

Tales from the Albright
Episode 91: Guess the Movie, Part 1

Alyssa: Hello, welcome to Tales from the Albright: A Podcast by the Scranton Public Library. Hello everyone and today we are here with Kate.

Kate: Hello.

Alyssa: We took inspiration from last year when we did the one-star reviews of books. And now we're going to do one star review of movies. As a caveat, I am bad with movies I talk about that all the time on here, so it will be an adventure.

Kate: Yeah, it's going to be fun. We pulled our reviews from letterboxd this time, which is social movie reviewing platform, kind of like goodreads, but for movies. People on letterboxd are a lot more succinct and they are a lot more vulgar than they are on goodreads. We will not be swearing

A: No

K: This is family friendly, but just so everyone is aware, it's a slightly different scene.

A: And very much so you can tell that these are completely different from like the goodreads, Storygraph that community to the people who are very into movies and intensely review movies.

K: Yes, it's it is more intense, little more snarky, but it's fun. It'll it'll be fun.

A: OK, first, the biggest disappointment of my life besides my life. Picture it, a young man just beginning to dive deeper into cinema. He pops this film into the DVD player, having heard for ages that it is a masterpiece. Imagine the shock and sadness he feels when it turns out to be one of the most boring things he's ever heard. At least it's a very pretty film and. The music is nice.

K: This is. Is this the Green Knight?

A: No.

K: Is this Jaws?

A: No.

K: OK, continue

A: The soundtrack of Jaws? The 2nd one: Any people online that have said that reading an article makes this film better is a complete fool. A film is to make you feel something other than completely bored. The amazing cinematography and camera shots are outstanding, but is that what makes a good film? Absolutely not. To give five stars for a film with no story but a good musical score and camera shots is pathetic. It's a cinematic equivalent of someone pretentiously linking a blank canvas with a red square on. Then selling it for millions and saying its revolutionary.

K: Don't do my boy Rothko bad. Don't do that to him. This has got to be 2001: A Space Odessey, isn't it? Yeah. Uh-huh. Yes.

A: I enjoy that your issue with the criticism with it is the part about Rothko. Standard criticism.

K: I know

A: For people who don't study art history.

K: I know. Don't get me started.

A: As a side, I do enjoy Rothko too. So, the next person read man who tries to tell me I didn't like this film because I didn't get it and get punched in the face. In conclusion, I hate men space and men space.

K: OK.

A: I was never warned how much. Breathing was in this film.

K: So true. So true!

A: I'm amazed that no one can hear you scream in space yet everyone and their mother can hear you breathe. It's disgusting. I think it's time for a long nap. And I have just one more.

K: Uh Huh.

A: Just what do you think you're doing Stanley? Stanley, I really think I'm entitled to an answer to that question. I know this movie has been painfully boring the entire time, but I can assure you now very confidently that they genuinely did try to appreciate it. I feel much worse now. I really do. Look Stanley, I can see you tried really hard on this, I honestly think you should sit down calmly, take a stress pill and think over what you really needed to make this movie, Stanley.

K: For those who don't know, that's the that's what Hal says at the end when Dave has to disconnect him. He's trying to convince him not to do it. Ohh my gosh, that got me. That's funny.

A: Yeah.

K: OK, I have a. Lot, but they're. All like short.

A: OK,

K: I don't know why it didn't work, it just didn't. There was so much happening, yet nothing was happening, and I swear the scene seemed plays out like 20 times.

A: I feel like this is every movie I've ever watched.

K: Like this is this could be anything. I barely watched this because I was so checked out. So many characters, so many action scenes, so many big dramatic swells of score, so few neurons firing in my brain. I don't like any of these characters or the screenplay, or the lamely choreographed action scenes. I also don't like the dark, drab cinematography.

A: I honestly don't know

K: I'm gonna keep going I'm gonna go. The guy in this movie is too slimy. Woefully misguided start to a franchise that nevertheless became a global success, ended up playing chess with a friend, and that was somehow more exciting. This movie is the world heavyweight champion of making me want to reach for my phone.

A: Is this Pirates of the Caribbean? They're so rude.

K: Yeah. People on letterbox pull no punches. I don't understand. I have I have some more, they're all like one sentences

A: Oh Gosh

K: My son likes this series, which makes me feel like I'm failing as a parent. Watched in police custody did not have a good time. Kiera Knightly can have sexual tension with the rock, but not even she can carry Orlando Bloom.

A: Oh no

K: And then last one, I hate pirates, ninja supremacy.

A: I rented Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl from Blockbuster because I'm old. I watched it like 3 times in one day.

K: What was that's like 8 hours.

A: Yeah. I don't know

K: It's like 3 hours?

