

THE VIBE

Reviewing the very best and very worst of it all

THIS ISSUE 'KINGSMAN'
SANDWICH SHOPS
HEADLINERS

With superspy action, 'Kingsman' delivers excitement

Everyone wants to be as cool as James Bond, as lethal as Jason Bourne, as dedicated as Jack Bauer. Everyone dreams of being a superspy, a secret agent saving the world from extravagant villains using the newest, most effective gadgets.

In *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, this incredible lifestyle suddenly falls in the path of Gary "Eggsy" Unwin (Taron Egerton) as he attempts to become a member of the Kingsmen, a top-secret spy agency, under the tutelage of Harry Hart (Colin Firth).

As Eggsy slowly becomes Kingsman material, a new threat arises in the form of Valentine (Samuel L. Jackson), a nefarious (and... interestingly dressed) villain determined to extinguish mankind from earth.

The film, based on the graphic novel by Mark Millar, thrives in its own fantastical universe and thrusts pure enjoyment onto the screen as the heroes slyly use their gadgets, skills and wit to fight their way out of even the toughest of situations. Colin Firth (in one of his rare, likeable roles) dominates the screen as a true gentleman on the outside with an inside that is more

ever put to film. In his first film appearance, Egerton owns his role and gives a certain charm to Eggsy's abrasive personality even while sharing the screen with acting giants like Michael Caine, Mark Strong and Samuel L. Jackson.

Alongside the great acting, the film simply oozes charm through its frenetic but focused pace and incredible camera work. Also, the best henchwoman never put in a Bond movie fights her way through the film in the form of Gazelle (Sofia Boutella), a lethal partner of Valentine equipped with razor-sharp prosthetic legs and not a single ounce of remorse.

Gazelle presents the absolute best aspects of the film: its obviously ridiculous elements are completely believable within its own world and send a sense of childlike wonder into the audience.

From Gazelle's impossibly sharp legs to the Kingsmen's bulletproof suits and umbrellas, the film presents a style that has not been seen since the Sean Connery's James Bond and his pellet-firing cigarettes.

Remarkably, everything works, most likely owing to the direction of Matthew Vaughn known for his other brilliant comic book adaptations in *Kick-Ass* and *X-Men: First Class*. Vaughn's amazing camerawork guides the audience through quiet yet hilarious



Kingsman: The Secret Service grossed more than \$36 million in its opening weekend.

scenes between Hart and Valentine and through what is perhaps the best action sequence since the final kitchen brawl in *The Raid 2* as Hart fights his way through a church full of people intent on murdering him.

Vaughn's trademark R-rated charm and wit from *Kick-Ass* also comes back in the film as references to different franchises are tossed around as the characters fly through their choreography from scene to scene.

Simply put, *Kingsman* is fun. It is probably the most fun someone can have at the movies in the next few months (it'd probably be the year, but, you know, *Avengers*... and *Ant-Man*... and *Star Wars*).

Even with those blockbusters coming out soon, the film is not one to be missed, especially not for any other recent big budget release (I'm looking at you, *Fifty Shades of Grey*).

It may not hold the dramatic punch of films like *Birdman* (or the *Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*) or *Nightcrawler*, but *Kingsman: The Secret Service* knows what it is and delivers on every possible front.

Kingsman The Secret Service Movie Review

Opened Feb. 13 | Rated R
Stars Samuel L. Jackson, Taron Egerton
Director: Matthew Vaughn
View in wide release

FILM REVIEW PARKER MCWATTERS | PHOTO CREATIVE COMMONS

Sandwich shops The best and worst

Jersey Mike's

If Jimmy John's and Subway are fast food, Jersey Mike's is the casual sit-down alternative. Sure it costs more than any other Dallas restaurant of its kind, but, in general, it's worth it.

It's also worth noting that the service at most of their locations is truly excellent, mainly because the servers go out of their way to be friendly, laid-back and polite.

The main prohibitive downside to Jersey Mike's, though, is undoubtedly the cost. At \$7.25 plus tax for each regular-sized sub, this costs more than every other sandwich chain in Dallas.

Jimmy John's

Everything you've heard about Jimmy John's is true. It's fast, basic and pretty good.

The sandwiches themselves are pretty high quality, varying all the way from basic meat-and-cheese slims to the gut-shattering Gargantuan.

The major perk to Jimmy John's is the amazing delivery service. That motto, "Freaky Fast Delivery," is glued to just about everything the company owns.

Although other restaurants may have better sandwiches, it is the convenience of having food delivered straight into your mouth in less than 15 minutes that makes Jimmy John's subs the more appealing option so often.

Whether it's a worldwide chain or a local dive, there are myriad options for the sandwich seeker, but Reviews Specialist Jacob Chernick sorted through the most commonly visited sub shops and decided once and for all which sandwiches are worth their bread.

Potbelly

Unlike the majority of their competitors, Potbelly only sells hot sandwiches. It's not like there's anything wrong with the cold cuts that most classic subs include, but it's hard to deny the satisfaction that comes from sitting down to a good, warm meal.

It's the small things that make Potbelly's offerings so addicting: those tiny butter cookies they fit on their milkshake's straws, the eye-wateringly spicy peppers, that satisfying crunch of the first bite into their trademark toasted bread.

This franchise also manages to create an ambiance free from the depressing sterility that plagues most other fast food locations. The only real complaint is that there aren't more locations.

Subway

Subway is essentially the McDonald's of sandwich shops. It may have more stores worldwide than any fast food company on earth, but it's also where good taste buds come to die.

Somehow, this conglomerate found a way to surpass Mickey D's as the world's largest fast food chain by peddling chewy bread and pre-frozen veggies to the masses.

Subway's menu items often seem caught in the bizarre no-man's-land between health food and junk food, but the reality is that its sandwiches always end up looking about as unappetizing as feet and tasting worse than the floors of the company's namesake.



UP NEXT

Headliners

Concerts

Cold War Kids
March 6 at 8 p.m.
House of Blues

Milky Chance
March 20 at 8 p.m.
South Side Ballroom

Ariana Grande
April 1 at 7 p.m.
American Airlines Center

Albums

Awolnation
Run
March 17

Modest Mouse
Strangers to Ourselves
March 17

Darius Rucker
Southern Style
March 31

Three Days Grace
Human
March 31

Movies

Chappie
March 6

Unfinished Business
March 6

Run all Night
March 13

Get Hard
March 27