

MOVIE REVIEWS



Using road cones as camouflage, Buzz Lightyear leads toys from Andy's room on a mission across a downtown street in "Toy Story 2." courtesy Walt Disney Pictures

To toyland and beyond

Buzz Lightyear tries to save his friend Woody as toys takeover the silver screen in the entertaining sequel 'Toy Story 2'

Movies

By Katie Nesse
Oregon Daily Emerald

Like any first-rate children's movie, Walt Disney's "Toy Story 2" has multiple levels of humor that appeal to adults as well. And like many sequels, seeing the first movie helps to understand the jokes in the new one.

The current movie chronicles Woody's struggle with his mortality. The recurring line in "Toy Story 2" is, "Toys don't last forever."

Woody, voiced by Tom Hanks, is stolen from the family garage sale by Al, a toy collector reminiscent of "The Simpsons" character, Comic Book Guy. While Andy (John Morris) and his mother (Laurie Metcalf) are both still more plastic than human in this movie, Al (voiced by Wayne Knight) is disgusting with texture. His facial hair is convincingly sparse and the Cheet-o crumbs on his fingers are nauseatingly filthy.

In Al's apartment, which is extremely clean compared to Al, Woody discovers that he is part of a bigger marketing scheme based on an old black-and-white TV

show, "Woody's Roundup." The posters and toys are shown up close in detail. But wide views of the room are devoid of dirt and small objects, due to the time and space limitations of the tools. Perhaps by the time "Toy Story 3" comes out, technology will have caught up with the imagination of Pixar Animation Studios.

Woody will complete Al's collection of "Woody's Roundup" toys. The highlight of this set is Jessie, Woody's female counterpart. Joan Cusack joins the toy story and gives this character voice; in fact, Pixar's 3-D flailing arms and bulging eyes can't compete with the animation of her voice.

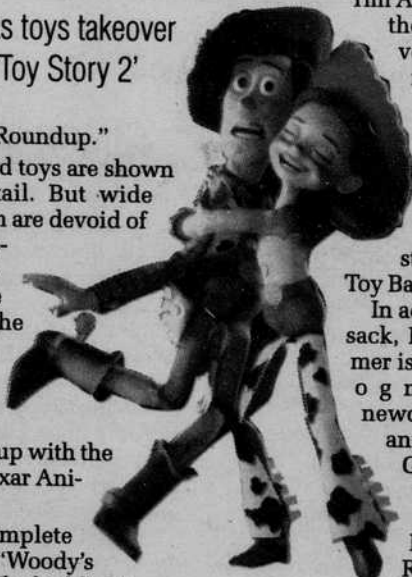
Woody debates an eternal life behind glass in a museum, where he will be admired by children forever, and a mortal life with the love of one child who will eventually break and outgrow him. "I can't stop Andy from growing but I wouldn't miss it for the world," Woody says as he contemplates

his choices. Jessie relates how Emily, a child who loved her years ago, tossed her under the bed one day to make room for make-up and posters. "You never forget kids like Emily or Andy, but they forget you," Jessie sighs.

Meanwhile, the rest of Andy's toys, led by Buzz Lightyear, with Tim Allen providing the spaceman's voice again, make their way across town to rescue Woody. They find their way across a busy street, into Al's Toy Barn.

In addition to Cusack, Kelsey Grammer is the most recognizable newcomer to this animated land. Grammer's voices Stinky Pete, The Prospector. Returning from the original movie are Don Rickles (Mr. Potato Head), Jim Varney (Slinky Dog), Wallace Shawn (Rex), John Ratzenberger (Hamm) and Annie Potts (Bo Peep). Esthelle Harris and Jodi Benson lend their voices to new characters Mrs. Potato Head and Barbie, respectively.

With a G rating, "Toy Story 2" is entertaining and playful. Children will delight in the antics of the toys and sympathize with Woody's plight. Adults will find the more mature themes appealing and understand the humor in that vein.



"Legend" is hollow

Movies

■ The Headless Horseman may ride out of the mist, but Burton's new movie is stuck in a dense fog

By Sara Jarrett
Oregon Daily Emerald

Not enough jack-o-lanterns, too many corny lines and lame beheadings make "Sleepy Hollow," the newest collaboration between Hollywood's distinguished Tim Burton, Johnny Depp and Christina Ricci, a disappointment.

With a director like Burton and stars like Depp and Ricci, the movie seemed like a sure success. The combination seemed volatile — Burton's off-the-wall style that made "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," "Edward Scissorhands" and "Beetlejuice" classics mixed with Depp and Ricci's seemingly picky taste in scripts.

For the past couple of months, at least, the 20-second commercial spot for "Sleepy Hollow" provided a very necessary and happy disruption to the clutches of prime-time entertainment.

As a thick blanket of fog permeated our television screens and the familiar trod of a horse's hoofs slowly intensified, we strained to make out the figure in the horizon. He got closer, and it became excitingly clear that we weren't in for another Disney version of the famous head slasher.

Or were we? The real thing just doesn't live up to its end of the advertisement's bargain. But, alas, does any movie these days?

Set in 1799, "Sleepy Hollow" takes the viewer on a journey through a haunted forest on the outskirts of a quaint, unsuspecting New England town bursting with evil, magic and witchcraft. Instead of feeling any sort of foreboding terror, though, you'll laugh your head off.

The cinematography creates a beautiful, surreal, supernatural world, one that seems true to the classic literary painting set by Washington Irving nearly three hundred years ago.

As Irving's legend goes, Sleepy Hollow was tormented with a string of beheadings. It is said that the killer, headless himself, roamed the town by

horseback, seeking revenge for his wrongful death. This is a good old-fashioned tale of one of the greatest, and oldest, American villains.

Though it's reasonably safe to assume the Headless Horseman never really existed, there are enough circumstances involved with the tale that would freak a lot of people out.

There are two gravestones, for instance, in a very real New England town by the name of Sleepy Hollow, with the names Ichabod Crane (the New York investigator called in by the town to investigate the murders, played by Depp) and Katrina Van Tassel (Ichabod's love interest and daughter of the richest man in the town, played by Ricci) etched into their facings, according to the movie's official web site.

Though Irving did intend for his story to be comedic, Burton should have either taken the humor and ran with it or left it out completely. The way it was done, however, proved a little on the boring side with a plot that could have been greatly expanded.

According to About.com's box office report, thousands of other people also had high expectations of the movie. "Sleepy Hollow," bringing in \$30.5 million was only outsold by the latest 007 movie, "The World is Not Enough," which brought in a whopping \$37.2 million last weekend.

The special effects wizardry in "Sleepy Hollow" is one thing that deserves recognition though. Watch for the big knotted tree that sits upon a heap of tangled roots. It's the ingenious portal between this world and the dark side, where the headless horseman (Christopher Walken) enters and exits the sleeping town.

"This whole movie is 'big acting,'" Ricci explained in an interview on the movie's web site. "The whole delivery is different. It's difficult to say lines like 'I rue the day you came to Sleepy Hollow' without adding extra drama."

Whether that's true or not, remains to be debated. It is abundantly clear, though, that the entire movie is laden with over-acting and cheesy deliverance of lines — obviously on purpose — from big name stars. "Sleepy Hollow" is nowhere near true B-movie magnitude, but it won't win any Oscars either.

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