

WEB MASTER

Spider-Man 3 star Tobey Maguire reveals the challenges of taking his character to the dark side

Tobey Maguire's athletic and charismatic Spider-Man soars over Manhattan's skyscrapers, inducing gasps from even hardened action fans. So it's a little disconcerting to be confronted by the actor himself: quiet, unassuming and dressed in sensible clothes – a most unlikely superhero. Maguire is quick to defend himself, claiming that while Spidey is a magnetic and enigmatic figure, his nerdy alter ego Peter Parker's just your Average Joe. 'I think that's why I got the part in the first place – I'm just an ordinary guy too.'

It's a modest claim from a man who earned a reported \$30 million for his role in this blockbuster, but Maguire insists that his status as one of Tinsel Town's leading men is just a happy accident. He was planning to become a chef until a \$100 bribe from his mum to try drama instead of cooking at school changed his life forever.

Sinister side

The latest instalment takes the idea of Peter Parker's split personality and runs with it. Veering between vulnerability and arrogance, he breaks up with his beloved

Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst) and, thanks to hero-worshipping fans, gets caught up in his own hype – a common media phenomenon, as any avid *Big Brother* viewer will tell you.

There are some jaw-droppingly cocky moments with Parker sauntering down the street, wearing smoky black eyeliner and happily referring to himself as an 'icon'. And for a moment you think he may have

PETER THINKS HE'S SUPER COOL AND SUAVE, BUT REALLY HE'S A CORNBALL

blown it. Thankfully, this ego trip is handled deftly by Maguire with tongue-in-cheek style and, instead of loathing his new found self-importance, we laugh along with it. 'Peter thinks he's super cool and suave, but really he's a cornball,' says Maguire. 'And the audience still has to care for him when he's going wrong.'

Maguire himself is becoming something of an icon, so has he ever been in danger





Main: Tobey debuts his slinky black number **From left to right:** The alien symbiote latches onto Spider-Man; Tobey with co-star Kirsten Dunst; Spidey in action

**THIS IS
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of letting success go to his head? 'I think Peter and I react very differently to fame – he's really loving it and bathing in it, while I just enjoyed playing at it.'

Of course, Spidey's not the only lure, there's a fantastic supporting cast of villains. With the terrifying Venom, the shape-shifting Sandman and a new Green Goblin to contend with, our hero's really up against it. But his biggest challenge is his own transformation from hero to bad guy. Yes, Spidey goes over to the dark side in this one – literally. 'Making him a baddie was tricky – we had to make sure we found the right balance,' Maguire says. 'But I had a lot of fun portraying anger and revenge.'

High flyer

The other reason we go to *Spider-Man* movies is for the high-speed action and special effects – and there are plenty of them here. So did this vegetarian yoga fanatic find any of the sequences too demanding? 'I actually prefer playing Peter more than Spider-Man, in scenes

with actors you can react to, rather than hanging upside down in uncomfortable positions,' he explains. 'Thankfully, a lot of what you see on screen is computer-generated. But even when I'm flailing around in front of the bluescreen, I think: "This is a crazy way to make a living".'

Crazy or not, the *Spider-man* films have made Maguire one of the most famous faces in movies and allowed him to pursue ambitions behind the camera with his own production company. 'A teacher once told me: "You're driving the car, the car isn't driving you." Too many people are victims of their own lives, and that's one thing that I never want to be – a victim.' As if.

★ **Most Rented** Tobey Maguire

2004 *Spider-Man 2*

2003 *Seabiscuit*

2003 *Wonder Boys*

1999 *The Cider House Rules*

1998 *Pleasantville*

SPIDER-MAN 3 12

Spider's back, in black

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Stars Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, Thomas Haden Church, Topher Grace

Director Sam Raimi

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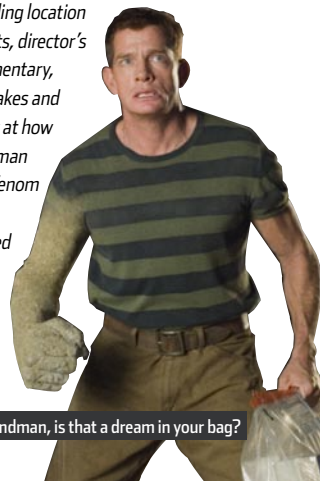


Hoorah – Peter's got the balance between home life and superhero work sorted. Boo – dark clouds are gathering.

