Every superhero has his nemesis. For Superman, it’s Lex Luthor; for Captain Marvel, Dr. Sivana; and for Metro Man, protector of Metro City, it’s Megamind. Like Luthor and Sivana, Megamind lacks his adversary’s super powers (invulnerability, flight, virtually unlimited strength, etc) and matinee idol good looks. Instead, he relies upon his own brilliant—if twisted—genius, and thanks to his unparalleled scientific wizardry Megamind has a secret weapon for every occasion...and if he lacks Metro Man’s super hair, he makes up for it with his inimitable and fiendish style and flair for the dramatic. For Megamind, it’s good to be bad, for long ago he decided that being the baddest villain of them all was his one true destiny.

But what if...he were wrong?

That’s the question at the heart of Megamind, a delightful animated action/comedy produced by DreamWorks and directed by Tom McGrath. Though Megamind boasts a talented cast which uniformly does a great job of voice-acting (including Will Ferrell as Megamind, Brad Pitt as Metro Man, and Tina Fey as Metro City’s star reporter Roxanne Ritchie), the real reason for the movie’s excellence is the well-written script. Turning the old Luthor vs. Superman rivalry on its head and looking at it from the villain’s point of view is a great idea, and Megamind himself is a dynamic, engaging character who, even at his worst, is unfailingly charismatic. But beyond that, the story delves into the question of Destiny, and whether our fates are written in the stars or if we make our own destinies through the actions we choose for ourselves. This inevitably forces Megamind—as well as Metro Man and a new would-be hero called Titan—to confront the moral question of heroism itself. What makes a man a hero? Or, conversely, a villain? And if a villain wants to change, can he?

Philosophy aside, Megamind is also a thrilling roller-coaster ride, with great action scenes full of daring escapes and rescues and mind-boggling feats of power that shake Metro City to its core. The animation is colorful and lively, and while I’m not a big fan of 3-D the effect is well-used in this film and adds yet another dimension to the enjoyment. Though targeted primarily at the younger set, grownups should enjoy Megamind also, especially if they grew up as superhero fans. In short, Megamind is Megafun.