

## Hypersonic Striders: A Review of NETFLIX's Sonic Prime

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Screenshot of Sonic Prime Episode 1. Photo by Lucas Werner

After the success of Sonic The Hedgehog 2 in mid-2022, the Sega Sonic Team has collaborated with Netflix to keep the momentum going with the first Sonic Netflix original series: Sonic Prime, which first aired on December 15, 2022.

The story so far: After a battle with Doctor Eggman goes awry, Sonic finds himself in an alternate multiverse called the “Shatterverse.” There he must traverse “Shatterspaces,” alternate worlds (such as one where pirate versions of Amy, Tails, and Knuckles roam the seven seas) in search of the four shards of the mysterious “Paradox Prism,” and, hopefully, a way to return home.

So far Sega’s first go at a Netflix show has hit both high and low points. Let’s start with the positives:

Interesting story up to this point (with a possible nod to the Disney studio: For some viewers, Sonic’s traveling through a strange new multiverse will recall the Disney Plus show What If? with its series of different scenarios in different parts of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (such as Peggy Carter becoming Captain America instead of Steve Rogers).

Sound moral values: Sonic realizes that sometimes his reckless actions have consequences and takes responsibility, as he should.

Now for the negatives:

The story element where Sonic is thrown into another Shatterspace each time he touches a Paradox Prism shard just feels a bit dumb to me.

Shadow the Hedgehog does not get as much screen time as the other characters. I understand that Sonic’s the main focus, but is it really too much to ask for a little more insight as to what happened to Shadow after the Prism shattered from his point of view?

But make no mistake: This is a good show. I’d give this season a 4.5 out of 5, and I can’t wait for season 2. If you want to check the show out for yourself, Sonic Prime is now streaming on Netflix.

## Is Puss In Boots: The Last Wish a Better Movie Than Avatar: The Way of Water?

DANIEL CHARLES

Anyone who has spent even a modicum of time on Reddit in the last two months will be familiar with the vast number of memes generated recently comparing Puss In Boots: The Last Wish and Avatar: The Way of Water. Both movies came out in late December, the release date traditionally reserved for holiday blockbusters. Despite Avatar’s completely annihilating Puss in terms of box office revenue (a whopping \$2 billion compared with \$334 million), the reviews tell a different tale. Puss currently has a 95% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, while Avatar only scored 76%. This has sparked a surge of memes highlighting the contrast in ratings between the two films. I decided to see for myself which movie was superior.

While it’s difficult to compare films with such vastly different themes and cinematic styles, I decided that my verdict would be based on enjoyment and emotional impact. Puss had me hooked all the way through, which makes sense since the targeted audience for this movie is children, who have notoriously low attention

spans. The dialogue was fast-paced and witty, the action scenes were fluid and explosive, and the characters—Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Perrito, Kitty SoftPaws, Jack Horner, and, of course, Puss-In-Boots—all had distinct personalities a well as motives that really meshed well with each other.

But the character who really stood out from the rest had to be “Death,” even though he had the least amount of screen time. Throughout the film, Puss-In-Boots is being chased by the literal, physical manifestation of Death, who comes to him in the form of a giant wolf wielding dual scythes. Death’s goal is to kill Puss-In-Boots, effectively taking away his last life (since cats have nine lives in this universe) because he didn’t appreciate any of his other lives.

Avatar in comparison started off slow, with Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) telling the audience in a voiceover narration how he started a family with Neytiri (Zoe Saldana) after he decided (in the first movie) to spend the remainder of his life with the Na’vi people.

We also see the resurgence of an old enemy, Colonel Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang) and his team of Marines, who have had their memories uploaded to Avatar bodies before the final battle of the first movie. They have a personal vendetta against Jake for betraying and killing their human forms.

The movie starts to pick up considerably when the Sully family leaves the Na’vi Forest people to travel across the ocean to hide themselves from the Sky people (human invaders of Pandora), and live amongst the Reef people (Na’vi who live on islands). Sully’s children take up more of the spotlight in the film, especially his second son, Lo’ak (Britain Dalton). Director James Cameron has made good use of his \$400 million budget: Pandora’s strange flora and fauna are mesmerizing. The ending fight between the Na’vi and humans is an intense, suspenseful battle.

Both films are great, but I would have to choose Puss-In-Boots: The Last Wish as the better movie. It’s a film that helps both young and old come to



Robynne Hu- Picture of Zhang Jia Jie National Park that resembles Pandora.

terms with their mortality, which is often a topic that parents and teachers forgo because they fear it will scar their children. But the conversation is necessary and helps to facilitate a healthy relationship between children and their perceptions of death. Dreamworks really nailed it with this movie, and I highly recommend watching it!



Gustave Dore- Puss-in-Boots. Copyright 2023 WorksheetWorks.com

## Pierce the Veil Returns After 7 Years

KEIRA FERRETTI

Pierce the Veil has always been at the forefront of the Warped Tour, pop-punk era of music. With their well received fifth album, The Jaws of Life, PTV has grown ever more iconic. It’s their first album since 2016’s Misadventures. Although in their early days, they were undoubtedly a guitar-heavy foursome with all of the ‘traditional’ punk influences,

this new album sees a shift in not only their sound but also in their maturity.

Nowadays, all the members are married and their lead singer/ rhythm guitarist Vic Fuentes recently welcomed his first child. The album shows that the band has pushed through their tough adolescent and early-20s phase and has proceeded into adulthood, something that they have been reaching for from

the beginning of their musical career.

Tracks like “Shared Trauma” and “Resilience” reflect times when your teenage angst just seems to meld into the grown-up you, whereas “Death of an Executioner” and “Pass the Nirvana” are hype songs with fast-tempos and lyrics about punk shows. Although their sound has matured into one with synths and alt-pop

influences (like “Flawless Execution” and “12 Fractures” featuring Chloe Moriondo) PTV still hold onto their roots throughout the entire 12-track LP. Every song is recognizably a Pierce the Veil production, and if I were 13 years old, sweating in black skinny jeans at the Warped Tour, I’d certainly be headbanging once again.

Final rating: 4/5



Jaws of Life album cover. piercetheveil.net

### 5 Must-See Movies

KEIRA FERRETTI

- Sounder (1971)
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (2022)

- The Half of It (2020)
- If Beale Street Could Talk (2018)

- Ant-Man: Quantumania (2023)