

“An epic of epic epicness” is the tagline for August release *Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World*, and there is probably not a more fitting description possible. The latest creation from talented director Edgar Wright (*Shaun of the Dead*, *Hot Fuzz*) stars Michael Cera as Scott Pilgrim, a 23-year-old slacker bassist from Toronto, Canada, who falls in love with the beautiful Ramona Flowers, played by Mary Elizabeth Winstead. Little does he know that in order to win her heart and date her, he has to- wait for it -defeat her seven evil exes in battle. The wacky concept is based directly off of Bryan Lee O’Malley’s popular comic book series, and Wright does an excellent job of adapting the material for the big screen. It truly feels like a comic book or videogame come to life. Its unique, out-there premise may turn many people off at first, but if you’re willing to go along with the story (which honestly isn’t any harder to accept than people bursting out into songs in musicals), then you are definitely in for a trip to a hilarious, exhilarating new universe. With great performances all around from its large ensemble cast, a killer soundtrack, and engaging fight scenes throughout, one thing is certain: you will not leave the theatre bored. In fact, if there is any complaint to be made about the movie, it is that its adrenaline rush of ideas, visuals, and sounds can be a bit overwhelming to take in during a first viewing. Still, if you are looking for a wholly unique, funny, memorable movie experience this summer, then *Scott Pilgrim* is more than worth the price of admission. “A-

There are movies that can change your life and the way you view the world around you. There are movies that can enlighten you, inspire you, and even move you to tears. There are movies that can simply entertain and excite you for two hours in a cool theatre on a hot summer day. And then there is *The Room*. To say *The Room* is unlike anything you’ve ever seen is a gross understatement; the film exists in a universe all its own. To even attempt to describe the appeal of the film is an exercise in futility, as it is one of those things you simply must experience in order to fully understand. The movie, written, directed, and produced by its lead actor Tommy Wiseau for nearly six million dollars, was released independently in 2003. Built up by an extensive ad campaign, which included a huge, rented Hollywood billboard and comparisons to the work of Tennessee Williams, Wiseau premiered his film in L.A. to little effect. The film flopped and the few critics who even bothered to review it had nothing positive to say about it. Wiseau continued to show his creation once a month in L.A. and slowly built up a significant cult following. It is now a hugely popular midnight showing across America, similar to *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The plot, if you can even call it that, is fairly standard stuff: Johnny, played by Tommy Wiseau, is madly in love with his fiancée Lisa. Lisa, however, has, for reasons that are never made clear, grown bored with Johnny’s nice guy demeanor and successful career and turns to his best friend Mark for something new. A dramatic love triangle is formed and Johnny is forced to learn the true meaning of the word “betrayal”, which he will mention in the film over and over. Under any other circumstances, this would be a middling romantic comedy soon to be forgotten. What truly sets this film apart and elevates it to instant classic quality is the one and only Tommy Wiseau. Wiseau, a fascinating, mysterious figure with a thick foreign accent, is an intimidating man who looks like a cross between a heavy metal guitarist and a pale

Incredible Hulk. He is definitely not the obvious choice for the romantic lead in what was intended to be a drama, yet nothing he chooses to do with his film is exactly what you'd expect. Dialogue seems to have been written by a stranger to the English language who is still learning the basics of human interaction. Numerous sub-plots, including a cancer revelation and issues with drugs, are brought up throughout the film and immediately forgotten. New characters are entered into the mix without any form of introduction or explanation. The film's editing and pacing are some of the strangest you will ever see, and the acting is at times downright painful. And there is no actual "room" to speak of. The film is an absolute train wreck, but at the same time has a sort of indescribable, captivating magic that won't let you turn away. *The Room* may be one of the worst movies ever created, but it is a horrible masterpiece, and one that deserves to be seen by as many people as possible. Do yourself a favor and run to the nearest video store or computer and purchase *The Room* right away. And if you do not enjoy the film, then take the sage advice of one of the film's characters to heart and "leave your stupid comments in your pocket!"