



Long-delayed \$75 million spectacle finally dawns like the brain-dead on Broadway

**BY MICHAEL SOMMERS
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BROADWAY REVIEW**

For the record, I did not sneak a peek at director Julie Taymor's incarnation of "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," so thankfully I cannot compare it with the post-Taymor version that finally opened on Tuesday at the Foxwoods Theatre after 183 previews and a three-week-long hiatus to incorporate revised material.

An advertising flyer for cheaper seats handed out in Times Square terms the show "reimagined," but whatever it is, the \$75 million results turn out to be not so much a Broadway musical as a dumbed-down theme park attraction with rock songs. Plus a lot of flying around the auditorium on zip lines.

A cartoon spectacle about a geeky guy transformed into a web-spinning super-hero, "Spider-Man" tells Peter Parker's story faithfully and flatly. There's nice Mary Jane next door and bullies in the classroom. Then a fateful meeting with a mad scientist who mutates into a Green Goblin gleefully bent on mass destruction. And so forth. The more spectacular aerial feats and fancier scenic effects are reserved for the second act's doings.



www.spidermanonbroadway.com

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