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COURTESY PHOTO

Just about every Disney animated feature includes singing, but in *Pocahontas*, the animals don't join in.

'Pocahontas' draws on history

Anne Moser-Kornfeld
Oregon Daily Emerald

When *Pocahontas*, Disney's first animated feature inspired by a real-life figure, opens Friday at theaters nationwide, the big question is: Will it be as successful as Disney's most recent productions?

The movie is set in 1607 and combines historical fact with an ambitious musical adventure to tell the story of a Native American heroine.

Disney takes a romantic view of the encounter between Pocahontas and the English sea captain John Smith, who ventures to the New World aboard his boat, the *Susan Constant*.

Pocahontas features the voices of Irene Bedard playing Pocahontas, Christian Bale (Thomas), Linda Hunt (Grandmother Willow) and Mel Gibson, as the voice of John Smith.

Composer Alan Mencken and lyricist Stephen Schwartz com-

bined their talents to reflect the movie's magical quality.

The first song they wrote together for the film, "Colors of the Wind," sets the tone and defines Pocahontas's character.

A Disney spokesman reported Mencken saying, "I'm very pleased with this song; it may be the best song I've ever been involved in writing." Vanessa Williams sings a pop version of the song over the closing credits.

Disney offers interesting twists that make *Pocahontas* stand out and continues the standards of excellence Disney is known for in its animation department.

Eric Goldberg, who worked on supervising the Genie in Disney's *Aladdin*, joined the animation team and said, "At one point during the process, comedy was thrown out of the entire movie until people felt comfortable with drama."

Little is actually known about the real Pocahontas, and John

Smith didn't write about the incident that led to their meeting until long after she had died.

What is known is that she was born to a highly sophisticated culture and she had some prior knowledge of European culture.

The animal characters in *Pocahontas* don't speak but their charm lies in the attitudes and emotions they express with their bodies.

By taking on the common Native American belief that there is a spirit in all of nature, the Disney animators developed and refined the characters of Meeko, a raccoon who befriends Pocahontas and Grandmother Willow, in particular. Younger audience members will undoubtedly enjoy the animals' playfulness.

Only time and the tastes of this year's summer movie crowd will tell whether *Pocahontas* succeeds, but from the looks of it, the movie is sure to please a great majority of viewers.



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Blues band gains cheers for recording

Kim Weiss
Oregon Daily Emerald

This quintet of musicians joined together almost two years ago and had its first performance in the blues scene at a local club, Good Times Cafe & Bar. Since then, the Revelators have packed in crowds from Eugene clubs and festivals to venues in Bend and Corvallis, and they are still going strong.

The Revelators will sing the blues this weekend while they celebrate their first release, *Preach the Blues*. Fans of the blues will enjoy this CD, a compilation of 10 original tunes and two classics.

John "Guitar" Swan jams out strong feeling on the slide guitar, indicating he has forever listened to the blues.

David "Pigmeat" Peterson is a talented harmonica player, who sings occasionally on the CD. "Lot-to-Blues" features Peterson's swooning and hard-core harp playing, demonstrates his vocal talents, and definitely represents a blue topic — money.

Rick Markstrom, Jim "Smitty" Smith and Gus Russell form the backbone and guts to the Revela-

Turn to REVIEW, Page 9

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