

Follow Alice down the rabbit hole

New Alice movie stuns its audience

By Kayla Calloway
Copy Editor

"Do you have any idea why a raven is like a writing desk?"

I have no clue either, but this line, repeated periodically throughout Disney and Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland," definitely and accurately shows just how mad the Mad Hatter is.

For those of you living under a rock the past few months and possibly in solitary confinement, this past Friday, Burton's latest film, a new take on the classic "Alice in Wonderland," premiered, starring Mia Wasikowska, Helena Bonham Carter, Anne Hathaway and, of course, Johnny Depp.

When most think of Burton, they most likely think of his darker films such as "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" or "Nightmare Before Christmas," and his latest masterpiece does not disappoint.

Although the film is rated PG, I would not consider it a kids' movie. The story is definitely more grown-up than the classic Disney version, as is the main character of the movie, Alice, played by Wasikowska.

In this rendition of the story, Alice is 19 years old. She has no recollection of her first journey to "Underland," or as Alice calls it, "Wonderland," passing it off as an odd dream that is recurring. But while attending a party that ends up being for her soon-to-be engagement, Alice spots something rather odd: a white rabbit wearing a waistcoat. She follows the rabbit and falls down a hole by a tree. Soon she is in the land of her dreams and that is exactly what she believes it to be, a dream.

I don't want to give away too much because this is most certainly a movie that cannot be fully explained in writing. It needs to be seen. Everything from the colors to the visual effects add together to make this film unbelievable.

If you've seen the trailer, you know that Depp is, of course, the Mad Hatter. One of the goals shared by both Burton and Depp with this film was to add depth to the Hatter's character unlike it has been portrayed before. Personally, I feel as though they met that goal. Prior to watching this movie, I had never really known there was anything more to the character other than a crazy person who likes tea. I had never even wondered what had made him crazy. He just was.

This new portrayal of the character makes me appreciate the Mad Hatter more than I

had ever done before.

The movie was a record-breaking blockbuster, bringing in an estimated \$210.3 million worldwide, according to the International Movie Database. No first quarter (January through March) opening in modern times has gotten



close to the ridiculous amount of ticket sales as "Alice in Wonderland." Although, more than likely, a percentage of these sales are a direct relation to the Burton/Depp appeal, the film was simply stunning, and I'm sure that most everyone walked away quoting the Mad Hatter or the lisping Red Queen, played by Bonham Carter.

With a star-studded cast, including other Burton favorites such as Alan Rickman, playing the forever recognizable caterpillar, and Timothy Spall as the lovable, loyal blood hound Bayard, both of whom were in "Sweeney Todd," "Alice in Wonderland" is a fun experience, especially in Real-D. As my first cinematic 3D experience, I would recommend this movie for anyone ... just think before you take the kids; they might get a little scared.

After all it is rated PG for a smoking caterpillar.

Alice's old hat fails to fit crowd's expectation

By Kayla Berge
Co-Editor and Chief

You want to know why a "raven is like a writing desk"? I can answer that; they both had to put up with Tim Burton and his slow descent into his lack of creativity.

When Burton signed on to the upside down nature of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass,

to be able to see and fall into a rabbit hole that exposed to a place locked away in inner psyche.

The rest of the movie is around the famous small "The Jabberwocky" that is featured in Carroll's "Through the Looking-Glass, and What Found There." This time residents of Wonderland, Alice to own up and beat the White Queen's charge as it was written in their magical scroll.

For a story as unique as this, one would think he would have avoided the happy ending, or at the very least could keep it down to just a cheesy jig.

The fearsome Jabberwocky was a lizard with wings. I mean a dragon, but it was close to it. The Jubjub bird like a knock off of Kevin "Up" and the Bandersnatch like he had been plucked from Jim Henson's "Labyrinth."

There were three characters that pulled this from a one to a two star movie (out of five stars). I find myself struggling to admit this in a publication, but the three characters were the Mad Hatter, the Queen and Cheshire Cat. Again, Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter are both make interesting characters some point after being in so many of Burton's films.

