

Pint-sized heroes score big in Marvel's latest flick



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CHENNAI: Characters who fly off the pages of comic books and onto the silver screen are often dynamic and exciting, and Ant-Man and the Wasp are no different. The characters of Scott Lang and Hope van Dyne (Ant-Man and the Wasp, respectively) go on an epic adventure in the 20th release in Disney's Marvel Cinematic Universe series of comic book movies, and the first to feature a woman in the title.

Directed by Peyton Reed, Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) and the Wasp (Evangeline Lilly) star in a gleeful movie that, for two hours, takes viewers into the realm of sheer fantastical fantasy. There is a lot of fun here and the special effects dexterously push the pulse-pounding plot as buildings shrink into miniature form and vehicles go from minuscule to massive in the blink of an eye.

It's the second movie in the series and this time, Scott Lang languishes under house arrest in San Francisco after being caught as his shrinkable superhero alter-ego fighting some of the other Avengers in "Civil War." He dotes on his young daughter Cassie (Abby Ryder Forston) and the pair make the most of their time together at home, but his world is turned upside down when he's confronted by Hope Van Dyne and her father, the brilliant quantum physicist Hank Pym (Michael Douglas), with an urgent new mission.

His wife, Janet van Dyne (Michelle Pfeiffer), has been stuck in the quantum realm for 30 years and it's time to save her from being lost forever.

What is really memorable about this film is the emotional high — the tender relationship between Lang and his daughter, the stirrings of love between him and Hope and Hank's unwavering feelings for his long-missing wife. These play out as strongly as the electrifying car chases, the fantastic fights and the terrific transmogrification of just about everything.

Besides the gigantic helping of humor — most of which comes courtesy of a hilarious Michael Peña — the film is made by a wistful Pfeiffer, a grumbling Douglas and a hilarious Rudd, who all add that touch of magic humanism.
