

Entertainment

"Dawn Treader" treads its way into our hearts

JOSHUA KIM

"To defeat the darkness out there, you must defeat the darkness inside yourself." C.S. Lewis incorporated many biblical themes that created a collage of symbolism in the film, "Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader." The voyage that Lucy (Georgie Henley), Edmund (Skandar Keynes) and Eustace (Will Poulter) take, is one that delves within and requires each character to resist evils that lurk inside of themselves.

In the past two movies, the villains were the White Witch (Tilda Swinton) in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and Miraz (Sergio Castellitto) in "Prince Caspian." In "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," the evil force is a fog that brings out fears, strengthens temptations, and causes irrational feelings towards peers. The story line is about resisting

temptation and evil within.

Positive lessons are shown through the characters' personal issues. For example, Lucy shares a common yearning with many women today; to be beautiful and to be admired. Lucy wants to look just like her older sister, Susan (Anna Popplewell). With the help of Aslan (voiced by Liam Neeson), this movie teaches that we should not strive to be like someone else.

"The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" had some cheesy parts about Eustace's drama and greed, but hey, Reepicheep, (voiced by Simon Pegg) the mouse, made it pretty legit.

I enjoyed this movie, but frankly, many audiences these days do not go to watch the movies to be taught lessons about life. Because of this, the movie in my opinion may not be very popular.

Overall, the movie in

my opinion deserves a rating of two and a half out of five, as it was a disappointment after having watched the first two movies. The first two "Chronicles of Narnia" movies had many enjoyable components. The animated animals and new world of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" made it interesting. "Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" was another well put together piece resplendent with war and battles. However, because "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" lacked an evil character, it made the movie less interesting

for me.

This movie will appeal to younger audiences, ages, as long as they don't feel too cool to learn another lesson about life. While the movie had great scenery, \$10 or \$13.50 (3D) for the movie theaters is too much to pay. I suggest that if you want to watch this movie, wait for the rental. "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" is rated PG for some frightening sequences of fantasy action.



Courtesy of Google Images

"The King Is Dead" justifies Decemberists still going strong

ELISE BROWN

After the triumphant, theatrical storytelling of their previous album, the Decemberists are toning it down for their latest release, "The King Is Dead." This versatile, Portland-based band has come out with another strong record with folky tones, great lyrics and further proof that Colin Meloy is one of the

became available for free download on the Decemberists' website, giving fans a first look at how the album will sound. The lyrics, though not as extravagant as some of their earlier work, are extremely well-written. The melody is very catchy, making it probably the most radio-friendly song on the album. The instrumentation had a lot of

The fans rejoiced after hearing this preview to the album, and they had even more reason to after the album's release on Jan. 18.

The rest of the album is very similar to its aforementioned single. Meloy, the main songwriter for the Decemberists, doesn't exercise his massive vocabulary as much here as in his last five albums, but the lyrics of "The King Is Dead" are still well-crafted and meaningful. One shining example of this is "June Hymn," which has stunningly beautiful lyrics and (at least by the Decemberists' standards) is surprisingly minimalist." And years from now/When this old light isn't ambling anymore/Will I bring myself to ride?/I give my best to Springville Hills."

The musical tone of "The King Is Dead" is fun and generally laid-back. At the very least, it's more chilled than their previous albums. Where "The Hazards of Love" was hard-rock and "The Crane Wife" was alternative, "The King Is Dead" is solidly folk-rock.

At least four of the Decemberists' last five albums are very theatrical and grand; "The King Is Dead" isn't so. It's the "going-back-to-our-musical-roots" album, with its countryesque instrumentation and relaxed atmosphere. The emotions range from introspective ("January Hymn") to rebellious ("This Is Why We

Fight") to bouncy ("All Arise!"), and there's even a song about coal mining ("Rox in the Box").

The songs are accessible, genuine and enjoyable, which is—in a nutshell—everything good folk-rock should be. Its orchestration, simple lyrics, toe-tapping rhythms and general emotional tones are all characteristic of this genre. It's a new direction for the Decemberists—and it works.

"The King Is Dead" is one of the first releases of 2011 and for my money, it's one of the best so far. All fans of the Decemberists and good indie

rock should check it out, and all music fans should too. The Z100 crowd would benefit if they take a break from Lady Gaga's dance hits and Taylor Swift's bubbly pop for a little bit. Take some time to chill out to the authentic and local sound of "The King Is Dead."

This album is available on the Decemberists' website (www.decemberists.com) at \$13 for the standard CD, \$19 for vinyl, and \$165 for the deluxe box edition. It can also be bought for \$9.99 on iTunes, on Amazon starting at \$7.99 and wherever music is sold.

I Met the Decemberists

ELISE BROWN

Originating from Portland, Ore., the Decemberists have achieved the number one hit record album release and Jan. 18, the day "The King Is Dead" was released, I had the pleasure of meeting the Decemberists in person.

I went not as a journalist, but as a fan. They were signing posters, copies of their new record and whatever else fans would bring at Music Millennium, the independent record store on Portland's east side.

I brought my Decemberists t-shirt that I bought at a concert a year and a half earlier. Emma Kennard, sophomore, brought her sketchbook with a pencil-drawn portrait of the band for them to sign.

My brother, Brice, and I each asked Colin Meloy, frontman of the band, one question as he signed our things. My question was rather geeky: "What brand of harmonica do you play?" He replied that he plays Hohner Marine Band, to which I recalled that Bob Dylan plays the same kind. A geeky conversation about the brand's merits followed while all five Decemberists signed my t-shirt and Emma's sketchbook.

Brice decided to ask Meloy what he thought was "the best thing in life." Meloy gave an honest and touching answer: "I have a five-year-old son."

Hands were shaken, things were signed, and fun was had by all.



Courtesy of Capitol Records

"The King Is Dead" is the Decemberists' sixth and most recent album. The band, which hails from Portland, changed its tone from extravagant to relaxed for this new release much to the delight of listener.

indie rock virtuosos of our time.

This new project was promising from the start. On Nov. 2, one song from the album, "Down By The Water,"

folk influence; along with the usual use of both electric and acoustic guitars, the accordion and harmonica are prominent. When REM meets Neil Young, and it is a fantastic indie sound.