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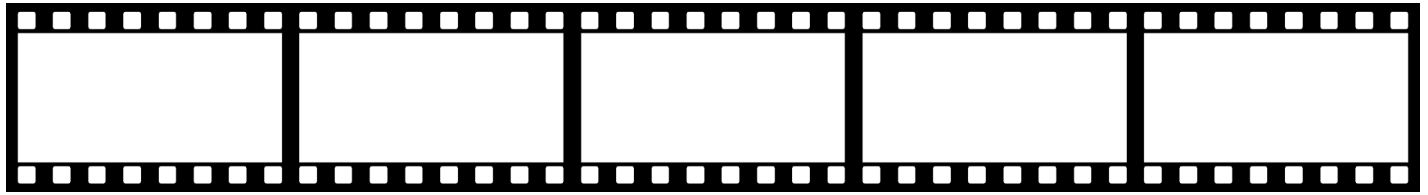
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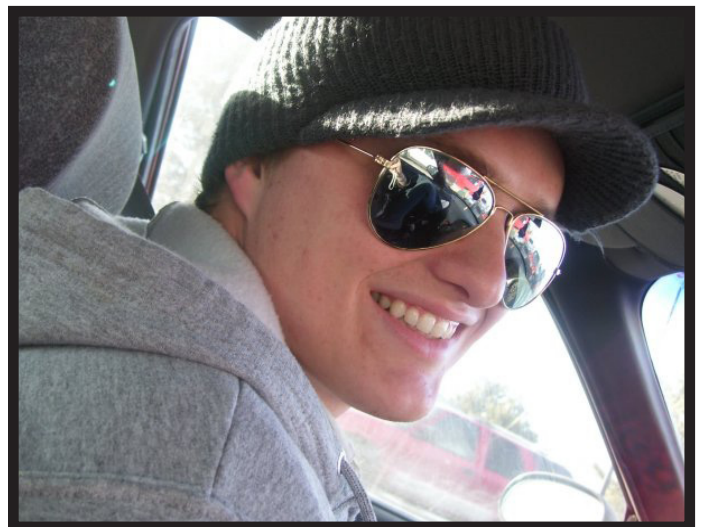
Letter from the Editor

Hello and Welcome,

Our mission at Kirtland Publishing is to offer you an in depth look into the art of film making. From die hard movie buffs, to the occasional movie renters, this magazine is dedicated to you. We dedicate our work in the efforts to help you know which movies to anticipate and which ones to avoid. We'll cover all the bases of essential movie knowledge and trivia; covering topics that you'll find interesting, some things you never thought about before, and any-and-all general trivia knowledge. Soon, you'll be the go to person who will be able answer all questions regarding "that one actress who was in that one movie" due to Light! Camera! Action!

Thank you for your support. Know that this magazine wouldn't be made possible without the endless hours and dedication from the hard working staff here at Kirtland Publishing. Enjoy!

- Quinn





**BECAUSE YOU CAN
NEVER HAVE ENOUGH
OF A GOOD THING**

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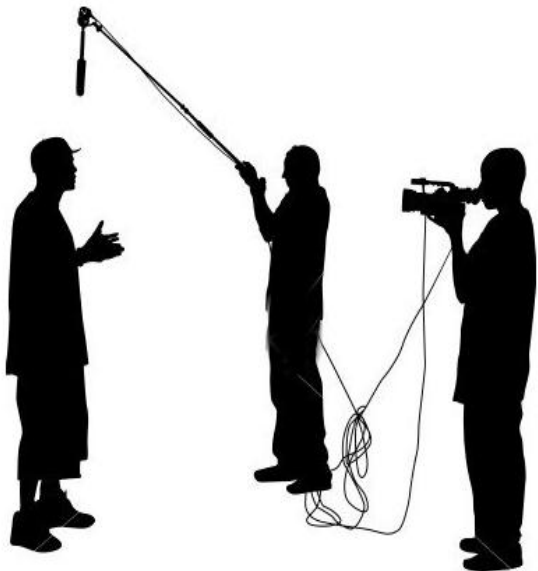
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FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

BY KIRTLAND PUBLISHING

"Over the Rainbow" and the music from The Wizard of Oz has been an inspiration to audiences, academy of arts and film personnel, musicians, and directors."

The Bricks That Pave The Yellow Brick Road

For many years, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was known only as a series of beloved children's books by L. Frank Baum. That all changed with the release of the 1939 film, The Wizard of Oz. The film, gained its "classic movie" status through many different avenues including its innovative use of Technicolor and win of an Academy Award for "Best Song." The legacy of the film continues to grow through its annual airing on television around Christmas time. The first year it aired on television, approximately 45 million viewers watched the broadcast (The Wizard of Oz (1939 film)).

Nearly 75 years later, authors, and film directors continue to revisit and re-imagine the film as it gains a new fan following through its many adaptations; from its beginning adaptation from a book to

film, to more recently, a Broadway play; even the original music from the film is used in other non-related Wizard of Oz films. After its 1939 release, the themes and characters of the books and movie are still applicable and loved by audiences around the world. The magic began as L. Frank Baum's children's book entitled The Wonderful Wizard of Oz published in 1900. From this creation sprang countless adaptations by Baum and other Wizard of Oz admirers (To See).



From Book to Musical

It all began with an imaginative idea. L. Frank Baum transformed his idea into a beloved children's book. Its loveable characters and zany plot left audiences wanting more. Consequently, the initial popularity of the children's story inspired various adaptations. This encouraged Baum to take his story a step further by turning it into an on-stage musical.

In 1902, Baum's children's story pressed forward successfully in musical form. To effectively adapt the book, he sculpted the story into a musical comedy complete with new characters including a chorus line of poppies. W.W. Denslow who illustrated the book also designed the costumes for the production. It opened on June 16, 1902 at Chicago's Grand Opera House and gained immediate success (To See).

The journey does not

end there, however. In 1903 it hit Broadway and became the longest running show of the decade with 290 performances. Following its stage debut, the play toured the country until 1911 (The Wizard of Oz (1939) Greatest Films).

From Musical to Film

Baum, the wizard behind it all, persisted in fueling the fire of his success. In 1914 he founded his own Hollywood film company and used it as a way to promote his stories. He created five silent films based on his writing, yet all were unsuccessful. Burnt out, he closed down his operation just a year later (To See).

Hoping to revive the story, Chadwick Pictures tried to adapt it in their silent film Wizard. The film was drastically different from Baum's original Wizard of Oz and failed as well. This interruption couldn't stop the tenacious Wizard of Oz. The story gained its big film break in 1939 with MGM Studios.

