

At The Movies

By Phil Castor



FAMILY 'TIL THE END Toy Story 3

Toy Story 3 comes to a rollercoaster, emotional conclusion that will remind us all the joys of family, childhood and the heartache of letting go and growing up. By Philip Matthew Castor

One would expect something special to come from seeing Toy Story 3. After all, with the track record that Pixar has had with all their films, especially from WALL-E and UP, fans can expect the same family entertainment wrapped around an emotional subtext that leaves its viewers happy, sad, excited, and sometimes crying in the aisles. With Toy Story 3, director Lee Unkrich and Pixar Studios created a beautiful and gut wrenching animated masterpiece.

Its been 11 years since Toy Story 2 and right away we are once again reunited with old friends Woody (Tom Hanks) and Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen) and the rest of the gang, but things have definitely changed in those 11 years. Andy (voiced one again by the now adult John Morris) is now a 17- year-old high school graduate, embarking for college, which comes with deciding on what to do with his childhood companions. For most of us who have already gone through this ritual there are but two choices: being stored away in the attic or being donated. Woody is picked by Andy to accompany him to college while the rest of the gang; Buzz, Jessie (Joan Cusack), Mr. Potato Head (Don Rickles), Rex (Wallace Shawn), Hamm (John Ratzen-

berger) and Slinky Dog (Blake Clark, replacing the late, great Jim Varney) are being taken to the attic. But after a mix up that involves the toys escaping from being taken out with the garbage, they all end up in the donation box that carries them to Sunnyside Day Care.

At first the toys are greeted to a warm reception by their fellow toys in arms and by their leader, the furry and loveable, strawberry-scented Lots-o'-Huggin Bear (voiced by the amazing Ned Beatty). Lots- o'-Huggin Bear (or Lotsy for short) gives the new toys a tour of the day care, assuring them plenty of children playing with them, and the feeling of abandonment forever gone. While this sounds like heaven for Buzz and the gang, it isn't until they experience first hand the toddlers in the Caterpillar Room that they decide to form an escape plan.

Pixar once again introduces us to a plethora of new characters that will become fan favorites, such as Ken doll (Michael Keaton) who must prove his manliness by assuring everyone that he "is not a girl's toy," and a thespian hedgehog named Mr. Pricklepants (Timothy Dalton). There are also appearances by toys that most of us haven't seen in years, such as a Speak-n-Spell that is used as a casino game, and a Waspman toy that could have come straight out of He-Man and the Masters of the Universe.

Director Lee Unkrich keeps the film balanced with fast past action and tender moments. The Pixar animation staff have once again created toys that are very life like, complete with beautiful lighting, amazing graphics, and while the 3-D effect will no doubt make the masses very happy, it's the story that makes the film a worthwhile experience.

With every Pixar film there is always a moral story or two that is disguised as family entertainment. Family has been a thread in all of Pixar's films and Toy Story 3 is no exception, thanks to Little Miss Sunshine screenwriter Michael Arndt. For the past 15 years we have come to know Woody, Buzz, the rest of the toys as our family, and we love the fact that they fight like

a real family. In 1995's Toy Story Woody and Buzz have the typical sibling rivalry, while 1999's Toy Story 2 spoke about the emotional riff of losing the only family who have ever known, while being terrified in opening up to a new family. This film takes the family theme to a whole new level.

Saying goodbye to not just to your family as you leave for college, but saying goodbye to your childhood, to the people that meant the most to you. In Andy's case, it is saying goodbye to Woody, Buzz, and the rest of the gang as he grows up and becomes an adult. Transitions are always a painful experience, letting go of the familiar because it is safe, and experiencing the unknown.

The films final moments are as emotional as any Academy award winning film of the past. After watching this film, you might find yourself digging around in your garage or attic, looking for that box marked "Old Toys," ripping it open like a present at Christmas time, and reminiscing of days long ago. Maybe it was a stuffed toy that you just had to drag everywhere with you, or maybe it was a Lego set that you made the tallest buildings in the whole wide world. Or maybe it was a toy that belonged to your mom or dad that they handed down to you. Whatever your favorite toy was when you were a child, I can guarantee that you will be looking for it after you see this film. Toy Story 3 reminds us all that there is still a child inside us all.

When you do find that special toy, make sure you share that toy with someone special. After all, toys are meant to be shared and played with. Remember to play nice. Now if you'll excuse me, I have a play date with the Lone Ranger and Tonto. Hi ho Silver! Away!

Philip M. Castor (originally from San Jose, Ca.) is a graduate from De Anza College in Cupertino where he studied film history and filmmaking. He now resides in Monterey County and frequents the numerous movie theatres on the Peninsula. He can also be sighted in Toys R Us playing with Star Wars Lightsabers toys.

Events

from page A4

tos to be told. A photo of a startled child may be interesting to

look at, but isn't it more fun to know that the shocked look is because her brother surprised her with his new toy snake that Grandpa bought him?

--Memory albums are beautiful. Just like the furnishings in your home, your albums will reflect your special style. You will be proud to have your albums on display in your home and your guests will be in awe of what has been created with your photos.

--Memories should be enjoyed and shared. They can't be if they are shoved in drawers and shoe boxes. Just don't have the time? There are professional scrapbook artists that you can hire to complete your albums.

--Memory albums last forever. Whether you use your own time to complete your album, or hire a professional scrapbook artist, there is a cost involved. Unlike the house cleaner that cleans your home each week or the mechanic that gives

your car a tune-up (although both are important), a completed scrap-book is a treasure that won't need to be redone or maintained. Once your album is created, it is done and ready to be enjoyed for generations to come.

