses I’ve sadly got to count his origin’s “appearance”) fares MILES above his first. It also fares a lot more favorably than many recent comic adaptations. Fans and newcomers alike will love the merc with a mouth’s zany, self-aware brand of storytelling. While the movie may appear “edgy” and “different,” it actually plays it safe with a studio approved, “Hot Topic t-shirt ready” version of the fan favorite character.

Highlights: Very faithful representation of the character, earns itso R rating, Reynolds is perfect

Lowlights: Only appears to be different, falls into a lot of the same “superhero” clichés it tries so hard to subvert, a lot of jokes miss