From Film to Stage

Since the Tony Award-winning Broadway and West End musical Wicked hit the stage it has dramatically changed viewer's interpretation of the film The Wizard of Oz. The musical is based on the best-selling novel Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West by Gregory Maguire. Long before Dorothy dropped in, two other girls meet in the Land of Oz. One, born with emerald green skin, is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. How these two unlikely friends end up as the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch makes for

the most spellbinding new musical in years. (Wicked)

Wicked is the prequel to The Wizard of Oz that tells the story of Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch of the West and her relationship with Glinda, the Good Witch of the North. Their friendship struggles through their opposing personalities and viewpoints, rivalry over the same love-interest, their reactions to the Wizard's corrupt government, and, ultimately, Elphaba's public fall from grace. The plot includes several references to the story that has become the famous movie The Wizard of Oz. (Wicked:Musical)

Telling the story of how each character has come to be in the timeless film The Wizard of Oz has made Wicked one of the best musicals of all time.

It has broken box office records around the world, holding weekly-gross-takings records in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Louis, and London, and the record for biggest opening in the

West End.

The West End production has played to more than 1.4 million people, and the North American tour has been seen by over two million patrons. The show was nominated for ten 2004 Tony Awards, winning those for Best Actress, Scenic Design and Costume Design. It also won six Drama Desk Awards. (Wicked: Musical)

Wicked has forever changed the way people view the classic movie The Wizard of Oz. Knowing what happened before there was Dorothy, The Lion, Scare Crow, The Tin Man, and Toto makes the movie much more rich and meaningful. Mutually benefiting from each others' existence they give audiences the powerful experience they are looking for in the theater and on screen.





From Stage to Music

The music used in the film and on Broadway play a huge role in what makes the movie endure from generation to generation. One song in particular helps establish it's fame; "Over the Rainbow." "Over the Rainbow," voted the number one "Song of the Century" by Recording Industry Association of America and the National Endowment for the Arts. The American Film Institute declared it to be the greatest movie song of all time by (AFI's 100 Years). Numerous cover versions have been recorded, ranging from the Punk band "Me First and The Gim-



version reaching the number twelve spot on Billboard's "Hot Digital Tracks" list in January of 2004 (Billboard).

The message of the song emphasizing an escape from life's stresses is applicable to audiences seventy years after its original release on the silver screen in 1939 and the song's themes and message have been used in other non-related Oz films. Most recent use of the song is in the 2008 film, *Australia*, directed by Baz Luhrmann. In *Australia*, Nullah, a boy, is dealing with the recent death of his mother. Lady Sarah tries to comfort Nullah by singing "Over the Rainbow" as Nullah takes the song's message to heart. The remainder of the film plays the song in the background as the characters experience difficult situations. "Over the Rainbow" and the music from *The Wizard of Oz* has been an inspiration to audiences, academy of arts and film personnel, musicians, and directors. With the upcoming 75th anniversary of the film, the songs will continue to stand the test of time as they already have for so many years.

All Leading to the Yellow Brick Road

Since the release of the movie, *The Wizard of Oz* has a huge impact in the world of entertainment. The classic movie has evolved into many versions of the story. Whether it's books, plays or songs, *The Wizard of Oz*'s themes circulates media

today. The books, musicals and music's message gives hope to people to pursue dreams and have courage to make them come true. Dorothy's powerful character is a symbol to all to take chances and follow your dreams. The storyline of *The Wizard of Oz* has developed into many versions and will continue to shape media and entertainment forever. Just follow your yellow brick road!

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Timeless



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WHICH WIZARD OF OZ CHARACTER ARE YOU?

BY: Erin Fillmore

When you're at a party you:

- help the hostess serve hors d'oeuvres
- turn up the music and bust a move
- enjoy the refreshments
- chat by the pool with your friends

In your high school shop class you:

- quietly went about your business and always missed the assignments on time
- were the project leader
- focused on the task you were going to paint your missed assignment
- helped your classmate with a new welding technique

When life gives you lemons you:

- make lemonade
- vent to your friends
- suck it up because there are other people who have it worse
- rely on past experience to get through it

In the recent production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night you starred as:

- Antonio
- an Attendant
- Viola/Cesario
- Feste

When your best friend breaks up with their significant other you:

- threaten to give the ex a piece of your mind as you and your friend veg on your couch
- give them a shoulder to cry on
- let your friend know you're happy for his/her bravery and that you didn't like his/her relationship with his/her ex to begin with
- tell your friend it's going to be ok then crack a joke to lighten the mood

Your goal in school is to:

- remain true to your beliefs
- learn everything you can
- stay out of the bully's way
- try new things

Your least favorite part of a first date is:

- the entire thing: I don't open up to people easily
- wondering if you'll have anything in common with your date
- knowing your date isn't very attractive or fun, they just like being around you
- when your date is boring or reserved

The color that describes you most is:

- sunshine yellow
- gold
- ocean blue
- royal purple

As a general rule, when you go out to dinner with friends you:

- let them know the places you've heard bad reviews of and ask to avoid them
- give your opinion, but don't offer any suggestions
- suggest you try some place new or different
- carefully avoid suggesting certain places because you know your friends have food allergies

If you woke up on a random yellow road you would:

- start walking and hope to find someone to help you along the way
- skip down it singing your favorite song
- worry about how you got there and what you did to deserve this treatment
- call out for someone to give you directions

Now using your answers and the chart below, count up how many total points your ten answers are worth.

Question	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points
1	a	b	d	c
2	b	c	d	a
3	c	a	d	b
4	c	d	a	b
5	c	d	b	a
6	d	b	a	c
7	c	d	b	a
8	b	a	d	c
9	d	c	a	b
10	a	b	c	d

Dorothy: 50-73 points

You are honest and caring. People are naturally drawn to you thanks to your charisma. Eager to help others, you often find yourself in new situations that require a strong sense of bravery.

Scarecrow: 42-36 points

Outgoing and ambivalent, you are never phased by what life throws at you. Your love of learning and fun personality make you an interestingly well-rounded person and you are the life of the party.

Tin Man: 35-28 points

You are immovable in your virtues. You are the core of your friend circle, others may come and go, but your courage through life's tough questions remains the same. You tend to feel everything very emotionally: your heart goes out to those around you. Whenever someone needs a shoulder to cry on they know to go to you.

Cowardly Lion: 27-20 points

Anything but cowardly, you avoid conflict whenever possible, but always jump in to protect a friend when it matters. You can be an outwardly prickly person who has the need to be respected, but are soft and lovable to those who know you. More often than not you're in need of a confidence boost so you surround yourself with few but choice friends.



MYTH BUSTERS

Let us set the record straight

A HANGING IN OZ: THE MUNCHKIN SUICIDE

BY: STEPHANIE TEDFORD

THE MYTH—A lovelorn actor portraying one of the munchkins hanged himself on the set during the filming of *The Wizard of Oz*. When watching the movie during the scene from the picture, it definitely looks like something is swinging from the trees in the background.

