

Toy Story 3

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From Andrew “Hollywood” Henry

It is common knowledge that film sequels rarely top the original. The characters seem tired, the story is re-hashed, and the filmmakers jam too many special effects together to over-compensate for their lackluster film. And a third movie in a trilogy? Should I mention Godfather 3? Or Spiderman 3?

However, these rules do not seem to apply to films from the Pixar Studios--specifically their latest offering, Toy Story 3.

The original Toy Story was released in 1995 to rave reviews, both by critics and audiences. It was the first feature length computer animated film – it could be considered the grandfather to Shrek, Ice Age, and any other computer animated film that has come out over the past 15 years. In 1999, Toy Story 2 was released, which managed to top the original in terms of story, and again received praises across the board.

Toy Story 3 opens with Andy, the owner of the toys, preparing to go off to college. It has been a few years since our toy heroes – Woody, Buzz, Slinky Dog, Rex and Mr. Potato Head – have had proper playtime with Andy. But hope is not lost, as the toys wind up in Sunny Side Day Care, where new children are ready to play. The toys are excited that they will be able to bring children joy again in a nice, relaxing environment. Or is it?

What makes Toy Story 3 work so well (outside of the humor, the story, the amazing visuals) is that the heart of this film contains a very adult theme. What happens to toys when their owner grows up? Yes, children will love seeing their favorite toys’ adventures, but adults will be able to relate to the toys emotional experience. Similar to children growing up, flying the nest and leaving their parents – the toys have to deal with Andy growing up and no longer needing them in his life. The conclusion is bittersweet, but the journey is amazing.

From Tom “Sundance” Sims

Is it possible to have two “Toy Story” films in your top 10 favorite movies of all time? It is now. Toy Story 2 was a masterful lesson in suspension of disbelief. By the end of the film, the viewer will subscribe to each and every crazy turn in the action. In Toy Story 3, the storytellers’ have done the same but with even more superior character development.

As in all of the Toy Story films, the characters in Toy Story 3 find themselves in an impossible situation (no spoilers here). Instead of the standard panic and pandemonium, the characters do something unbelievably tender and moving--they look toward one another for a moment then hold each others hands. And by this point in the movie, you love these characters; you’re inspired by Woody’s loyalty, impressed by Buzz’s courage, charmed by Jesse’s spirit. These are characters you believe.

Don’t be fooled by what may seem like greener grass, embrace life’s changes, and be true to the people you love (and those not so lovable). These are the timeless themes in Toy Story 3 that make the film truly amazing. Its storyline is never juvenile despite the fact that all the kids enjoy the film just as much as the adults (and really we have the most to gain from watching it!)—and that’s what makes it a masterpiece. There have been a lot of great trilogies in film—this one tops them all.