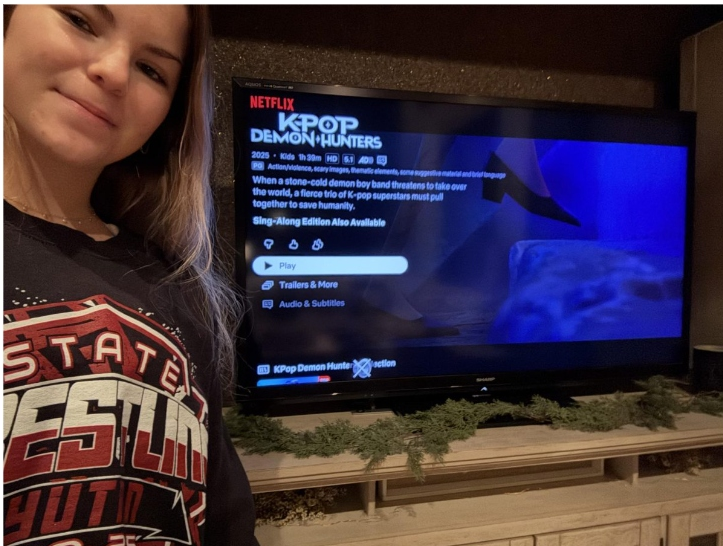


Review – “Kpop Demon Hunters”

Popular movie dazzles viewers with catchy music, smooth animations

Halle Arlt

“K-pop Demon Hunters” was a movie I never really desired to see. A bunch of singers fighting demons and saving the world didn’t really fit into my cup of tea for movies. But ever since its release on Netflix on Aug. 23, it’s the only movie everyone has been talking about. So when I had a long car ride ahead of me, my friend convinced me that the 1 hour and 26 minute movie was worthwhile, and she was right.



Junior Halle Arlt takes a selfie with “Kpop Demon Hunters” displayed on the TV screen. Director Maggie Kang expressed that there may be a potential sequel for the movie. (Halle Arlt)

The movie starts with the demon hunters backstory. Each generation, a new trio of demon hunters would emerge, using their voices to keep the Honmoon, which basically protects the world, strong. After explaining where the demon hunters came from, a new trio is introduced. This K-pop girl group called Huntr/x consists of Zoey, Mira and the leader Rumi. After the group releases their greatest hit, the demons figure out that they are in trouble, so five demons step up to become a boy band that rivals Huntr/x, the Saja Boys. Throughout the rest of the movie, Huntr/x and the Saja Boys continue their rivalry until something happens to Rumi, which turns the tide for the rest of the movie.

The first thing I both enjoyed and critiqued about the movie was the backstory. Since the movie started with the history of the demon hunters, I expected to learn more about Huntr/x. But instead viewers learn more about the backstory of the previous hunters and how they came to be. Even though it was brief, I did love how the producers gave

viewers a little knowledge about the three main characters and where they came from. Zoey grew up in the United States, while Mira had a rough childhood of being the odd one out. Rumi was raised by Celine, a former demon hunter, after her mother died. Once the girls grew up, Celine took it upon herself to train the girls into the next best hunters. Including Celine to be their mentor since she was a former demon hunter was a really great idea, which kept the backstory of the demon hunters relevant.

With the movie being on the shorter side, though, I definitely think that more about each girl could have been added. I still have multiple questions about Huntr/x backstory, like why was Mira the odd one out in her family, or how did Rumi’s mother die? These types of details could have been added early on in the movie or even in later scenes as flashbacks. Another main character, Jinu, who isn’t introduced till later in the movie, had a more descriptive backstory than all three girls. Personally, I wanted to know about each girl, not so much Jinu, because I think it would have added a lot to the movie if the viewers knew more about Huntr/x.

Even though the producers could have done more with the main characters' backstories, they did not miss when it came to the animations. One thing that stood out to me was Rumi's hair, which was up in a braid that went all the way down to her knees. The animators made sure her hair was always moving, whether it was a fight scene or her just walking. I feel like this is something people might not notice, which causes animators to overlook the detail. I always notice these kinds of things because even though it is an animated movie, it helps it feel more realistic. Nobody has stiff hair. Along with that one small detail, every other scene in the movie was great when it came to the animations. The facial expressions on the characters were all very different and really fit with what each person was feeling in that moment. Every movement of the characters, when they were singing, fighting or even just relaxing, all flowed together, and I really appreciate how well this movie was animated.

Since this movie is a musical, the soundtrack also had to be amazing, and it did not disappoint. One song from this movie really took off, especially on social media, and it's pretty understandable why "Golden" has been so popular. The song has really great lyrics and even better vocals. My favorite part about the song is how, in the first verse, there's a line or two that ties into each girl. Rumi sings about not knowing how to be a queen, Zoey sings about how she couldn't find a place to fit in and—my personal favorite—Mira sings, "Called a problem child 'cause I got too wild," which fits her character perfectly.

Of course, there are other outstanding songs in the movie like "How It's Done," "Soda Pop" and "Takedown." Each one of these songs fits perfectly with where it was featured in the movie and has fitting lyrics. Song lyrics are a big thing for me; they tell a story. And one song featured at the end of the movie really stood out to me more: "What It Sounds Like." The lyrics tell the story of Rumi and what she went through, along with Zoey and Mira always being there for their friend. A lyric in the song that really displays Rumi, Zoey and Mira's love for one another is, "We listened to the demons, we let them get between us / But none of us are out here on our own." I really love this song because, honestly, it could make any viewer emotional because it shows how the three girls stick together no matter what.

Overall, the movie was an amazing watch. With the astounding lyrics in every song and the emotion felt in every scene, the movie had almost everything right. Although I was sceptical before this watch, I now understand why my friend wanted me to watch this exciting and heart-warming movie. This is a perfect watch for a movie-goer of any age. If you have been dragging your feet about watching this movie like I was, wait no longer, because it may just turn your life golden.



Image found at Deezer.com