Additional Theory—The shadowed figure has also been explained as 1) A stagehand accidentally being caught on the set after the cameras started rolling, and also a stagehand falling out of a prop tree into the scene. 2) The director's daughter hanged herself on set because she didn't make the role of Dorothy. 3) The director hung himself on set because he believed the film would not make enough money. 4) Somebody planted a body dummy there as a joke. 5) The wicked witch is lurking in the background...and 6) The director's son hanged himself because his father would not let him be in the movie or be a part of the film crew.

The Truth—When the movie is seen on a television or small projector screen it definitely looks like someone is swinging from the trees, but if you watch the movie on the big screen it is quite obvious that the shadowed figure in the background is a large bird. It is not clear what kind of bird but it is believed to be a crane.

MGM studios proclaimed at the time of filming that they had rented 300 birds from ZOO PARK in Los Angeles, so that the director could select an appropriate few for the background atmosphere amidst the trees. Among the birds were golden pheasants, a South American toucan, an African crane and a Saurus crane. A few of these



birds managed to escape and appeared in various shots throughout the filming of *The Wizard of Oz*. So what is seen as a shadowy figure hanging themselves is actually a large bird moving its head back and forth.

Controversy—A lot of people believe that MGM studio made this up about the birds to cover up the fact that they allowed a hanging on the set of their movie, but the facts would suggest otherwise: A bird is clearly seen when watching the movie on the big screen; during the filming of *The Wizard of Oz* security was tighter than usual; most of the trees in the background were on a painted backdrop and the rest were artificial, too fragile to hold the weight of a body; and, all three of the actors are looking and heading directly at the moving object, if someone was hanging, they would have noticed and filming would not have continued. This myth has been busted, but still people are more prone to believe that a hanging/suicide occurred on the set of *The Wizard of Oz* for all to see.

HEATH LEDGER: CAPTIVE OF THE JOKER OF TROUBLED SOUL?

BY: TODD CRABTREE

I was at a family get-together soon after Heath Ledger had died of an accidental overdose of sleeping pills January 22, 2008. My brother-in-law was explaining to me that Heath Ledger was having problems sleeping because he couldn't remove himself from his role as the pure evil Joker in the latest Batman movie, *The Dark Knight*. When he would close his eyes, he would see the people he killed, though only acting a role in a movie. The violence would seem so real that he came to actually believe that he had done those awful things you see him do in the movie. This is what led to his inability to sleep and ultimately caused his death.

Urban myths, like this story, are as old and prevalent as mankind. Most often they are false, but there are those rare occasions when they are true. Often they have a small toehold on the truth and are embellished in the retelling until they get so amazing, how could you not believe? Looking into the rumors surrounding Ledger's death, I found no evidence that the story about him feeling responsible for the people that died as a result of his Joker role was remotely true. Finding the truth is more difficult because the one authority, who knows the whole story, is no longer with us, adding fuel to the speculations. But like all stories, this one is founded in some truth.

In preparation for his role, Ledger locked himself in a London hotel room, trying to immerse himself in his character: how to act, talk, and look. He kept a journal of the Joker's thoughts, trying to become him (*Showbiz Tonight*). It would be highly unlikely that this level of immersion into becoming evil would not have an affect on anyone.

While making *The Dark Knight*, Ledger said in an interview being the Joker "had exhausted him to the bone," sometimes requiring weeks between shoots to recover. He was also quoted as saying that he rarely

slept during filming. "I couldn't stop thinking. My body was exhausted, and my mind was still going." He said he had turned to sleeping pills but they were not helping much. Even after completing *The Dark Knight*, he complained to a co-star on his next film that he was frustrated about not being able to sleep (Robb).

Ledger also split from his longtime girlfriend, Michelle Williams, with whom he had a two-year old daughter, during the filming of the *Batman* movie. Williams described him as "depression prone" with a drug problem in 2006 (Robb), two years before his death. The separation from his daughter also must have contributed to his troubles.

Hollywood insiders feel that, though actors often suffer for their roles, they also move quickly into their next roles. Ledger was a strong actor who had already begun filming on his next part. They are in agreement that his role as the Joker did not lead him to suicide. They also feel that it, along with his breakup and separation from his daughter, could certainly have contributed to his difficulties with depression and sleeping (*Showbiz Tonight*).

It seems that no one can say definitively that his role did not lead to his death. Most are in agreement that it was not the primary cause, but all admit that it certainly had an affect on him. That, combined with the other troubles in his life, would indeed have played a role in his sleeping problems. If I had to make an all-or-nothing determination, I would say that this urban myth is not true, though it is definitely founded in some truth. Sadly, it is unlikely that we will ever get to the bottom of this tragedy, which only assures that the story will remain, hovering between myth and fact.

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THE ESSENCE OF A GREAT THRILLER

"ARE YOU WATCHING CLOSELY?" THE PRESTIGE

BY: DEANNA LEISER

The theater is dark. On the screen, the open ocean and a young swimmer. Then the music begins. Da-duh. Da-duh. Da-duh. Chills go up your spine because you know something is coming. The dorsal fin slices through the water and the shark attacks as the music crescendos. Thriller movies like *Jaws* make the heart race, the blood pressure rise, and keep the audience on the edge of their seats. The term “thriller” is interchangeable with “suspense” and this type of film comes in all forms: psychological thrillers, courtroom suspense dramas, murder mysteries, spy intrigues, and science fiction thrillers to name a few. Thrillers “promote intense excitement, suspense, a high level of anticipation, ultra-heightened expectation, uncertainty, anxiety, and nerve-wracking tension” (Dirks). In 2002, the American Film Institute rated the 100 top thriller movies of all time. The top 10 most thrilling movies are *Psycho* (1960), *Jaws* (1975), *The Exorcist* (1973), *North by Northwest* (1959), *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991), *Alien* (1979), *The Birds* (1963), *The French Connection* (1971), *Rosemary’s Baby* (1968), and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981). These movies share commonalities that create tension and excitement. To truly thrill an audience, the filmmaker must create a perfect balance of sight and sound to create a vivid “sensory experience” during the crucial moments in the story (Singer 31). The film provides the ultimate thrill when it combines unforgettable characters, an enticing storyline, and the right amount of knowledge given to

the audience at the right time.