Former pal Harry blames Spidey for his dad's death and wants revenge, so becomes the new Green Goblin. Flint Marko is unmasked as the real killer of Peter's uncle – and is now the scary Sandman. Rival Eddie Brock is after Peter's job, and now some alien goo has attached itself to him, changing his personality, and not in a good way. This latest instalment hasn't got the impact of the first two, and with three villains it can get confusing – you might be the one climbing the walls. But it's chock-full of effects and fabulous acrobatics, has a city-spanning climactic battle scene and some deft touches of comedy, all of which make it a captivating chapter in the ongoing tale of our web-slinging hero.

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Mr Sandman, is that a dream in your bag?

SPIDEY'S WEB

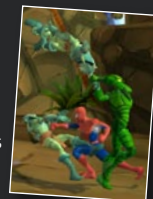
★ Spider-Man 3 game



Slip on either the wholesome red or sinister black Spidey suit in this offering, out now. Take a rooftop tour of NYC, re-create the movie or explore original

missions. And there's up to 10 villains to battle – phew! Available on Xbox 360, PS3, Nintendo DS and Wii

★ Spider-Man: Friend or Foe game



Out 12 October, this game offers you the chance to take on Spider-Man's most infamous enemies – and turn them into sidekicks.

And there's a two-player option if you want to control the bad guys. Available on Nintendo DS, Wii and Xbox 360



★ Spider-Man Trilogy on Blu-ray

Long touted, Spider-Man finally swings onto Blu-ray on

15 October with the *Spider-Man High Definition Trilogy* – complete with all three instalments.

CHECK THE TRAILER



See the *Spider-Man 3* trailer on our new online magazine. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx



ONSET WITH

Kirsten Dunst

Spidey's co-star talks about fame, dating, diets, and how a nice glass of wine helps her relax

So what happens to Mary Jane in this film?

She's going through a hard time – at the beginning she's very happy but then you see her deteriorate. I really had to make an effort not to be a depressed lump, which would have been easy because she's beaten down the whole time.

Could you identify with what she goes through?

I've had ups and downs in my career. I was so depressed after *Marie Antoinette* came out I could hardly get out of bed. The negative way it was received felt like everyone was stomping on my heart. I feel much better now – I had to go through the dark to find the light.

Were the action scenes fun?

No! Those bluescreen scenes are the bane of my existence. They mostly mean sitting

in a trailer all day not doing anything. Each moment takes a day and it's very technical.

Do you enjoy fame?

One of the good things about being famous is that I can meet anyone I want to – just because I'm famous.

How do you relax when you're not on set?

I love evenings at home with friends. I get food from my favourite restaurant, Sushi Roku, brought to the house. Can you believe it? It's the best thing on earth. And I love good wine – I have a European sensibility to alcohol: a nice glass of Merlot or Pinot Grigio, well, maybe two or three.

So, no diets?

I don't diet! I love pasta and sushi and cheese sandwiches. I've just eaten an English muffin with cheddar cheese

and as you can see I am now eating chocolate chip cookies.

What kind of men do you like dating?

I love men who challenge me. But I will not date an actor again, I can tell you that – it brings too much attention to your relationship. In the press, if you shake a boy's hand, you've slept with him.

Would you make another Spider-Man movie?

As long as Sam Raimi is the director, Tobey is the star and there's a good story to tell, I'll be there with bells on.

★ Most rented Kirsten Dunst

2006 *Marie Antoinette*

2001 *Crazy/Beautiful*

2000 *Bring It On*

1999 *The Virgin Suicides*

1994 *Interview with the Vampire*

