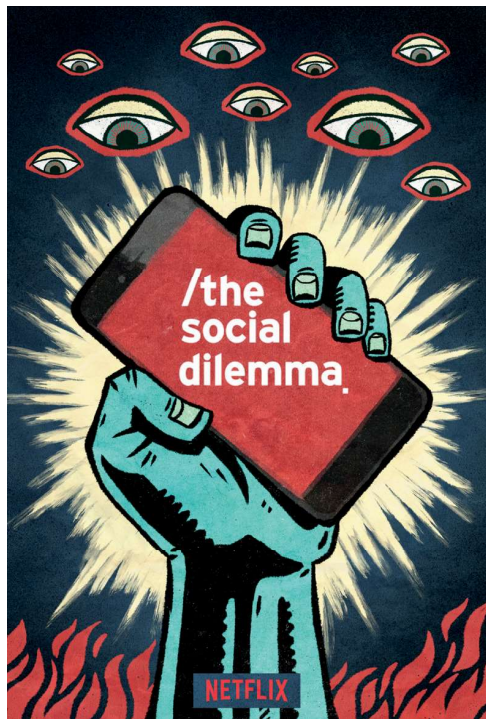


The Social Dilemma: *beyond the screen*

BY BREANNA MEDEL

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The Social Dilemma, a new Netflix documentary directed by Jeff Orlowski, views the ways social media has a manipulating and addicting dark side to it and the strategies that these platforms use to keep us drawn in; and it's not unintentional.

In *The Social Dilemma*, former employees of social media platforms explain that the manipulation and the addicting side of social media is not an accident waiting to happen, but instead a purposeful social networking feature. The platforms and creators claim that the manipulation is just a human concept. In reality, it is the way that these big apps make a profit off of the notifications, the constant scrolling, and the personalized recommendations that have us all hooked to the internet.

The Social Dilemma introduces facts that some people may already know, but they go the extra step by using real people to display the issue. A fictional modern day family is shown to struggle with social media addiction in order to illustrate the consequences it causes. When the documentary introduces the aforementioned family, the audience sees the silent dinners, the teenage daughter

who suffers with social media addiction and is constantly checking her phone, the teenage son that is obsessed with scrolling on his feed and checking others' profiles. Certain broad spectrum issues like critiquing self image are displayed as well.

How many hours we spend on social media, how many ads you view while scrolling through your phone, how many interactions you have with people online – they all create profit for social media and tech companies.

The Social Dilemma proves that our minds are being twisted by social media from the way we think to the way we look at ourselves. The media today has put standards into our heads, telling us how we should look, the way we should talk, and even the way we should think.

Overall, *The Social Dilemma* is a remarkable documentary that could lead to big changes into these big social media companies, as people can now know what is happening behind the scenes of our screens. This documentary is a mind-changing movement and it is most definitely a must-watch.

WandaVision: *a new reality for the MCU*

BY CARLY PHILPOTT

News Editor

I watched *Avengers: Endgame* (2019) in theaters three times before it hit me that I'd never see something like it again. What I'd considered to be the greatest cinematic collaboration of all time was splitting into pieces, throwing characters back into the farthest reaches of the galaxy. It was the start of a new era.

I've spent a lot of time trying to figure out why, exactly, *WandaVision* has been so good. On the surface, it's full of extraordinary writing, acting, and visuals. But the reason it's so important to me goes beyond that. In short: it's the beginning of an era much anticipated.

The Marvel Cinematic Universe is full of mini-storylines, dozens of characters with their own backgrounds and their own reasons for being heroes. Few of these characters get their own moments, and even fewer get their own movies. And so, understandably, some characters fall behind.

Wanda Maximoff (Elizabeth Olsen) was one of these characters. After she was introduced in *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2014) as an enemy-turned-good, not much was known about her. Other than some small moments that gave us limited insight into

what kind of a character she truly was, we didn't see much of her and what made her, her.

It has been a general trend in the MCU, too: female superheroes, no matter how interesting, tend to get fewer minutes onscreen than their male counterparts – think *Black Widow* (Scarlett Johansson), who, after 13 years in the MCU, is only just now getting a solo movie. Right now, for the first time, female heroes are being recognized and represented, and *WandaVision* is a huge step towards inclusion.

The pioneering nature of *WandaVision* is extended beyond that, though: nearly everything, right down to the basic structure of the show, is completely new. Based on family sitcoms from the past eight decades or so, *WandaVision* takes an approach to a superhero story that is yet unseen, but still it makes sense – this is Wanda's story, and sitcoms are her idealized reality.

The MCU is constantly evolving, bringing in new characters and saying good-bye to old ones. But as we close out the most influential phase of the franchise, the magical innovation of *WandaVision* is an unexpected step towards something new. And as we all sit at home, it couldn't have come at a better time.



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