

Mark
WHELAN

THE BEST FILMS OF THE DECADE:

DREAMWORKS
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR
DRAGON

Upon its release, *How To Train Your Dragon* (2010) was, like several computer-generated animated films at the time, capitalizing on newfound 3D technology. However, dissimilar to some features utilizing this application, it was recorded with this specific implement from the onset and the result is nothing short of a miraculously immersive cinematic experience.

When Hiccup, the film's precocious teen hero (indelibly voiced by Jay Baruchel), is eventually able to cajole his unlikely companion out for a test flight, the mesmerizing kinesthesia of their aviation are absolutely jaw-dropping. These jubilant moments are amplified by John Powell's soaring orchestrations—single-handedly a candidate for this decade's best film score.

How To Train Your Dragon doesn't just invoke its senses of awe and wonder through visual ploys and gimmicks (though that certainly aids in its prosperity), but is also a brainy and exciting family film with instantly amiable characters, the likes of which are based on a series of children's books by British author Cressida Cowell.

One could nitpick the film's few shortcomings, but it's useless to carp when this thrilling adventure endeavors so prominently to enrapture and invigorate.

The success of *How To Train Your Dragon* was benevolent enough to warrant two theatrical sequels of equal quality (the third film dropped the numeric for a subtitle: *The Hidden World* (2019)), two television serials, and a straight to video special. While its continuations and spin-offs have sustained its ability to enchant throughout the past ten years, little can diminish the colossal inferno of (dragon)fire the original blazed.

For young and old alike, *How To Train Your Dragon* is one terrific movie.



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How To Train Your Dragon (2010)

D: Dean DeBlois, Chris Sanders

C: Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler, Craig Ferguson, America Ferrera, Jonah Hill, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, T.J. Miller, Kristen Wiig, Robin Atkin Downes

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