

MOVIES

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3

Racing ahead, but tripping along the way

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

Sonic the Hedgehog has been a pop culture icon since the 90s, zipping his way into the hearts of gamers and meme enthusiasts alike. When the live-action film adaptation was first announced in 2019, fans were sceptical – and rightly so, after the infamous reveal of the original design for the titular speedster. Thankfully, the backlash led to a redesign that paved the way for a successful franchise, now three films strong, with a fourth on the way. So, how does *Sonic the Hedgehog 3* hold up?

Sonic the Hedgehog 3 dives into the story of Shadow, another speedy alien hedgehog who serves as Sonic's 'edgy' counterpart and moral foil. The new adversary is quickly seen teaming up with Sonic's arch-nemesis, Doctor Ivo Robotnik, aka Eggman, alongside a surprise new villain – Eggman's long-lost grandfather, Professor Gerald Robotnik.

However, unlike the devious Robotniks, who only have evil in their hearts, Shadow's arc explores familiar territory: Will he seek vengeance for the injustices he has suffered, or will he join Sonic in embracing heroism? While predictable, this moral dilemma is handled with enough flair to keep it engaging as the main plot point during the film's runtime.



Jim Carrey steals the show once again, playing both Eggman and Gerald Robotnik with his trademark over-the-top energy. The animation is another standout. The seamless blend of CGI and live action feels better than the previous movies, and the action sequences also seem smoother and more immersive. The film's conclusion delivers a satisfying resolution to Shadow's arc, balancing the action with emotional weight.

However, despite being a 2024 release, *Sonic the Hedgehog 3* feels oddly dated. Some of the dialogue lands firmly in the 'corny'

territory. Sonic's signature trash-talking is on full display, but his brashness often teeters into unlikeability. The comedy, a cornerstone of the films, is another mixed bag.

Overall, *Sonic the Hedgehog 3* is a solid popcorn flick that delivers what fans have come to expect – quirky characters, fast-paced action, and nostalgic nods to the games. While the humour and repetitive tropes might wear thin, the strong performances and polished visuals make the film worth a watch. Not quite supersonic, but still a fun spin.

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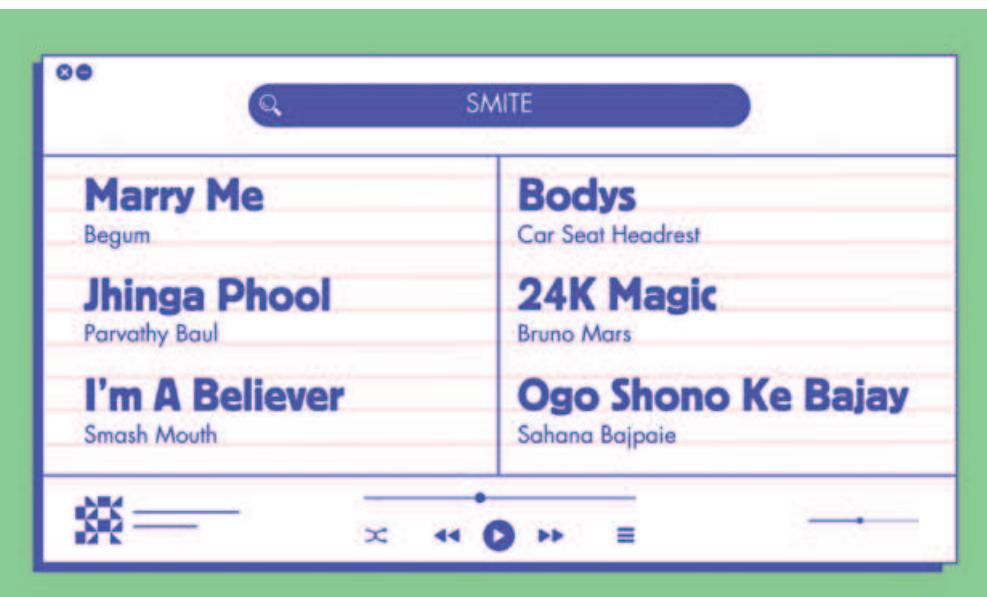
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