

“Incredibles 2”

By Helen Lutz

Disaster and super hero movies are undoubtedly filled with lots and lots of mayhem. Monsters, aliens and all sorts of cagy villains think nothing of destroying buildings, crushing cars, ripping up streets and highways, and – wait for it, taking chunks out of critical bridges endangering innocent lives and leaving destruction in their wake. Being fairly pragmatic, I watch what’s happening on the screen thinking “Do they have that type of insurance?” If so, will the insurance company be able to stay in business? Just how long will it take to rebuild Los Angeles? It took almost a year to get all the repairs accomplished on our home after it was viciously attacked by a hail storm a couple of years ago. One can only imagine.



Unlike live action super hero movies, animations don’t age as we see with Disney’s and Pixar’s new release of “Incredibles 2”. We saw the super heroes in the first film as they met, married, had children and became a crime fighting unit. Unfortunately for super heroes, the need to weigh the good against the cost becomes a concern and the government decides to outlaw super heroes and remove them from sight – witness protection comes to mind. They are given new identities, in new towns, with new jobs; and instructions to never use their super powers.

The old saying ‘why try to fit in when you were born to stand out’ really comes into play with our super heroes. It’s hard for Bob Parr (Mr. Incredible voiced by Craig T. Nelson) to live a boring life as an insurance adjuster (with a really irritable boss) when he yearns for the excitement of fighting crime. Helen Parr (Elastigirl voiced by Holly Hunter) stays at home with the three kids, doing her best to restrain her superpowers as well as those of her children. Her son Dash (voiced by Huckieberry Milner) has a difficult time hiding his super fast powers and staying out of trouble. Why can’t he go out for track? Meanwhile their daughter Violet (voiced by Sarah Vowell) withdraws into the shadows.

“Incredibles 2” opens right where “The Incredibles” left off in 2004 with the villain known as The Underminer playing havoc with the city and the Incredibles jumping into action to save the day – at what cost? They are forced into ‘witness protection’ uprooting home and family. They are told that this is the final straw and that they will no longer receive governmental assistance. Bad goes to worse as they lose their house and are forced to live in a motel when Bob loses his boring job. Homelessness here they come.

Just in the nick of time wealthy benefactors, the brother and sister team Winston and Evelyn Deavor (voiced by Bob Odenkirk and Catherine Keener) approach the family. It seems that they are fans of super heroes and want to see them reinstated to their rightful place in society. Elastigirl is just the right spokesperson. Now it’s Bob’s turn to take care of the kids figuring out new math, messing up boyfriend/girlfriend stuff, and feeding Jack-Jack (the baby voiced by Eli Fucile). It’s not easy being mom.

“Incredibles 2” characters have stereotypical powers Dad being strong, Mom being able to be pulled in all directions at once while being protective, a little boy full of unbridled energy and a teenage daughter who puts up shields, along with an unpredictable baby. Director and writer Brad Bird turns the world upside down when Mom is selected to be the face of the super hero come back and Dad turns into Mr. Mom. The animation definitely keeps the little ones entertained, but the back story also delivers smiles to the young at heart. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “Incredibles 2” TWO AND 1/2 HARTS. With so many people being addicted to their screens, Screenslaver, the villain, makes a potent point.