A: Yeah, I was doing nothing. I don't know.

K: Respect, honestly respect.

A: This movie is so slow that it can be used as a desktop wallpaper.

K: I have a feeling I know what this is, but go on

A: The most enjoyable part of this film was the first minute and 30 seconds of just a black screen with the music.

K: Is this? No Keep keep going? I think I know what this is but keep going.

A: Yesterday I had to drive for 10 hours back home from the wedding. I was tired, hung over and completely worn out from the weekend. This movie was harder to get through than that drive.

K: Yeah. Yeah, this is. Star Trek: The Motion Picture.

A: Yes, it is.

K: Yes, it is, huh? Yeah. Oh, Classic. It's like 2001: A Space Odessey, but for people who like Star Trek.

A: It has its place in pop culture history and major motion picture based on a long dead TV show that was relaunched on the big screen with its original cast intact thanks to the intensity of the fan base. And not just any major motion picture, but the most expensive movie made up to that time, it's pretty close to unwatchable though.

K: Oh, People don't know that people don't like appreciate the 40 minutes of slow, gigantic model spaceship flybys. They're going through this like alien spaceship that takes like an hour because they're just showing you all that the landscapes of the alien it's not for everybody.

A: Where is Chris Pine? No, don't chase after a really weird space cloud for two hours.

K: No, Spock doesn't mind that with the alien.

A: Walked out lols. It was boring and the special effects sucked. And it was just beyond mid, and Spock was not as cool as they made them out to be. Spock slander at letterboxd.

K: Spock slander! Who are these people? Who doesn't love Spock?

A: I don't know.

K: I thought you're going to say you don't love Spock and I would have walked out.

A: I know you would've been like I quit

K: I can't work here anymore

A: I have no problems with Spock

K: Yeah, that's what I thought. It better stay that way. Spock's awesome. My turn?

A: Yeah, I'm scared.

K: OK. I first heard of this film when a kid at secondary school asked me if I was named after the boy in it. Sufficed to say no, since my mother isn't an emo.

A: OK?

K: I don't really get how anyone, any older or any younger than 15 can watch this film and not want to tell it to grow up and get over itself. I can tell you for sure that zero directing occurred on the set of this movie, because just about every actor stands around and speaks their lines like this is a high school play.

A: Is this Halloweentown?

K: No.

A: Am I like close?

K: Kind of. Shout out to my fellow pit and stage crew from the 2009 high school production. I don't care for the material that we sounded a lot better than these clowns

A: Is this High School Musical?

K: No. Did you put that on the list?

A: I don't know. I don't remember.

K: I don't remember either. I hope one day we get a film adaptation that is brave enough to be as dark as it can be. That lets the ensemble and orchestrations live, and that casts its leads without the favoritism that leads to these very meek vocals.

A: Is it Raise Your Voice?

K: No.

A: Is it Sweeney Todd?

K: Yes, yes. I'm in the process of making a PowerPoint about this I'm so upset. I too have done that. Tim Burton really decided to take one of the best scores of all time, rip it to pieces and give it to people who can't sing. These last two are great. The movie has way too much music in it. It basically relies on the music. They should have focused more on the murder. As ho doesn't like murder? I know I do. Although that isn't an omission of guilt.

A: Its a musical

K: I know it's musical. Anthony's love for Joanna seemed baseless just because if it didn't happen, the plot would not exist. At all. So, no movie. That one makes the least sense out of anyone of these that I've read.

A: Poor Jamie Campbell Bower.

K: Anthonys not, if it didn't happen the movie wouldn't've happened Thats every single movie ever.

A: I know it is.

K: If Indiana Jones wasn't an adventure, then none of the movie would have happened. No. If Luke didn't like the if Luke didn't go and get those droids, then the movie wouldn't happen. Like yeah, we know it's the movie. It's the plot of the movie. It's happening

A: To quote Harry Styles. It's like a movie, ya know.

K: It's a movie. I forgot, he said that.

A: This movie was great when I watched it as a child. Now, I feel it hasn't aged well, very dated. Not very entertaining. Quite boring in parts. It's always good to go ahead and give it a watch though. I would say it's well and truly overrated

K: This could be any movie that I put on the list,

A: Gory and terrifying. Don't recommend,

K: OK? What gory movie did I put on my list

A: You might get it after the next one.

K: Okay

A: A bunch of bland white men engage in two hours of boring conversation in which they managed to never show any emotion other than aggression, even if their children just almost died. While they are trying to kill a living creature without ever feeling an ounce of empathy. The music does not fit the feeling of the scenes half the time and these pathetic characters attempts to one up each other and their toxic masculinity almost got my eyeballs stuck from all rolling around they had to do.

K: What?