The characters in suspense movies are as varied as the stars in Hollywood and include “criminals, assassins, innocent victims (often on the run), characters with dark pasts, terrorists, cops, private eyes, drifters, psycho-fiends, and more” (Dirks). The hero often appears in different forms ranging from a trained FBI agent to a Terminator; however, the master of the Suspense genre, Alfred Hitchcock, often used average people and put them into frightening situations. The use of the everyday man or woman increased the suspense and thrills as the hero is forced from obscurity into a dangerous and often life-threatening adventure. As for great villains, Hitchcock also suggested that “your villain doesn’t [have to] behave like one or even look like one” (Schickel 281). The most frightening villain is often the one you would not pick out of a police line-up. The American Film Institute (AFI) compiled a list of the 100 best movie heroes and villains, which included Indiana Jones, James Bond, Atticus Finch, Han Solo, and Robin Hood, Dr. Hannibal Lecter, Norman Bates, the Alien in *Alien*, Darth Vader, Annie Wilkes (Misery), and the Shark in *Jaws* (American Film Institute).

Even the best characters need a great story. In thrillers, the plot utilizes certain techniques to create excitement and tension. The best technique is the misdirect. Like the magician acts in *The Prestige*, you have to watch closely because nothing is ever as it seems. The filmmaker includes

information in the plotline to distract the audience. The information seems important when it first appears, but ends up being irrelevant to the true outcome of the plot (Dirks).

The most important aspect in the misdirect and in creating suspense in the film is knowledge. Hitchcock explained that all suspense “is based on knowledge” and in order to get “real suspense, you must let the audience have information” (Schickel 293). Hitchcock gave an example of a scene of two men sitting at a table talking about baseball. Suspense and anxiety are created if the audience sees the bomb under the table, because the audience wants the men to stop discussing baseball and dispose of the bomb before it explodes.

With the right combination of characters, storyline, and knowledge, a film can become an exciting and heart-stopping thriller. Many directors have successfully found the correct blending to produce films that have and will always thrill an audience.

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COMEDIES:

AN AMERICAN TRADITION

BY: AUDREY CAREY

The comedy genre, which is as ancient as the Greeks, has always had a place in modern film. While the popularity of standard comedic storylines and plots has shifted back and forth during the past one-hundred years of film, the essential qualities of a good comedy have failed to change. The film industry has always

"THE MORE WE APPRECIATE GOOD COMEDIES FROM EVERY PHASE OF FILM HISTORY, THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE TO DO A BETTER JOB OF EVALUATING MODERN FILMS."

been privileged to have many talented actors and ambitious writers who have helped to shape the comedic movie tradition of America. Today's audiences will enjoy their movie-going experience much more if they take time to first understand the rich history of comedy films and to then rediscover the best classic comedies.

With so many options available to the movie-watching public, it is helpful to know exactly what elements constitute a good comedy. Many producers and promoters are great at selling a "new" film idea to prospective audiences, yet not as many are as gifted at creating a comedy worth watching or buying. American Movie Classic's (AMC) Tim Dirks, has come up with three inherently important qualities of a good comedy, which

include exaggerated characters and situations, making fun of the everyday "deficiencies, foibles, and frustrations of life," and a happy ending ("Comedy Films"). I would add that all good comedies have a consistent plot and usually involve some physical humor. A comedy with these components is very likely to entertain just about any audience.

Over the years several different types of comedies have emerged, giving added dimension to the overall genre. Dirks lists six types of comedy, including slapstick, deadpan, verbal, screwball, dark, and parody. Slapstick, used most effectively in the silent film era, has maintained its popularity even among more sophisticated audiences. This is evident in the fact that shows such as America's Funniest Home Videos are still going strong. Deadpan style movies (think Buster Keaton) are no longer as common, probably since they fail to capture the attention of somewhat over stimulated audiences in Western cultures (Dirks). Verbal and screwball comedies, which gained more notoriety with actors such as Bob Hope, Katherine Hepburn, and Cary Grant, have continued to maintain a hold on modern movie-goers. Less common dark comedies tend to target a more specific audience. Finally, parodies are the latest trend in comedy movies, as is evident with the success of the Austen Powers movies (Dirks).

Make sure that you have not missed out on the best landmark comedies of the past one-hundred years. AMC Filmsite came up with a top one-hundred list worth looking over. Some of my



favorites (a few of which did not make it onto the list) include, “It’s a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World,” “Home Alone,” “Bringing up Baby,” and “The Great Race.” Of course, you can also look up movies according to legendary comedians like Lucille Ball, Danny Kaye, or Jerry Lewis.

The more we appreciate good comedies from every phase of film history, the more likely we are to do a better job of evaluating modern films. While it is fun to see what changes Hollywood has made to the genre, it is just as important to appreciate the stuff that has always worked.

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Five Key Components to

A Romance

BY: JESSICA WRIGHT

Ever popular and often the crowd pleaser is the cliché romantic movie. Frequently categorized as “chick flicks”, these movies, although often stereotyped, time and time again leave viewers coming back for more. So what is it about these romance flicks that keep viewers so intrigued? What is it about these all too predictable movies that keep spectators enchanted? There are five main components that make up a successful romance film.

First, and possibly the most important, are the characters. Seeing as all movies are based around the people in them, romance movies, just like any other film, needs well developed, charming, relatable, and preferably attractive characters. By introducing said characters, viewers are instantly drawn into the story, wanting whatever happens throughout the course of the film to fall into place for the leading role. And while a well developed character is definitely beneficial to the story, it is often the charm and appearance of said characters that first captivates audiences, drawing them further into the story.

Next is humor. While romantic comedy could certainly be its own category, with movies such as Hitch, or What Happens in Vegas, humor is a key element in any romance film, even the serious ones. Interlaced with the important aspect of characters, humor is one of the most important ele-

ments of a romantic film because it allows viewers to be further drawn into the film and makes characters seem more relatable and human. Not only does humor develop the characters, it creates a lighthearted amusement to the film that lets viewers forget about their own reality, and become entranced in another one. And really, who doesn't like a good laugh at the misfortunes or triumphs of fictional characters?

Third, and more complex than the aforementioned elements, is what I like to call the “the characters don't know that they are in love yet” element. This element can be seen in romance movies such as Just like Heaven, 27 Dresses, Miss Congeniality, and most recently The Proposal. Characterized by a leading male and female role that bicker, fight, and detest each other throughout the course of the movie, and later realize that they are ultimately in love with each other, these films are successful because they are often times hilarious and more realistic than the typical Cinderella story. And while the Cinderella story certainly is an important factor in many romance films, the “the characters don't know that they are in love yet” factor is what ultimately keeps viewers on the edge of their seats with laughter and intrigued as they wait for their favorite characters to realize what they, as the audience, already knows, that they are in love.

