

# SPINNING A NEW THREAD

Spider-Man is one busy superhero. Solely owned by Sony Pictures, the web-slinger has been seconded to appear in a few Marvel Studios-directed movies: *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017) and *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018). During his absence, his famous symbiote rival, *Venom*, is swooping in to fill the void. Opening today, this will be *Venom*'s second outing — he first appeared in Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man 3* (2007). The standalone movie will spearhead Sony Pictures' effort to expand the lucrative market of the beloved web-head franchise.

**'That's a kid who goes, 'thwip thwip', and wears Lycra...'**

— Tom Hardy on *Venom*'s nemesis, Spider-Man

## "NEW" VENOM

What's new?

The iconic spider logo would not make sense as this *Venom* did not start with Spider-Man. In its place will be white veins that form a shape on his chest.



The *Venom* movie is mainly influenced by two comic runs, *Lethal Protector* (1993) and *Planet Of The Symbiotes* (1995).



*Venom* is not the only symbiote to appear in the movie — multiple spawns (*Scream*, *Lasher*, *Phage*, *Agony* and *Riot*) from the comics are said to make their film debut. *Riot* is the main villain of the movie.

## "TOXIC" BUDDIES

Some honourable mentions of super-villains from past Spidey movies

### Green Goblin aka The Osborn father and son

Appearances: *Spider-Man* (2002), *Spider-Man 2* (2004), *Spider-Man 3* (2007), *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* (2014)

In the comic and on screen, Green Goblin has always been Spider-Man's arch-nemesis and most dangerous foe. Both Osborn father and son characters provide emotional, psychological and physical challenges to Spider-Man.

### Doctor Octopus aka Dr Otto Octavius

Appearance: *Spider-Man 2* (2004)

Dr Octavius is a broken man when his nuclear fusion experiment fails and costs the life of his beloved wife. Armed with four mechanical arms, the former mentor to Peter Parker is now one formidable enemy to Spider-Man.

### The Sandman aka Flint Marko

Appearance: *Spider-Man 3* (2007)

The enemy that almost slips through Spidey's fingers. Possessing the properties of sand, the giant mud monster stands apart from other technologically-fuelled villains. He is a relatable character as Flint is a father who only wishes to provide for his estranged daughter.

### The Lizard aka Dr Curt Connors

Appearance: *The Amazing Spider-Man* (2012)

Dr Connors plays the father figure and mentor to young Peter Parker, only to turn into a savage giant lizard later when a laboratory experiment to grow limbs goes awry.

### Electro aka Maxwell Dillon

Appearance: *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* (2014)

An eccentric Oscorp engineer falls into a tank of genetically-engineered electric eels and becomes a living electricity generator. His fight with Spider-Man provides some cool, dazzling visual effects to the franchise reboot.

### The Vulture aka Adrian Toomes

Appearance: *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017)

A blue-collar family man who wants to provide for his family, although he is selling dangerous retrofitted alien weaponry. Vulture's high-tech suit is a cool improvement over the comics' version.

## SPIN-OFFS — AS POTENT AS THE ORIGINALS?

**The Scorpion King** (2002) from **The Mummy** (1999)  
The spin-off comes from a loose remake of the 1932 film *The Mummy*. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson manages US\$165 million against Brendan Fraser's US\$416 million worldwide.

Potency level

**Planes** (2013) from **Cars** (2006)  
A spin-off from Pixar's *Cars*, although it is produced by Disney. The computer-animated film grossed US\$239 million worldwide against *Cars*' US\$462 million.

Potency level

**Minions** (2015) from **Despicable Me** (2010)  
The prequel centres on supervillain Gru's small, yellow henchmen. The film makes US\$1.1 billion worldwide — out-grossing *Despicable Me*'s US\$543 million.

Potency level

**Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** (2016) and **Solo: A Star Wars Story** (2018) from **Star Wars** (1977)  
Two independent stories set just before the events in Episode IV — *A New Hope*. *Rogue One* makes US\$1.1 billion; *Solo* makes US\$392 million while the original movie *Star Wars* from the 1970s makes US\$775 million.

Potency level

**Suicide Squad** (2016) from DC Extended Universe  
A group of supervillains is recruited by the US government to execute dangerous black-ops missions to save the world. It makes US\$746 million.

Potency level

**X-Men Origins: Wolverine** (2009) and **Deadpool** (2016) from the X-Men franchise

A clandestine government project known as Weapon X would produce two spin-offs: *Wolverine*, a vagrant mutant, and *Deadpool*, a wise-cracking mercenary. *Deadpool* is beating *Wolverine*, surpassing the US\$700 million mark.

Potency level

**Annabelle** (2014) and **The Nun** (2018) from **The Conjuring** (2013)  
A possessed vintage doll with a box office worth US\$257 million and a scary nun who makes US\$330 million so far. Both prequels are from *The Conjuring*, which has earned US\$319 million.

Potency level

\*NOTE: Only includes the first spin-offs



## HARDY SEEN

Tom Hardy plays *Venom* in the new movie and the Internet is abuzz with the 41-year-old Englishman's face, which is covered most of the time in the roles he has played.

**Bane**  
Appearance: *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012)

Behind the iconic, menacing breathing apparatus, Hardy's Bane is every bit the only villain who has "broken the Bat". Director Christopher Nolan was reportedly "thrilled" by what Hardy did with "his two eyes, couple of eyebrows and a bit of forehead".



52% covered

**John Fitzgerald**  
Appearance: *The Revenant* (2015)

A tale of revenge on the uncharted American frontier during the 19th century, Hardy's mumbling, deep-throated portrayal of an unscrupulous trapper would earn him his first Academy Awards nomination.



33% covered

**Max Rockatansky**  
Appearance: *Fury Road* (2015)

In director George Miller's post-apocalyptic world, Hardy's lunatic survivor hero "Mad Max" is shackled with a metal muzzle. Audiences get to see his full face only about 45 minutes into the movie.



36% covered

**Farrier**

Appearance: *Dunkirk* (2017)

Hardy's self-sacrificing World War II fighter pilot provides air cover for his fellow countrymen — behind a chunky flight respirator. Director Christopher Nolan wants to see what Hardy can do with "no forehead, no real eyebrows, maybe one eye".



80% covered

**Eddie Brock/Venom**

Appearance: *Venom* (2018)

\*Nuff said.



100% covered