A: You'll definitely get after this one,

K: OK

A: One star because now everyone is afraid of sharks instead of the real enemy polar bears and saltwater crocodiles.

K: The music didn't fit. Can we go back a second? The music didn't fit what was happening. Yeah. Are you serious? This is Jaws just so everyone is aware.

A: Yes, it is Jaws.

K: Wow, that is people on letterboxed, like, just always surprise me. I can't. I I don't understand how these people live or think. OK, continue.

A: OK. And this is the last one I have. It's also very relatable to me because it gave me a sense of nostalgia. Okay. By far the scariest movie of all time, and it isn't close. My parent forced me on the ride at Disneyland/Universal or whatever it was when I was like 5, and I still have nightmares about it 20 years later. This movie guaranteed me an extreme phobia of water, ocean, and sharks through the rest of my life, giving it one star out of the fear that the sharks will see this review and walk onto land and kill me in my home. I went on that ride at Disney Universal when I was about 5 and it was very scary. I didn't have nightmares about it though.

K: What, what was it?

A: So, the Jaws part, I believe it was like kind of all movies, but I just remember the Jaws part. You were like on the tracks in water and going to like a hut thing that's kind of broken down and the shark comes out and tries to like kill you. And like electrical cords are like sparking. And it was very scary

K: That's crazy.

A: I did not get a phobia of water, ocean or sharks from it, though.

K: Yeah, no, I mean I just love Bruce. The shark. That was like, incredibly insufferable and was breaking all the time and didn't work. And they all hated it so much. Bruce is a special place in my heart. All pay offs with no setups, things just happen, and the more things happen. I've never seen a movie crumble under its own breakneck pace quite like this.

A: Oh Okay

K: This is the Goonies for millennials, a basically unwatchable movie that people go to go to bat for because they grew up with it.

A: I feel like I should know.

K: An utterly cheesy and brainless mess. Major plot holes, mind boggling plot conveniences, and blatant illogic abound in literally every sequence.

A: Is it The Mummy?

K: It sure is. It sure is. Why they turned the great horror classic into a third rate Indiana Jones, I may never understand.

A: So mean

K: Really not looking forward to the sequels if this is the one people like. Too much sand? I don't think that person was serious, but it's so funny. It takes place in the desert,

A: It's in Egypt.

K: Didn't realize they had CGI, but the late 90s dot dot dot they shouldn't have. It was too soon sad face. That's what's great. I've seen people's mums that look worse than the mummy. Not scary.

A: Oh my gosh

K: OK, here we go. Last one. Here we go Basically, the only thing I liked was that Imhotep looked like the main dude of any given 90s Eurodance band, and this would really have been so much better. This really would have been so much better movie if an uplifting 44 old school trance beat would have started playing every single time, he said something.

A: I love The Mummy. It did annoy me though in the sequel when they just kind of left their kid to die.

K: Ohh?

A: At the beginning. Not really but like stuff's happening and they're Like, oh, it's a date night and I'm like things like there's like a mummy attacking London, like take care of your kid.

A: OK, didn't care about this at all, but yeah, sure it had cool special effects.

K: OK,

A: Scarier than any horror movie I've seen.

K: OK.

A: I do not care for what was happening in this movie? I guess I had to grow up with it to really find it interesting at all. Very much something you'd end up watching because it's playing in the background of a party.

K: Interesting. OK.

A: All because Colonel Sanders wanted to play God.

K: Oh, Is this Jurassic Park?

A: Yes

K: The special effects are awesome.

A: They're great. Most of them are practical.

K: It's like half and half, but it holds up.

A: Because it's practical.

K: Yeah, it's like, you know, it's CGI, but it's awesome.

A: Okay, one of the dumbest concepts. Why would the first thing you do after basically rearing dinosaurs be to make a zoo? Capitalism is like, oh sure, that's put the biggest predators known to man in cages and building amusement park around them. The only good thing about it was Jeff.

K: But that's literally the point of the movie. The point of the movie is that you shouldn't put giant predators in a zoo and that you shouldn't. I'm so I feel like I am about to explode. Sometimes this stuff. This is like the same feeling I would get when I was reading, like goodreads reviews of the classes and people just don't understand. Oh boy.

A: I have one more. Not all of the dinosaurs were from the Jurassic, the one of the posters from the Cretaceous,

K: Colonel Sanders didn't care about that, he cared about money.

A: That's true.

K: Yeah, who cares? Jurassic Park sounds a little bit of a Cretaceous and Jurassic Park. Yeah. Don't go to Universal, do they have Jurassic Park at Universal or?

A: They have that touring show too.

