

“Kung Fu Panda 3” exceeds expectations

Due to the influence from the Shanghai branch, DreamWorks Animation definitely amped up their animation style with the release of “Kung Fu Panda 3.”

“Kung Fu Panda 3” depicts Po’s (Jack Black) transition from student to teacher, all the while trying to defeat Kai (J.K Simmons)—an ancient enemy come back from the spirit realm—and meeting his biological father for the first time.

While the movie touched on points from the last two movies, viewers could still keep up without feeling lost, although a few references, like the blank scroll gag, will go over their heads.

The flashback scenes feature beautifully hand-drawn art, geometric transitions

that flow elegantly with the film’s movement and the score samples “I’m So Sorry” by Imagine Dragons.

The movie offers just enough wit for the adults and enough corny humor for the kids. But it’s not all jokes. Themes such as growing up, moving on and acceptance, help round out the movie and bring a great ending. The mix of fun, insight and sentiment will have viewers coming back for more.

“Kung Fu Panda 3” does have its flaws as well. Po’s character developed in the first two movies, but he seems to have fallen back to his immature self in the third. The movie also feels rushed along in the beginning. It quickly moves from Po’s regular life to traveling to the panda village in order to master chi.



Photo courtesy of DreamWorks Animation

Despite these faults, “Kung Fu Panda 3” is wonderfully developed and a feel-good movie, able to entertain even the most hyperactive children. The movie is so well-rounded that it can be considered a movie for all ages and all families.

Rating: 9/10

— *Lauryn DeLaughter*

“The 5th Wave” disappoints

Let’s get one thing straight: I’m not a book purist.

I don’t mind if a movie changes the plot of a beloved book if the situation calls for it. It doesn’t bother me if a character’s hair is slightly different or if a scene gets deleted.

However, with the film adaptation of “The 5th Wave,” the changes do not improve the story, but hinder it.

The movie retains most of the soul of the novel. “The 5th Wave” chronicles the story of 16-year-old Cassie Sullivan, who struggles to survive in a world conquered by aliens.

Her world is destroyed in “waves.” All technology stops working due to a new electromagnetic field. Coastal cities are wiped out by tsunamis. An Ebola-like disease claims 97 percent of the survivors. After the first three waves, “the

Others” send hitmen called Silencers to track down the remainders.

The main problem with the book is the unnecessary romance between Cassie and Evan Walker. Evan is nothing more than a MacGuffin, a device used to further the plot. It would have made no difference if he didn’t exist if his knowledge was discoverable in some other way.



Photo courtesy of Sony

Instead of remedying any issues with the romance, the movie amplifies it. “The 5th Wave” ignores an important part of the series—the Dreamland program, which ends up ruining Evan’s purpose and removing any agency Cassie had. The fling between the two, in conjunction with Cassie’s high school crush, makes the story feel cliché.

In all, the movie pales in comparison to the book, which was problematic to begin with.

Rating: 4/10

— *Izzie Ramirez*