

Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

"Beauty and the Beast" enchants viewers once again

By Madeline Henderson
staff writer

A tale as old as time, retold and made new again.

Disney's live remake of Beauty and the Beast came out on March 17, and left audiences stunned. The gorgeous new film stayed very true to its roots while including a few minor changes that made the tale even more magical than before. Those who loved the original animated production will enjoy the faithfulness to the original in song and story, along with the intriguing additions.

The film gave the characters more depth by expanding their backstories and making more realistic explanations for their behav-

ior. The film also featured a much more diverse cast than the original feature, even suggesting a homosexual romance.

The additions to the plot didn't feel unnatural. Instead, they enhanced the story so that it made much more sense than before. They explained why Lafou was so loyal to Gaston, why the Beast was so cruel, and what happened to Belle's mother. They even gave a reason as to why the seemingly innocent servants were included in the curse by the enchantress, and why they remained loyal to their prince despite his behavior causing the curse.

Each scene was beautifully crafted. The special effects were done in a way that didn't feel out of

place or excessive. Every scene was elegant and ornate. The attention to detail was incredible. You could see the hairs on the Beast's face, the shine of Mrs. Potts, and the reflection off Lumiere's surface. Another highlight of this production was how well the film was cast.

Many beloved actors and actresses made appearances in this film, such as Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Sir Ian McKellen, Ewan McGregor, Emma Thompson, Kevin Kline, Stanly Tucci, and Luke Evans.

Watson did a fantastic job in this film, and managed to inhabit the persona of Belle with vigor and grace. She managed to portray a more headstrong and sure version of the character, yet remained true

to the original character.

The music in this production was also fantastic. Elegant, true to the original soundtrack, but with some new additions. There is even a new musical character, the Maestro, who accompanies the Wardrobe.

"Beauty and the Beast" can and will be enjoyed by everyone. The theater was filled with people of all ages, in fact the teenagers and college aged people outnumbered the children. Anyone of any age would enjoy this film, and it is definitely worth seeing, maybe even multiple times.



"Kong: Skull Island" limited by script, blockbuster reboot king of nothing

By Carter Diggs
entertainment editor



"Kong: Skull Island" is yet another member of this year's seemingly constant lineup of reboots and remakes. This new take on the story of King Kong seeks to give the King of Apes a bit more depth and bring a star-studded cast on the biggest journey to Skull Island yet. Does it succeed? Well ... sort of.

The story centers around two scientists who venture to the exotic Skull Island in order to prove some crazy conspiracy theory that would make even chemtrail proponents roll in their graves. They are joined by a large, somewhat bloated cast, including an elite tracker, an anti-war photographer, and a Vietnam general.

The cast does as much as they can with the characters, but the movie's wonky, stilted script and muddled, forgettable characterization bottle-

necks even the high-talent actors. The focus is uneven and it is never clear who the main character is actually supposed to be.

What about Kong himself? The titular character is the biggest he's ever been and doesn't look too shabby. Yes, he's a gigantic CGI monkey, but the animators did a pretty good job with giving him actual character traits and a visible range of emotions.

This iteration of Kong is also given an interesting role in the story, dissecting how the creature in ancient times could be seen as a protector or god. So if ancient pagan gorilla worship is your kinda thing, here you go. Kong's huge size also leads to

some pretty huge battles. The action is big and loud, exactly what you'd expect from a monster film, but it didn't really have too many standout moments. It felt like the film could have embraced the craziness of its premise and gone the extra mile to make these moments truly stand out.

There was a lot of potential going into this film, but it is riddled with so many flaws that while not being too serious by themselves limit as a whole what could have been a proper return to form to the King of Apes.



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