--You've invested a lot of money and time in your memories. Because we want to remember every moment in our lives and the lives of our loved ones, we spend hundreds of dollars on cameras, film, developing, and portrait studios. Why would you give the final prints shabby treatment? Don't take the display of your photos lightly. By creating scrapbook pages you are giving your

memories the treatment they deserve.
Marina Rocky Han Community Center ,211 Hillcrest Avenue Jackie Gonzales messages: (831)384-6009, email: jgonzales@ci.marina.ca.us

WATERCOLORS Tuesday (beginning August 17), 2010 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Marina Rocky Han Community Center ,211 Hillcrest Avenue Jackie Gonzales messages: (831)384-6009, email: jgonzales@ci.marina.ca.us

HOMEWORK CENTER HOURS Wednesday 1:30 PM - 7:30 PM Got a homework project? Need to do Internet research or find articles for a school project? Here's a great place to start. The Marina Library is located at 190 Seaside Circle. For more information please call 883-7507

SENIOR QUILTING NEW LOCATION Thursday 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Addicted to Quilting? Quilters and sewers can be found making quilts here weekly. Come sit a spell and enjoy one another's company. Must be a City of Marina Recreation Senior Center member. Limited Space Available. Come by and check out this great program. Now meeting at HomeTown Sewing Center Located in the Marina Grocery Outlet Center. Jackie Gonzales messages: (831)384-6009, email: jgonzales@ci.marina.ca.us

SENIOR THAI CHI Thursday 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Why is Tai Chi so popular these days? And why do 180 MILLION people worldwide practice Tai Chi every day? It is because those who do practice every day have a longer, more active life than those who don't, and their health potential increases dramatically.

Other exercises dissipate your energy, while Tai Chi accumulates it, leaving you feeling refreshed when you finish. The slow, dance-like speed of Tai Chi creates balance, flexibility and calmness. With an em-

SCRAPBOOKING CLUB Tuesday 9:30 AM- 11:30 AM Why Scrap book?•--Memory albums, also known as scrapbooks, allow the story behind your pho-

phasis on deep breathing and using mental imagery, Tai Chi integrates your mind with your body, and is very effective at relieving stress. Must be a City of Marina Recreation Senior Center member. Come by and check out this great program.

Jackie Gonzales messages: (831)384-6009, email: jgonzales@ci.marina.ca.us

HOMEWORK CENTER HOURS Thursday 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Got a homework project? Need to do Internet research or find articles for a school project? Here's a great place to start. The Marina Library is located at 190 Seaside Circle. For more information please call 883-7507

PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIME Thursday 10:15 AM & 11:15 AM Michelle Lang Children's Room For children ages 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM The Marina Library is located at 190 Seaside Circle. For more information please call 883-7507

BREAKFAST & BINGO SUMER HOURS Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM The Senior Center holds Bingo games every Friday in the Marina Senior Center, located at 211 Hillcrest Avenue. With a light breakfast to be served at 9:00 a.m. A small charge does apply to participate; .50 per card and a \$1.00 for Hot Ball. If you are not a current Senior Center Member a fee of \$2.00 will be collected. Marina Rocky Han Community Center ,211 Hillcrest Avenue Jackie Gonzales messages: (831)384-6009, email: jgonzales@ci.marina.ca.us

BABY & TODDLER STORY TIME Saturday Mitchell Lang Children's Room for children ages 0-24 months. Tap, sing, bounce, rock and read with your baby! The Marina Library is located at 190 Seaside Circle. For more information please call 883-7507

ESL CONVERSATION CLUB Saturday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM The Marina Branch of the Monterey County Free Libraries invites adults to join the ESL Conversation Club to practice English listening and verbal skills. Beginning February 2010, the ESL Conversation Club will begin at 12 noon on Saturdays instead of the current 11:00 am schedule.

The club provides a relaxed environment for improving language skills and making friends from all over the globe. Visitors are welcome. No pre-registration is required. For anyone wanting to practice their English language skills The Marina Library is located at 190 Seaside Circle. For more information please call 883-7507

FREE VIETNAMESE CLASSES Saturdays 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Session I: Beginners. 7 years and up. *no classes on 5/8, 5/29, 6/19, 7/3, 9/4, 10/9, 11/13, 11/27&12/25 in 2010 The Marina Library is located at 190 Seaside Circle. For more information please call 883-7507

FREE VIETNAMESE CLASSES Saturdays 11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon Session II: Intermediate 7 years and up. *no classes on 5/8, 5/29, 6/19, 7/3, 9/4, 10/9, 11/13, 11/27&12/25 in 2010 The Marina Library is located at 190 Seaside Circle. For more information please call 883-7507

OPERATION SMOKE DETECTOR The Marina Fire Department along with the Marina Professional Firefighters Association is promoting Operation Smoke Detector. The MPFFA has collected and continues to receive smoke detectors and batteries from local business in Marina. Smoke detectors will be made available only to residents of Marina. Marina Fire Department 211 Hillcrest Ave. Marina Fire Department at 883-1213

MARINA AMATEUR RADIO STATION The public

GIANT YARD SALE

El Rancho Mobile Homes Park
356 Reservation Road, Marina
Saturday July 17th - 9:00 AM

- Furniture
- Clothes
- Dishes
- Tools
- Kitchenware
- Stuff
- Etc.....

Great prices *SALE* *SALE* *Super Bargains*

**Things we can do without -
But you can't!**

SOS

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Saturday July 31 & Sunday August 1
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Walmart

Marina Landings Shopping Center

Target

Dunes Shopping Center

Look For The Big Yellow Bus

Information? Questions? Donations?
 Contact marinarotary@gmail.com