

Features

Actors and artists combine to make 'Roger Rabbit' a hit



Maroon Studios' star Roger Rabbit and private detective Eddie Valiant (Bob Hoskins) are linked in a mystery surrounding the death of a gag-company owner in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit."

By Judith Trojan
Few films, even the very best, break new ground in ways that place them in contention for landmark status: "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" (Touchstone) has arrived to tickle the funny bone of audiences and critics alike, and to mesmerize them with technical artistry never before realized on screen.

Combining a pantheon of animated characters and featuring a pantheon of Hollywood's great animated characters in cameo roles, "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" utilizes more than 1,000 visual effects and 57 minutes (of its 103-minute running time) of interactive animation sequences. It's billed as the most technologically advanced example of combined live-action and animation in film history, which means that the actors and animated characters mesh so naturally that it's impossible to imagine them ever being apart.

Set in Hollywood circa 1947, the story relates the woes of Maroon Studios' contract star, Roger Rabbit, who lives in Toontown, a garish Hollywood district to which Toons (cartoon players) are consigned. Roger is married to Jessica, a sexy, humanoid Toon who has been rumored to be fooling around with Marvin Acme (Stubby Kaye).

Soon Roger is framed for Acme's murder, and he seeks the services of down-and-out gumshoe Eddie Valiant (Bob Hoskins), who begrudgingly takes the case. Together they become entangled in many a mess before uncovering the shocking truth behind Acme's death.

Eddie and Roger are by far the oddest and most endearing buddy team to hit the screen in this or any other year. Hoskins ("Mona Lisa") deserves Oscar consideration for his ability to make their relationship both outrageously zany and touching, despite the fact that he filmed his role in a vacuum to which Roger and the rest of the Toons were later added. And Roger's particularly endearing nature and comical voice (Charles Fleischer) are also key to the success of this film.

"Who Framed Roger Rabbit" combines the best aspects of the detective, film noir, comedy, fantasy and cartoon genres in a seamless masterpiece that defies the imagination.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America's rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Trojan is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Department of Communication.

Well-chosen heroes offer models for imagining how our lives will be

By Michael Warren
NC News Service

When we're young, our lives stretch out before us, and our focus is as much on who we will be in the future as on who we are right now. When we fantasize about our futures, we imagine not just who we will be but also — and this is important — the kind of person we will be.

Some people imagine themselves as being strong or admired the way sports stars, entertainment figures or fashion models might be. Still others imagine making sacrifices to serve others.

If we listen carefully to how friends talk about their future fantasies — and most people do talk about them at least occasionally — we can find out a lot about how they see themselves and the kind of people they would like to be.

We also could ask ourselves and our friends: Who do you want to be like? Whoever your heroes are, they offer models we would like to imitate. Such models can be powerful, not just for young people but for people of all ages.

I know a young doctor in East Africa who gave up a good practice in the United States to go work with the poor for three years. He traces that decision back to accounts of missionaries he heard in grade school.

The matter of heroes needs to be given a lot of thought because they can have such a great influence. We can find out an amazing amount about a person if we can find out who that person's heroes are.

We have a right to make some judgments for ourselves about the various heroes proposed to us. What one person names as a hero, another may consider a jerk.

Not all heroes are worth serious attention.

Coming of Age

For some, the Rambo character created by Sylvester Stallone is a hero; he has convictions and knows how to make them stick. For others, Rambo is a fake, a cardboard depiction of an unrealistic view of military might. Rambo is a killer, and in his movies, the real horror of war never is shown.

Many people who are supposed to be heroes are just greedy, mean, lying people. What a terrible thing it would be for a person to live out life pursuing silly dreams and following shabby heroes!

Think a lot about the kind of person you want to be, pay attention to your dreams of the future, and be choosy about whom you name as a hero or heroine. For Christians, these are deeply religious issues.

Michael Warren is a well-known religious educator who teaches at St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y.

Carmelites to celebrate feast

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate a special Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Saturday, July 16, at 9 a.m. in the Carmelite Monastery, 1931 Jefferson Rd., Pittsford. All are welcome to attend.

HOUSE OF GUITARS
Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98
CD's From \$8.98 - \$11.98 Each
We received 25 correct entries identifying Tiny Tim as the person who made it big with "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" in 1968. The winner was Anthony Scalia of St. Rita's.

MUSIC TRIVIA
This week's question: What kind of knife did Mack carry in the song "Mack the Knife?"
Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ School: _____
Rules: Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn. If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Tenth Ave. All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.
The Courier-Journal Music Trivia 1150 Buffalo Rd. Rochester, N.Y. 14624

ANNOUNCING ...
The Courier-Journal's Back-To-School Issue
This year, the Courier-Journal will present its annual Back-to-School Supplement in the August 11th issue. The focus of this education supplement will cover innovative programs in the schools — including grammar, high school, and college levels. In past years this has been one of the Courier-Journal's finest issues. Rest assured that this year will be no exception!
ADVERTISING DEADLINES
Space Reservations: Monday, August 1st Copy Deadline: Friday, August 5th
Call or write to:
The Courier-Journal Back-to-School Supplement 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14624 (716) 328-4340
Don't miss your chance to be part of the Courier-Journal's Back-to-School issue. It's sure to be an A+ Performance!

Zambito's Team Outfitters
Golf - Baseball - Softball - Hockey - Football - Basketball
We received 9 correct entries identifying Richard Petty as the All-Time leader in NASCAR victories. The winner was Marie Barney of Rochester.
SPORTS TRIVIA
This week's question: What are the only three countries to challenge the U.S. for yachting's America's Cup?
Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ School: _____
Rules: Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with Zambito's Sport Shop will feature a Sports Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn. If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a certificate redeemable for \$10.00 OFF towards any purchase at Zambito's Sport Shop, 1350 Calver Rd. All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.
The Courier-Journal Sports Trivia 1150 Buffalo Rd. Rochester, NY 14624