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Let Disney+'s *Artemis Fowl* fly on by



Submitted

Lara McDonnell, Josh Gad and Ferdia Shaw stand dumbfounded in Disney+'s *Artemis Fowl*. Our reviewer says audiences may end up with similar looks after viewing.

By TJ Reid
For the *Keizertimes*

In 2001, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* launched a prolonged trend of movie studios adapting novels written for kids and the young adult crowd into major motion pictures. For a time it seemed as if every successful book was destined to get its own adaptation, for better (*Harry Potter*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*) or for worse (*Eragon*, *Percy Jackson*).

It was, therefore, always a bit baffling to me that *Artemis Fowl*, my second favorite childhood series after *Harry Potter*, never received such attention when it was at the height of its popularity. I remember dream casting a hypothetical *Artemis Fowl* film with one of my buddies in middle school, and now, almost two decades later, one has finally been set loose on the world.

Going into this movie, I tried to have an open mind. The trailers made it look terrible and highly unfaithful to the source material, and the fact that it was originally meant for theatrical release only to be turned into a Disney+ exclusive at the last second did not exactly fill me to the brim with confidence. Sadly, I now find that these initial wary thoughts were blissfully naïve and understated, as *Artemis Fowl* is a cinematic mess that is sure to please absolutely no one.

As an adaptation, *Artemis Fowl* is a train wreck. Awkwardly shoving the first book and about one third of the second book into the same hour-and-a-half while tying them together

with a brand new and poorly explained MacGuffin, the movie makes so many changes in plot, character and tone that it is almost unrecognizable to fans of the original series. *Artemis*, a criminal mastermind who is also the primary villain of the book, is here turned into a Disney-esque Spy Kid good guy who everyone insists is a genius despite his never doing anything particularly ingenious.

Commander Root is now a woman (and played by a very uninterested Judi Dench), Juliet is now twelve, Holly is now white, all the characters are now two-dimensional, up is now down, right is now left, and why this movie is called *Artemis Fowl*, I have no idea.

All of this would be somewhat acceptable if it was a good film on its own, but it is not. Flying from plot point to plot point (sometimes literally), *Ar-*

temis Fowl takes absolutely no time to make the audience understand or care what is going on. There is something about a long-lost weapon with the capability to wipe out all life or something, a plan to capture a fairy because of reasons, and a sudden alliance between the two at-odds protagonists because the (multiple) script writers said so. *Artemis Fowl* never gave me a reason to invest in its mess of a story, and by the cliffhanger at the end, all I could muster was a massive, bemused shake of the head. The only good things I can say about this movie is that Josh Gad (who plays the dwarven thief Mulch Diggums) vaguely amused me a couple of times and that I didn't have to pay for it because I already subscribe to Disney+.

It fails for pre-existing fans, it fails for newcomers... just give *Artemis Fowl* a pass and go watch *Harry Potter* again.

Artemis Fowl is now available on Disney+.

review

KT on vacation



Submitted photo

Joanne Zaitz read a recent copy of the *Keizertimes* in beautiful Enterprise, Ore. You too can have your photo in the *Keizertimes*. Simply take the paper to your destination, snap a picture with you and your group holding it, and send the photo along with everyone's first and last names to kt@keizertimes.com.

COVID-19 spread ticks up another 20% in 97303

COVID-19 cases spiked another 20 percent in the 97303 zip code that includes all of Keizer and smaller portions of Salem.

According to statistics released by the Oregon Health Authority on June 24, the number of positive COVID-19 tests linked to the

97303 zip code rose to 143 from 110 the week prior. It's the second straight week of 20 percent increases in the area.

To combat surging coronavirus numbers, Gov. Kate Brown mandated face covering throughout the state in all indoor public spaces. The

mandate began Wednesday, July 1.

While Keizer does not have an identified outbreak of coronavirus linked to a single source, numerous large employers in neighboring areas with employees who live in Keizer could be affecting the area.

No fireworks on the river this July 4th

The Fourth of July fireworks presentation at Riverfront Park has been canceled this year by the City of Salem.

Phase 2 guidance continues to require limits to outdoor gatherings to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19.

City officials remind residents using parks this weekend to maintain adequate social distance, refrain from smoking and keep pets on leashes. All City parks close at dark and the use of fireworks is prohibited anywhere on park grounds.

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