K: Oh yeah, that's right. That's basically walking with dinosaurs. I saw that when I was a kindergartner and like before they came on stage, I was terrified. And then as soon as they came on stage, I was like this is the best thing ever. I was like 5. It was awesome. My favorite dinosaur is still the Stegosaurus until this day.

A: I'm a Triceratops kid

K: Respect. The self-seriousness and forced tension is a constant annoyance and makes it impossible to enjoy. It's absolutely obsessed with its own intelligence and tension, and never manages to convey either in any meaningful capacity. First half was just nothing, and then the second half was nothing. People trying to unravel and nothing that happened at the beginning. Also, that was truly the least climactic climax of all time.

A: Is it The Prestige?

K: No. When are people going to realize that classic does not equal good?

A: Is it Psycho?

K: Yes.

A: Oh no.

K: I got some good ones. It's pretty clear that the director doesn't respect his audience as he literally sits us down at the end, forces our jaws open and force feeds this information that we already know. Honestly, like I wouldn't put it like that, but. I could see where this person is going.

A: I can see it

K: Wow, I did not see that coming. I was so scared. These are all just, these are all just goofy. This genre of film will never speak to me. That will never get my attention. Therefore, I watched Puss in boots the last wish for the third time this week after it was done to experience real cinema. This is a tough one because it's not better than the Godfather, but it's also not worse. They do not say the name of this movie in the movie. Strange guy. I can fix him. I'm too in love to like any movies these days. That's it. That last one might be my favorite.

A: This is my last one for this episode. Great plot, great development, interesting take on the murder mystery, amazing movie all around. I hate it. I hate it. I hate it and none of you will ever know why.

K: What I'm getting some mixed signals.

A: How many times does this movie put me to sleep? 6 One anticlimactic, totally void of anything redeeming slog. I hated it.

K: Oh, is this like Glass Onion?

A: No.

K: Murder mystery, OK.

A: Now the 50 is funky slow motion falling sequence also like just nah

K: OK.

A: The murderer wasn't the scariest part of this movie. It was actually the middle-aged main character who was anything but likable.

K: What? Is this the Exorcist 3?

A: No. Okay, everyone knows a woman never leaves her apartment without every piece of jewelry she currently owns. If she does, then she probably got murdered.

K: I have no idea what this is.

A: Princess Grace Kelly, come through.

K: Oh, is this um Vertigo, or is it? Grace Kelly? Is this Rear Window?

A: Yes.

K: OK.

A: I was like you're so close.

K: I know, I know, it's like.

A: Ugh, well, it's rude to spy on people. They should apologize for spying. Whatever happened to movies about giant robots or movies about mystery solving dogs. If I wanted to look out the window for two hours, I'd look out the window or something. I can do it too.

K: I don't even know if that person is serious or not which is the best part.

A: That was my last one.

K: OK, let me do my last one for this episode. Every ounce of it reeks with insincerity and an utter disregard for tragedy.

A: Is it Titanic?

K: It sure is

K: Okay, All righty, you're going to like these. Random historical event gets the Hollywood treatment for no apparent reason. It was too long. Also, I couldn't hear it over my stupid dog. If you want to watch this movie, don't. Watch The Fast and The Furious 5 instead. They never get to where they wanted to go, fix the ending and the rating will improve.

A: Thats the whole point.

K: This movie looked so promising, but personally I would say it is the worst film ever made. Not only does it let aside any consideration of real stories that happened on the ship, but it constructs a piece of ridiculous class divide mush instead.

A: Oh my

K: Boring, over long and simply horrid Titanic sinks before it even leaves port. I actually believe in the Titanic less after watching this movie,

A: It's a real thing that happened. Jack and Rose weren't real, but like those people actually died

K: Hey, try to tell that to this person. They don't believe it anymore? All of this could have been avoided if I was the captain

A: I don't think so.

K: Cameron's Titanic is an insult to all victims of the. Titanic, all romance movies, all drama movies, The Wizards of Waverly Place, Hannah Montana, The Suite Life on Deck, every string instrument, all Celtic folk music, God and my well-being.

A: How is it insult Wizards of Waverly Place?

K: I don't know

A: I want to know.

K: The boat episodes. Do you remember?

A: Yeah

K: Like The Sweet Life on deck Hannah Raven?

A: Oh, the crossovers?

K: That's So Sweet Life or whatever it was

A: Oh, the Sweet Life on Deck?

K: Yeah

A: OK. Well, that's both lists. Both of us did five, right?

K: Yep.

A: OK. So that's where we're going to stop for this week. Next week we will pick this back up and do the rest of ours, so tune in for more wild reviews of movies.

K: See you later.

A: Goodbye. If you have any thoughts, comments, questions or anything else, please contact me at aloney@albright.org. That's A L O N E Y at albright.org or feel free to call the library at 570-348-3000.