

A Little Push From J.S.

I just finished watching a little movie that was released last winter/early spring that received little notice but was released by the same distribution company as *Knowing*. Unfortunately, the latter got more publicity. I will direct you to a much more in depth description of [Push](#) from [taylhis](#). I will say that I absolutely adored this little gem. It is very action-packed and filled with enough twists and turns to keep me glued to the seat. Much more enjoyable than watching a NASCAR race.

What I found fascinating was the choice of casting the male lead. Chris Evans previously played Johnny Storm aka The Human Torch in *The Fantastic Four* and its sequel (odd that I have not seen *Rise of the Silver Surfer* but from what I have heard... I'm not missing a great deal... maybe one day). In *Push*, Mr. Evans plays Nick who has the power of telekinesis... the ability to move objects with one's mind. My question is: has any other actor played more than one character with a unique superhuman ability? I know multiple actors have played the same superhuman character (Batman, Superman, the Hulk, etc) but I think this reversal is unique. The closest I could come up with is Hayden Christensen who played Anakin Skywalker in *Star Wars* episodes II and III and went on to star in *Jumper*, but that is a stretch.

In The Beginning....

There seems to be a fascination with franchise re-boots in movies today. If memory serves, one of the first was George Lucas' idea of deciding to tell the back story of Darth Vader.

While the idea of *Star Wars* Episodes 1-3 seemed good in theory, it failed in many respects.

The plot of the trilogy had more to do with political mumbo-jumbo than actual lightsaber and space battles. It took three movies to explain how a Republic failed and became the Empire of the original *Star Wars* trilogy. Anakin Skywalker's transformation into Darth Vader almost seems like a secondary plot. And don't even get me started on the ridiculous concept of "midichlorians."

The acting seems stuffy in Episodes 1-3. Hayden Christensen's acting style is so wooden and forced that the audience really does not care about Anakin Skywalker. The dialogue makes it sound as if the audience is watching a Shakespearean play instead of the fun, swashbuckling atmosphere of episodes 4-6.

However, there are good moments in the second trilogy. [*The Phantom Menace*](#) includes a lightsaber duel between Obi-Wan Kenobi, his mentor Qui-Gon Jinn, and the evil Sith Lord Darth Maul. By the time [*Attack of the Clones*](#) came about, enough technology had been created to allow Yoda to become more than a mere puppet and engage in his own lightsaber fight. Finally, [*Revenge of the Sith*](#) features the climactic battle between Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker.

On a side note, the title *Revenge of the Sith* is a nod to the title which Episode 6 was to be. *Revenge of the Jedi* was to be the title of the final movie. At the last minute after posters, advertisements, and merchandise had already been created, George Lucas decided that a Jedi does not seek revenge. Therefore, the title was changed to [*Return of the Jedi*](#). *Star Wars* collectors must have a field day looking for and selling these rare pieces of memorabilia on [ebay](#) and at conventions.

While both trilogies are among the most popular movies in history, the redemption of Anakin Skywalker as seen in

episodes 4-6 are much more imaginative than the newer films. However, if you are a Star Wars purist and want to know how and why Darth Vader came to be then you should watch the newer films which are the first in the timeline of the series....
WOOLY SHEEP!!! MORAT CONFUSING SELF!!!!!!

Awake... but I should have been asleep

Last night's movie was called [Awake](#), and it starred [Jessica Alba](#) and [Hayden Christensen](#). When I first saw Jessica Alba, I was not looking forward to seeing the movie, and I don't know why. It's not like I've seen anything else with her in it, but for some reason, I was under the impression that I didn't like her as an actress. I think it might be an interview I saw with her on the Tyra Banks show – she came across as self-absorbed and dumb, and then the whole pregnant-out-of-wedlock thing doesn't score her many points either... Anyway, surprisingly, she was not the weak link in the movie. It was the script. The movie had tons of accuracy flaws, and I really don't want to spoil it for you in case you'd like to waste your time on it, but let's just say the movie was kind of pointless. It's about a young man who has a heart condition and must undergo a heart transplant. When they put him under anesthesia, he does not fall asleep but instead overhears the doctors plotting his murder. There actually is more to the plot, at least they pretend there is, and there are some so-called twists and turns that anyone with any movie watching experience can see coming from a mile away. Aside from the unbelievability of the plot – and I'm not talking about staying awake during surgery; according to the movie's tagline, it's actually more common than you'd like to think –

I'm talking about when this guy is getting his surgery, his "spirit" is walking around the hospital experiencing flashbacks. It's just dumb and ridiculous. Anyway, aside from the unbelievability of the plot, I have to share what the dumbest part about the whole movie is. And I'm going to risk spoiling the movie for you, so if you might see this movie, stop reading now. But I just have to say what the dumbest thing about the whole movie is: there is no point to the main character's overhearing his murder plot! His mother, while waiting for his surgery to be completed, overhears everything anyway, the cops are called, yada, yada! I still don't consider watching this movie a waste of time – it's really difficult for me to say that about a movie. It was only 84 minutes long, and one of the rewards of watching the movie was seeing [Christopher McDonald](#) (aka Shooter McGavin from [Happy Gilmore](#)) as an alcoholic doctor who is too oblivious to stop the murder plot. But I would much rather see him for the 100th time as Shooter any day – I would suggest you don't waste your time with Awake, and go for something with more substance instead – like Happy Gilmore! That sounds like a joke, but this movie was so bad, it's really not that funny – Happy Gilmore is a much better movie in my opinion!