Fourth, and perhaps one of the most impor-

Works Cited

tant elements in any successful romance film, is the fight for true love. Seen in popular films such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *Ever After*, the fight for love typically takes place when the leading male realizes his love for the lead female role and does anything he can to make that love work. Popular examples include surpassing restraints placed by royalty or wealth, overcoming family obstacles, or more popular overcoming the “best friend” title and any other life obstacles that always seem to creep up. The fight for true love is always a crowd pleaser because it fulfills the somewhat cheesy fantasy of every girl, that true love does exist and that it is not impossible for it to find and fight for you.

The fifth element to any romantic film is the happily ever after ending. While humor, true love, and attractive characters all play into the plot of the movie, ultimately it is the happy ending that keeps viewers coming back for more. While the typical happy ending normally includes all of the abovementioned elements, it is the happy ending when the lead characters realize their true love, despite all the trials and obstacles placed in front of them sealed with a final kiss, that makes audiences everywhere swoon.

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MOVIE REVIEWS

"DAN IN REAL LIFE"

BY: HUAN-CHEN RHYNARD

A funny, realistic, clean film that came out Fall 2007, "Dan in Real Life" is a great movie that people can enjoy. While it is rated PG-13, it contains few swear words and obscure sexual references, none of which are inoffensive or crude. It is one of those rare movies that you can watch without closing your eyes to avoid seeing the "bad" parts of a "good" movie.

Starring Steve Carell, Juliette Binoche, and Dan Cook, this film is filled with humor that is supported with excellent acting. "Dan in Real Life" was directed by Peter Hedges and is 98 minutes long. Not only is this movie nice and clean, it is also short and sweet. Viewers will be entertained throughout the whole film, laughing as the actors portray real life as we know it, not as Hollywood often make it out to be.

"Dan in Real Life" is about a single dad who struggles to raise his 3 daughters the best way he knows how. Dan Burns has been a widower for four years, and though his family encourages it, has not started dating again. While at a family reunion, he runs into a woman at a bookstore by the name of Marie, and instantly falls for her. Unfortunately, as they both discover later on that night, she is the girlfriend of his brother Mitch. They are both obviously infatuated with one another, but decides to keep their distance due to the circumstance.

The 3 days of the family get together end up being filled with drama, tears, love, mistakes, and a realization that sometimes, you learn from your kids, and not the other way around.



"MALL COP"

BY: CARSON KUEHNE

This review begins with a short narrative: I'm what some might call a movie guy. I don't have freakishly long hair, have extensive knowledge of cult classics, or have movie memorabilia plastered about my room, but I do have a movie theater set up in my college apartment, and as a result hold movie nights frequently. A few weeks ago I found myself in a bind. People were coming over, they wanted a comedy, and preferably one we all hadn't seen before. This, among a group of people who watch a lot of movies, was a difficult task. The criteria certainly eliminated all my movies on hand, and so I went to Hollywood Video. After looking through the limited Blu-ray selection, I settled on Paul Blart: Mall Cop. I sent texts out to all my friends. "I've heard that it's really funny, but I've never seen it," is the response received back from everyone. If that



response describes you, then after this short review, go pick yourself up a copy of Mall Cop.

I really enjoyed this movie, and so did everyone crammed into my small theater. Nearly nonstop laughter ensued from the moment we popped the disk into the PS3. Paul Blart: Mall Cop accomplishes something few comedies outside of Pixar have succeeded to do since the early 90's - create a funny movie without an excess of crude humor. If you're looking for a movie that is safe to watch in situations where the material must be clean, this is the movie for you.

Mall Cop is about Paul Blart, played by Kevin James, most famous for his main role in the long running television series The King of Queens. In the film, his ambition is to be a State Trooper. The film starts out with him excelling through the obstacle course he must pass to become a State Trooper. Unfortunately, he literally falls short when he passes out from his low blood sugar condition. For most of the movie, Paul Blart is just a mall cop who takes his job very seriously. When some well-organized thieves take the entire mall hostage, Paul Blart unleashes the John McClain within him. The movie quickly changes pace from a goofy comedy, to a "Die Hard" style action flick, while still retaining plenty of good laughs.

Paul Blart: Mall Cop is a happy, feel good movie. The protagonist goes from a real dud to a hero, leaving everyone with a smile by the end. This movie rental saw more use than any other I've ever rented. The movie was watched in full two times, and specific scenes, deleted scenes, outtakes, and behind the scenes were watched for several additional hours. I would highly recommend Mall Cop to any group of people who are looking for a good, uplifting comedy to watch.

Which Disney Princess are you?

The Quiz By: Kaelin Stephens

What Disney Princess are You? Take this quiz and find out if your inner princess is most like Aurora, Jasmine, Belle, or Ariel!

1. What is your favorite hobby?
a. Reading
b. Singing
c. Sneaking out
d. Swimming

2. What is your favorite animal?
a. Horse
b. Owl
c. Tiger
d. Fish

3. What is your favorite Disney song?
a. Tale as Old as Time
b. Once Upon a Dream
c. A Whole New World
d. Part of Your World

4. Who is your favorite Disney prince?
a. The Beast
b. Prince Phillip
c. Aladdin
d. Prince Eric

5. What is your favorite color?
a. Yellow
b. Pink or blue I can't decide
c. Purple
d. Green

6. Who is your favorite minor character?
a. Lumiere
b. Merriweather
c. Abu
d. Scuttle

7. How do your friends describe you?
a. Smart
b. Dreamy
c. Brave
d. Adventurous

8. How do your guardians/parents describe you?
a. Helpful
b. Delightful
c. Exasperating
d. Stubborn

9. What color is your hair?
a. Brown
b. Blonde
c. Black
d. Red



10. What is your magical object of choice?
a. Mirror
b. Fairy
c. Carpet
d. Necklace

Count up all of the A's, B's, C's and D's and put their quantities in the spaces provided.
____ A's
____ B's
____ C's
____ D's

If you have

Mostly A's: You are Belle! You have a discriminating sense of fairness, and won't let anyone walk over you. While you respect people for being beautiful on the outside, what is in their heart means a lot more to you. You are often surrounded by books instead of people, but that's not necessarily a bad thing! Just remember to treat others with the kindness that comes naturally to you, and things will always work out for the best. You would get along well with Ariel.

Mostly B's: You are Aurora! Like this princess, you appreciate the finer things in life, including good food, song, dance, and beautiful clothing. Through no fault of your own, life has occasionally dealt you some hard cards to deal with, but through perseverance and the dedication of your prince, you will find your happily ever after. You would get along well with Jasmine.

Mostly C's: You are Jasmine! Sometimes stubborn, your parents feel frustrated when you disappear with no explanation. Remember to tell them where you are going, since they really do love you. Also, don't let your biases control who you talk to. You never know when someone special will come into your life under the guise of someone boring or common. Your sharp wit will get you out of difficult situations, and you are an expert at telling when someone is lying. You would get along well with Belle.

