Batman V Superman: the Extended Cut

Review by Eric Schaen

Batman v Superman is probably the most polarizing Superhero movie to date. It seems that once again studio interference may need to shoulder at least some of the blame for the beating the movie took from the critics and fans alike. Almost immediately following BVS’s release, rumor and conjecture developed about how the extended R rated cut might make for a better experience.

Even though the major plot points remained unaffected, the additional thirty minutes does provide some needed cohesion to the narrative. Many of the characters are given moments that actually help to flesh out elements that were originally too fragmented.

For starters this version does a better job with the character of Superman. Striking more balance between the film’s title characters. Clark/Superman acts like an investigate journalist and has some scenes that make semi-likeable. He may have even smiled once or twice, seriously. Clark’s investigation of the Batman really succeeds in helping the audience appreciate why Superman wants Batman to hang up his cowl and he comes of less hypocritical. Superman is also a little more heroic and compassionate than he appears in the original cut.

Lois Lane’s character also benefits from the extended cut. In this version she’s more than simply the woman Superman saves and she flexes more of her journalism muscles. Lex Luthor’s motivation for manipulating the heroes into going all Thunderdome on each other is still up for debate; but his maneuvers for setting up the conflict are a bit more defined. This elevates his character to a more megalomaniac status as opposed to the wacked out eccentric he comes off as.

Unfortunately, Batman is still not the world’s greatest detective. While I do applaud the more physical and nimble Batman we received, I do wish his intellect was given equal treatment. Yeah, I know he’s obviously going to darker places due to… well, we still don’t know exactly what happened to bring him to the tipping point just yet. I just find it hard to digest that the Batman could be duped so easily into becoming this PTSD version; abandoning his code of conduct and branding criminals like cattle. Although, the reasons for the “death sentence” associated with the branding is now clarified.

After viewing the extended cut of Batman V Superman, I will say the missing pieces do actually improve upon the experience. Zack Snyder has taken a lot of flak over this film and while I still believe some of that criticism is justified, I think it’s only right that the studio be held equally accountable. The issues that drag the movie down are still there, but they seem a little more plausible with this cut.

While the extended cut won’t elevate Batman V Superman to greatness or anything, it is undoubtedly an improvement. If you liked the theatrical cut, you’ll like this version more. If you didn’t care for it, the extended cut just may fix some of the issues for you this time around.

3 out of 5 stars Batman v Superman the extended cut.