Spiderman (2002) was one of the best superhero films of its time. The cast selection was impeccable with Tobey Maguire fitting perfectly into the role of the awkward but funny Peter Parker. J. K. Simmons completely impersonated the angry, unsatisfied head of the newspaper company. You could feel the passion Willem Dafoe had for his character Norman Osborn/Green goblin. His facial characteristics and expressions were almost too realistic. The only negative side of the casting is the age of the actors playing high school students. But, the acting and direction from Sam Raimi makes this flaw almost unnoticeable.

Without much help from CGI Raimi was able to make more realistic looking scenes without losing its cinematic intensity. The scenes in the high school had exaggerated roles but worked with the comic book theme of the movie. Like the comics, this movie focused less on the dreary and deep side of things like contemporary superhero movies do and instead put emphasis on light hearted love, humor, and intense action. It is safe to say that this movie earned its name as top grossing at the time.

The story starts off by setting up Peter Parker’s character as the nerdy teen with a crush on Mary Jane Watson. The show does a very good job setting up characters with Mary’s irritation with the Flash Thompson (her boyfriend), and Norman Osborne’s disconnect with Harry Osborne. It also sets up Norman and Peter’s mutual respect for each other shortly followed by the bond that Harry and Peter share. Peter also gets bitten by the spider which gives him his powers and you get to see the controversy between the military and Norman. Raimi does an astounding job with setting up the story and characters in the beginning few scenes of the movie. He uses Peter’s fight with flash and peter experimenting with his powers to add humor to the movie that gives it more of a comic book vibe. Peter also makes sly, funny comments while fighting the wrestler Bonesaw. The setup and execution of uncle Ben’s death was well played making the murderer chasing scene much more intense. The direction and angles of the camera was genius. One great example of this is when they turned the set on the side to shoot scenes where spider man was climbing walls. Dafoe pretty much chose his own role and executed it with enormous passion. Aside from the Green Goblin being a bit reminiscent of the power rangers the costume and design of the clothes was spectacular. The thought put into the clothing is the most apparent within the dining scene where Peter is wearing the Goblin’s colors and vice versa while Harry is wearing both colors. The final battle between the Spider and the Goblin was intense and evil without being too cliche. Overall the movie was able to bring together the perfect mixture of cast, emotion, humor, action, intensity and direction to truly earn its name as top of the charts.