Mostly D's: You are Ariel! You are as stubborn as Jasmine and have Belle's natural kindness. People often see you as immature, though you are anything but. You know what you want, and you aren't afraid to give things up to get it. When someone tells you that you can't do something, you push back and prove that you can. You would get along well with Aurora.

The Lowdown on the down under: On the set of **Australia** By: **Alexander Knight**

While Hugh Jackman was attending a Super Bowl party at Nicole Kidman's house, Kidman found out that Jackman was talking to Baz Luhrman (Writer, Director, and Producer for Australia) about the leading role in Australia.

"Fantastic! You gotta do it! You gotta do it!" Jackman reports Kidman saying. Jackman replied, "But I haven't read the script yet, what's it like?"

Kidman then said, "I haven't read it either [...] this is Baz, just sign on!"

Jackman recounts in an interview after

completion of the film, "I totally understand why now."

For Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman, shooting a film in Australia was a totally different experience from any other movie they'd done before. The continent of Australia itself had never been the site of such a big-scaled, big-budgeted movie. Baz Luhrman (who both wrote and directed *Moulin Rouge*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Strictly Ballroom*) is a big name in film, and the movie was given a budget of \$160 million, which is bigger than *Transformers*, *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, or *X-Men*.

Jackman (who has portrayed a magician in *The Prestige*, a brain surgeon in *The Fountain*, a vampire slayer in *Van Helsing*, Curly in *Oklahoma*, and who has redefined the Marvel character Wolverine in four *X-Men* movies) plays Australia's leading male role, Drover. Drover is Australian for cowboy.

Kidman (who has played a witch in *Bewitched*, a prostitute in *Moulin Rouge*, a doctor in *The Peacemaker*, and various other roles) plays Australia's Lady Sarah Ashley, who is referred to throughout the movie as "Lady Ashley" and "Mrs. Boss," because she was the boss's wife. Mrs. Boss begins the movie by flying in to Darwin, Australia to personally overseeing the sale of her cattle business, called the Faraway Downs.

Drover is one of Mrs. Boss's ranch hands and main drovers when she arrives at Faraway Downs, and the two begin a dangerous adventure when Mrs. Boss has to fire her head ranch hand, Neil Fletcher (David Wenham, who played Far-amir in *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, Dilios in *300*, and Carl in *Van Helsing*) for stealing





NICOLE KIDMAN  HUGH JACKMAN

AUSTRALIA

A B A Z L U H R M A N N F I L M

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS A BAZ LUHRMANN PRODUCTION A NICOLE KIDMAN HUGH JACKMAN AUSTRALIA DAVID WENGERMAN COSTUME DESIGNER DAVID GULPUL MUSIC BY ANTONIO MONTEZ
EDITED BY DAVID HIRSCHFELDER PRODUCTION DESIGNER CATHERINE MARTIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DOODY DOORIN A.C.E. ANDREW BACHSCHNER A.C.E. PRODUCED BY CATHERINE MARTIN
WRITTEN BY ANDREW WALZEL A.C.E. DIRECTED BY BAZ LUHRMANN COSTUME DESIGNER CATHERINE MARTIN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DOODY DOORIN A.C.E. ANDREW BACHSCHNER A.C.E. PRODUCED BY CATHERINE MARTIN WRITTEN BY ANDREW WALZEL A.C.E. DIRECTED BY BAZ LUHRMANN
© 2008 Twentieth Century Fox

cattle, and promotes Drover to lead the cattle drive from Faraway Downs to Darwin in time for the cattle sale.

Said Jackman about filming on site, “There just may not be many movies that get to do this kind of shootin’ again. Uh, to be out on location for so long, a movie this big, is so hard to pull off” 1.

Jackman experienced a lot of trouble when shooting began in the film. He was not a professional horseman, nor did he have much experience behind the reins before signing on for Australia. To portray a professional drover for such a big movie, Jackman knew he couldn’t slack off or fake his riding abilities. He practiced almost daily to become a better horse rider.

Reports Kidman, “Hugh’s amazing because he has such athleticism. He could barely ride at the beginning of the film, but by the end he was a great horseman. He will make Aussie stockmen proud.” Jackman also admitted to being too skinny for the role, and knew he needed to bulk up to play the Drover. He said that he copied the style of a weightlifting champion who would “wakes at four in the morning, has egg whites on dry toast, then goes back to bed so he gets some food in him before he trains at 6am.”

A big part of Jackman’s training involved eating every three hours.

One of the first days of filming was filming the end of the movie. Jackman was wearing heavy leather pants and a heavy shirt and leaver jacket. He refused to leave his horse between shots,



wanting to become increasingly comfortable with his horse and his saddle. A number of crew members close to Jackman asked repeatedly if he wanted to go to his trailer and wait for Baz to come so shooting could begin, so that Jackman would not overheat. After assuring his crew-mates several times that he was fine, he finally consented to getting down and seeking shade, when he fainted from the heat while still on his horse.

Kidman had a similar encounter. Reports the actress, “You feel waves of nausea and before you know it, you’ve passed out, before you’ve actually been able to hold on.” On another occasion Jackman fell backwards off his horse when it reared, landing Jackman on his back where he remained for five whole minutes. The professional horsemen on set had called Jackman a “wuss” for wearing a helmet while riding, but in this instance it saved his life. He walked away with bruises, and had to buy a few drinks for her fellow horsemen as a result:

Says Jackman, “In Australia, if you fall off a horse, you have to say the words ‘just taking a piss’ before you hit the ground. If you don’t get the words out, you have to buy a bottle of whiskey for everyone in the horse crew, which is about 25 people.”

On filming on site, he says, “It’s not always easy, but it’s a blessing to be out here. Um, I think you capture something here you never can recreate with the best visual effects.”

When Kidman first got off the plane in Darwin to begin filming, she says, “I got off the plane and felt the heat and went, ‘I’m not going to survive!’ And then we drove two and a half hours to the set on a dirt road and I thought, ‘Wow, this is really primitive.’”

She later reports, “You can go through days where it’s well over 110 [degrees] and you get to the sunset and in that 20 minutes of magical light you say ‘I’m in love with this place’ and then the harshness of the next day [...] it’s almost like you’re hypnotized. Captured.”