With the new twists on to both Depp and Bonham Carter's characters they became more real and tangible to audience's interests. Bonham Carter's Red Queen feels like a cure about her 'biggest' Depp's Mad Hatter develops quite a crush on the fair Alice. As for Stephen Fry's Cheshire Cat, he's still as witty and enduring as ever.

Something that could help save this failure of a movie would be having some real sure at the end.

Spoiler Alert

As it stands now, 19-year-old Alice declines a strongly hinted romance with the Mad Hatter to be sent off into the mists of a new route and ... that's it. That's the end. It just cuts off and sends us home without a real ending which is kind of funny considering that Burton attempted to end the movie three times before the credits step in.

What happened to this wonderful world in "Alice in Wonderland"? What happened to the simple, yet dark tale of "Alice in Wonderland"? It's Alice who's lost her way, it's Burton!

and What Alice Found There" I thought it would be a match made in heaven. Here was the chance to see Burton's brush strokes paint delightful twists of raw imagination on to the canvas of the silver screen.

Instead, what he brought to the theater was a big pile of over used clichés drowned in the sauce of fandom. In other words the movie looked like Burton had stared Carroll straight in the face and sneezed.

Disney's new "Alice in Wonderland" was one painful old hat to the next. Exchanging the loose fitting corny lines to the tight squeeze of pleasing the fans.

However, Burton does start this classical tale with one, solitary new twist; Alice is now 19 years old and she has just been proposed to. After a bit of a panic attack she runs after a white rabbit that only she seems

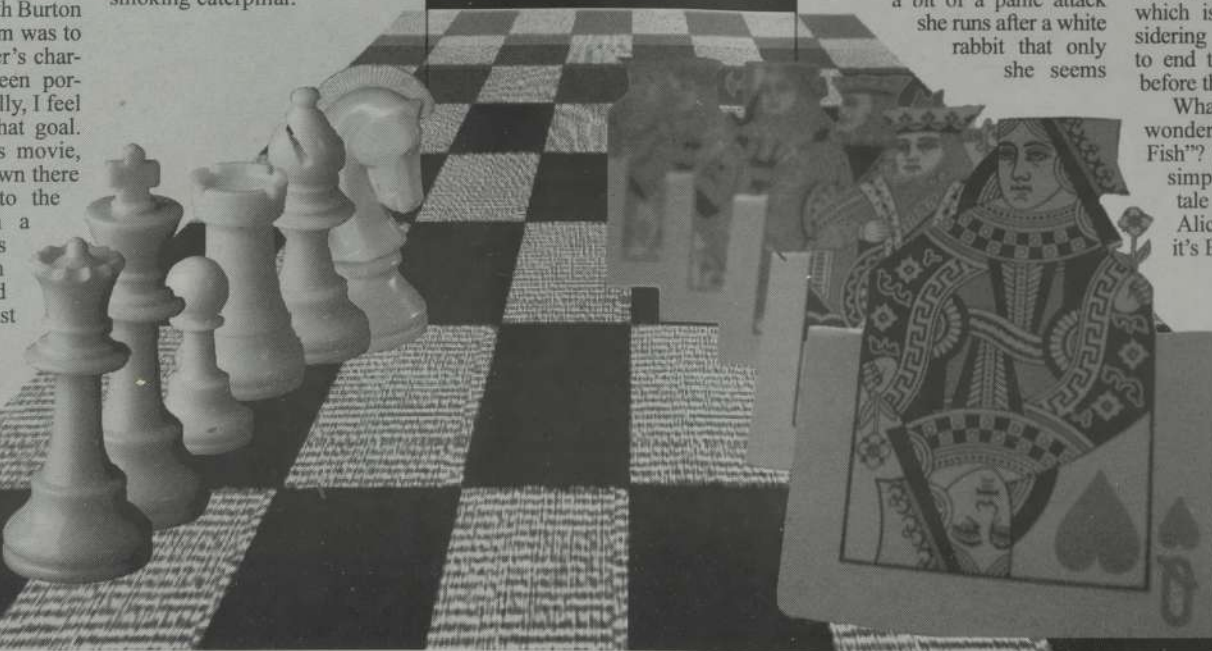


Photo illustration
Kayla Berge
Bridget
Chloe