

'Nemo' animation superb

David DiCerto/CNS

NEW YORK — A timid tropical fish embarks on a harrowing journey across vast stretches of treacherous ocean to rescue his lost son in the delightful animated adventure "Finding Nemo" (Disney).

With beautiful underwater landscapes and a solid cast lending their voices, director Andrew Stanton creates an enchanting fable about courage, self-sacrifice and the power of love to overcome insurmountable odds.

Marlin (Albert Brooks' voice) is an overly protective clown fish trying his best to raise his only son, Nemo (voice of Alexander Gould), in the relative safety of Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The security of their plush sea anemone home is not without hazards — a reality Marlin is mindful of, having lost Nemo's mother and siblings to a coral predator.

On the first day of school, the runty Nemo finds himself the brunt of classmates' jokes. Egged on by dares and desperate to be accepted, the impetuous minnow turns a deaf gill to his father's warnings and swims beyond the reef's "drop-off," and out to the open sea and is netted by a scuba



Disney/Pixar/CNS

Bruce, the friendly great white shark, invites Dory and Marlin to a party in Disney/Pixar's "Finding Nemo."

diver and motored off, leaving Marlin helpless in the boat's wake.

Befriended by an absent-minded fish, Dory (voice of Ellen DeGeneres), Marlin takes off into the unknown in search of his son. The sequence which finds them literally making a leap of faith inside a whale echoes the biblical story of Jonah —

Movie Review

as well as the Disney classic "Pinocchio" — hinting at the necessity of surrendering to the will of God in times of despair.

The film's scene-stealers are a trio of bumbling sharks with a 12-step program aimed at changing their image — their support group's motto is "Fish are friends, not food" — and whose gaping jowls may prove scary, especially for young children.

In the absence of a traditional Disney villain, the ocean itself takes on a pivotal role, offering breathtaking beauty and unfathomable danger.

"Finding Nemo" elevates computer animation to a new level of fluidity. The underwater environments range from richly textured color-gardens of the Great Barrier Reef to the more muted, almost impressionistic, palette of the ocean expanses.

And while Disney's never-saw-a-heartwarming-plot-that-couldn't-be-exploited-and-merchandised attitude is to be frowned at, audiences will find it hard not to applaud this whale of a tale.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

DiCerto is on the staff of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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MOVIE CAPSULES 'CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS'

Filmmaker Andrew Jarecki's unusual documentary chronicling the destruction of a late 1980s family after the teacher father and his teen-age son are accused of child molestation and the mother and two other sons take sides. It is the Friedmans' own obsessive taping of their furious arguments at the time that speaks volumes about this intensely dysfunctional family and their wavering versions of the truth. Sexual references, specifically pedophilia and much rough language. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

'THE ITALIAN JOB'

High-octane caper flick about a gang of professional thieves, including Mark Wahlberg and Edward Norton, who must track down and foil one of their own who double-crosses them after they steal millions in Italian gold. Director F. Gary Gray's film scores with deftly executed action sequences, but founders with a predictable premise and direction. Key actors: A heated approval of their unheeded refusal to obtain some professional help. The USCCB classification is A-I — general patronage. The MPA rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

'TO CATCH A KING'

Based on the true story of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this film tells the story of the assassination and the subsequent trial. The film is a powerful and moving portrait of a man who changed the world. The USCCB classification is A-I — general patronage. The MPA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Kids' Chronicle

Answers from page 12: 1. Pharaoh, 2. bush, 3. snake, 4. Aaron, 5. plagues, 6. Passover, 7. rock, 8. commandments

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