Pixar: The Magic Has Only Just Begun

BY: MOSIAH HAWKS

A Short History About the Company

Pixar is an interesting and diverse company. Through out the years they have done every thing from short films to commercials, and they eventually moved on to full length films. Pixar started out small, first as a part of Lucasfilm, in 1986 it was purchased from Lucasfilm and given the name Pixar. That same year Pixar released its first short film, Luxo Jr. This was just the first in what was to become a long and successful career. They started by making short films and commercials. Their commercials and short films made them famous in the animation industry. The company earned several awards for their work. The company now has a lot of prestigious titles including the first to make a full feature length C.G. film. In 1995 Pixar made history when they released Toy Story. The first fully computer animated film. It was a huge success. Toy Story broke records at the box office making \$192 million in the USA alone. Pixar is no longer a company known only by business gurus. It is a name known in every household. Since they made Toy Story, Pixar has made several hit films and has won academy



awards as well as other cinema related awards. “Pixar Animation Studios and its employees have received more than 100 awards and nominations for animated films, commercials and technical contributions”(Pixar). That is an impressive record for a company that has not been making movies as long as other companies like MGM or Disney.

A Little About the Films

What does it take to make to make a successful film company? There are a lot of factors that contribute to a successful film company. You need creativity, ingenuity, dedication, a lot of talented people to work with you. But there is something else that is more important than all that. On their website Pixar said “To make a good film you need to have both interesting characters and a good story” (Pixar). All of their films have fully met these requirements. When you have a film company, you need people to watch the films for a company to be successful. The only way to get people to watch your films is to have an interesting story and captivating characters. Even if the story is boring the characters can save a film from



total failure. After a movie has ended the audience will not remember every plot point that made the film interesting. Lets face it, as soon as those end credits start to roll, the finer parts of the plot are already gone form our minds, and that happens twice as fast for Pixar’s target audience, children. The thing that you will remember forever is the characters and how they made you laugh, how they made you cry. Add the great characters to a fun and exciting story and you have what made Pixar one of the best companies in the film industry.

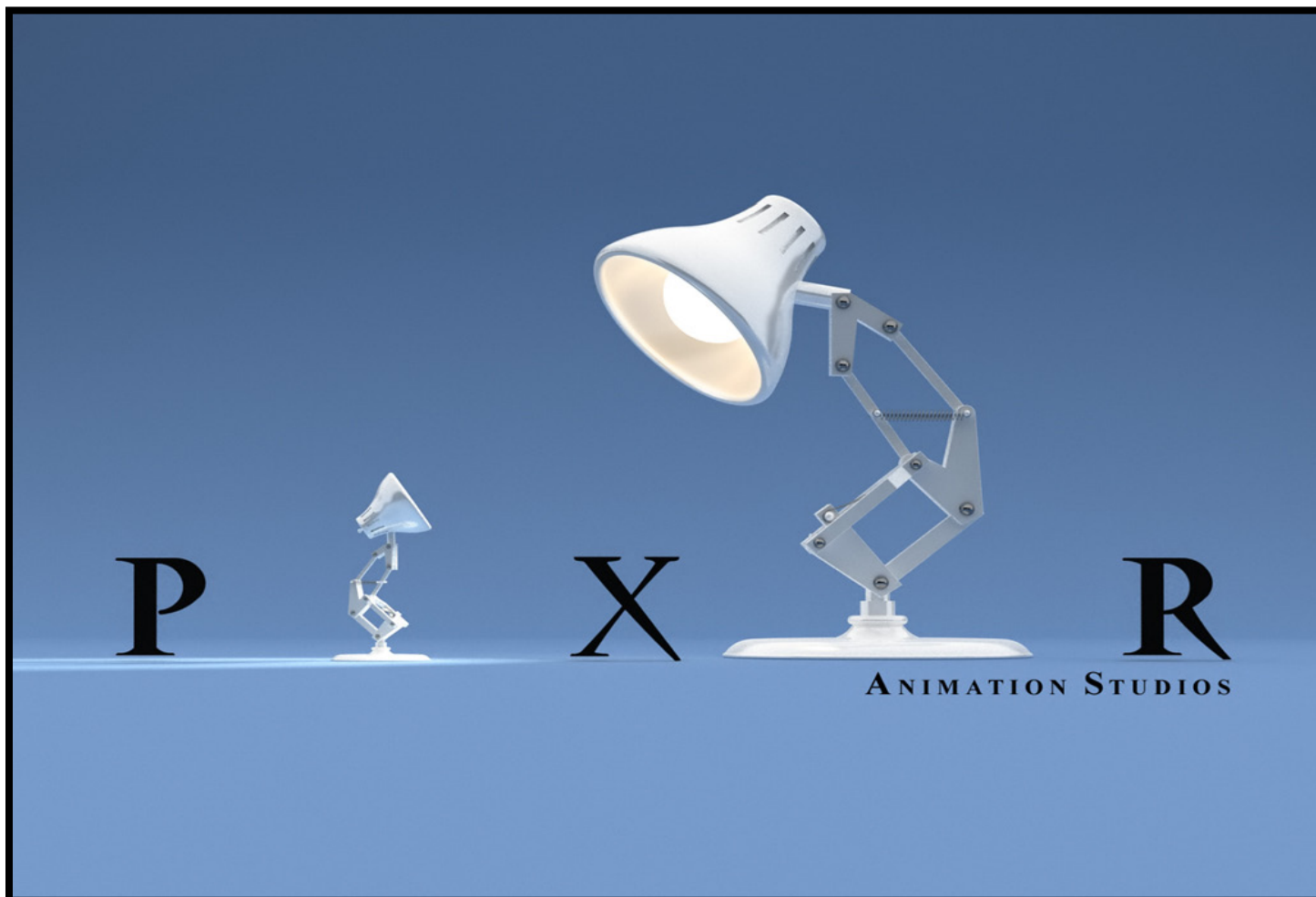
A little about the Acting

One way that has helped to make the characters so memorable is the voice acting. Go up to any random person and ask them who did the voices for Woody and Buzz Lightyear in Toy Story

and almost everyone who has seen the film will be able to tell you that is it Tim Allan and Tom Hanks. Do the same thing for Snow White and the Seven Dwarves or The Lion King and you will get a lot of blank stares. Pixar has always used amazing actors in their films. If you try to look at all the great actors that they have used in their first 10 full length films you will be blinded by all the stars. Pixar has given us films that are sure to become classics and more will follow. Pixar is has become so successful because their films are interesting, inventive, funny, moving, imaginative, and most of all they are entertaining. Ever since its conception Pixar has given us quality entertainment and this is only the beginning.

Sources

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THE ACADEMY AWARDS: OSCARS

BY: KYR RANKIN

THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

Members of the Academy are those who have “achieved distinction in the arts and sciences of motion picture” (Oscars.org). The Academy was created to encourage all involved with the motion picture industry to strive for the best with incentive of the prestigious award presented by the most accomplished in the industry.

All the members are professionals in their field who have made what was previously unimaginable for the screen imaginable. They seek to continue to recognize those who keep on making changes to the motion picture industry with the most prestigious film award “The Oscars”.

The Academy members were first divided into 5 branches: Actors, Directors, Producers, Technicians, and Writers held a dinner. Today the Academy has grown to 6,000 members and into 15 branches of film achievement.

THE 15 BRANCHES OF THE ACADEMY:

1. Actors
2. Directors
3. Film Editors
4. Producers
5. Sound
6. Art Director Animation
7. Documentary
8. Make Up Artists & Hair Stylists
9. Public Relations
10. Visual Effects
11. Cinematographers
12. Executive
12. Music
14. Short Films and Feature
15. Writers

VOTING

Members of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences vote in February for the previous year’s most outstanding achievements from nominees in 24 different categories (only Academy members can

vote). Members of each branch vote only in categories relating to their branch, for example only actors can vote for the “Best Female Actor” and so on. The exceptions are Best Film where all active members vote, Best Animated Feature Film and Best Foreign Film in which select multi-branch members vote in the categories. All votes are cast as secret ballots through mail counted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, an international auditing firm (Oscars.org).

The 24 Categories:

1. Best Actor in a Leading Role
2. Best Actor in a Supporting Role
3. Best Actress in a Leading Role
4. Best Actress in a Supporting Role
5. Best Animated Feature Film
6. Best Art Direction
7. Best Cinematography
8. Best Costume Design
9. Best Directing
10. Best Documentary Feature Film
11. Best Documentary Short Film Screenplay
12. Best Film Editing
13. Best Foreign Language Film
14. Best Makeup
15. Best Music-Score
16. Best Music-Song
17. Best Short Film-Animated
18. Best Short Film-Live Action
19. Best Picture
20. Best Sound Mixing
21. Best Sound Editing
22. Best Visual Effects
23. Best Writing-Adapted
24. Best Writing-Original

OSCAR STATUETTE

The Academy Award of Merit gets its nickname, The Oscars, from the 13 ½ inch Statuette of a knight standing on reel of film gripping a crusaders sword. The reel of film has five spokes representing the five original branches of The Academy; Actors, Directors, Editors, Writers, Producers, Technicians. It is unclear where the nickname came from but there is a popular story among The Academy that proposes its nickname started when Academy Librarian, Margaret Herrick, said it looked like her Uncle Oscar when she saw it for the first time. The nickname soon took hold among the public when Audrey Hepburn won her first “Best Actress” award in 1934, the papers referred to the award as an Oscar, though the Academy didn’t officially adopt the nickname until 1939.

THE GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

Lights! Camera! Actions! 26



ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Golden Globe Awards are given by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. The HFPA is a group of journalists from all over the world who wish to promote “favorable relations and cultural ties between foreign countries and the United States of America” by advancing information about American culture as seen in films and television through many news publications world-wide. They recognize outstanding achievements in the motion pictures and television with their own Award of Merit (The Golden Globe Award). The Golden Globe Award serves as a “constant incentive within the entertainment industry, both domestic and foreign ...to focus wide public attention upon the best in motion pictures and television” (goldenglobes.org). The HFPA also contributes to non-profit organizations related to the motion picture and television industry involved in cultural, humanitarian, and educational activities. They also contribute scholarships to major institutions to promote interest in the study of motion picture and television art and a development of the talent.

THE GOLDEN GLOBE STATUETTE

The HFPA first started handing out awards as scrolls in 1944. The next year the members held a contest a design of a statuette that would represent the intent of the organization. Marina Cisternas won the

contest with her design of a golden globe with a strip of film circling the globe, mounted on a pedestal.

THE SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Screen Actors Guild Awards (SAG Awards) made its debut in 1995 and is unique because it is the only television award show that showcases the work of union members. The awards acknowledge what all actors know, that acting is a collaborative art. The SAG recognizes both individual and collaborative achievements in Comedy and Drama. The SAG presents awards to stunt performers, background singers, dancers, background performers, character actors, regional actors, stunt women, animation voice-over performers, commercial actors, and child actors; setting it apart from both The Oscars and The Golden Globes.

NOMINATIONS AND VOTING

First the nominations are made by a group randomly selected by the computer every year. The Film and Television nomination committees receive notices in the mail. In order to be considered in the random computer selection, members must have paid their November Dues from the previous year by April of the next year. Once the committees have sent in their nominations, they nominees are announced in December. Once the nominee announcements are broadcasted Live on TNT, voting is open to full membership.





From Books to Movies: Stardust

By: Lauren Conley

Until August of 2007, I had never said, “The movie is so much better than the book!” Neil Gaiman’s original *Stardust* and Matthew Vaughn’s movie rendition of the same title changed that for me. I had seen the previews for the movie *Stardust*, and thought it looked pretty entertaining, so I decided to read the book. After finishing the book I was immediately dead-set upon never seeing the movie. To make a long story short, after a lengthy debate between me and my friends outside the ticket office (which I lost), we bought our tickets for *Stardust*. I can’t think of a time I’ve been more surprised in a movie theater. Where Gaiman’s characters are static and annoying, Vaughn has truly entertaining and believably ridiculous characters.

The changes between the book and movie aren’t even that spectacular. Gaiman’s original main character is named Tristran, which Vaughn shortened to Tristan so it was easier to say. The dead princes are funny in both versions with quips like, “There is a proverbial saying chiefly concerned with warning against too closely calculating the numerical value of unhatched chicks” (Gaiman 226). Where Gaiman’s boring sky pirate named Captain Alberic was only in the book for a grand total of nine pages, Vaughn created the hilarious Captain Shakespeare and his crew. Vaughn’s version of Tristan’s family includes just Tristan and his father Dunstan, whereas Gaiman provides Tristan with two parents and a sister. Tristan’s love in the novel, Victoria, isn’t nearly as shallow as Vaughn paints her and is therefore, incredibly boring. Vaughn changed the roll of Mr. Monday in his version from Gaiman’s. Gaiman had Victoria falling for a much older Mr. Monday, the shop owner that Tristan works for in Vaughn’s version.

Gaiman said, in an interview with MTV Movie News, that he’s normally very standoff-ish about releasing the rights to his stories to production companies. Over the space of a few years the rights to the

story switched hands multiple times with no official action being taken. When the final contract expired, Gaiman sent the script to Michael Vaughn and gave him the rights for free – something that, according to Gaiman – is “very, very wrong” (MTV). Vaughn read the story, fell in love and asked Gaiman to write the screenplay. Gaiman chose not to write the screenplay, saying that he had already written his version; it was time for Vaughn to do the same. In the same MTV interview, he said that Vaughn wrote the screen play, but needed help writing the romance aspect. Gaiman referred Vaughn to his favorite novelist, Jane Goldman (who had never before written a screen play) for help with the romance. Gaiman chose to stay on instead as an executive producer to the film, and so the boring book became an entertaining movie, thanks to Vaughn and Goldman.

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