



THE LION KING

Disney's latest packs spectacular sequences, comedy into morality play

By William Harrison
THE BATTALION

"The Lion King" Walt Disney Pictures Rated G Playing at Hollywood U.S.A.

It's got everything Disney's ever had - cute characters, incredible animation, moments of crisis, catchy tunes, a love story...and a message.

"The Lion King" opens as the main character Simba is born and introduced to his future kingdom.

Through a ritual gathering, all animals in the kingdom have come

to bid welcome to the young lion cub. Except for his uncle Scar.

Scar's cunning, yellowed eyes remained at home explaining later to his brother, King Mufassa, that he must have forgotten.

His tale is hardly believable, for his goal to become king has been obviously squelched by the birth of a male lion to the fold. But Scar has a few tricks up his sleeve, and stops at nothing to get what he wants.

Befriending a pack of maniacal hyenas, Scar hatches a plot to unseat the "Circle of Life" by placing himself and the hyenas at the

throne of the kingdom.

Simba's childhood fancies and his thirst for adventure prove to be the tools Scar will use. Mufassa rushes to save Simba, left in a trap by Scar and loses his life in the process. His death banishes the ashamed Simba away from the kingdom incapable of facing his past.

The characterizations are glowing and genuine as par Disney usual, and the comedy is as wildly slapstick as only animation sequences can accomplish.

For comedy, the G-rated film is similar to "Aladdin," but its inside humor appeals to all audiences more than Robin Williams' genie jokes in "Aladdin" did.

Between the capers, jokes and wild action, "The Lion King" also turns a philosophical bend.

As Simba searches to find himself, he finds in order to do so, he must put things behind him and start anew.

It's a tough lesson for all of us.

Soundtrack brings heart of 'The Lion King' to the ears

By Traci Travis
THE BATTALION

"The Lion King" soundtrack Elton John World Beat Walt Disney Records

The African rhythms of "The Lion King" soundtrack paint a panoramic landscape of sun-soaked music as well as any Disney animation could.

It is definitely worthy of the royal title it holds.

With an award-winning lyricist (Tim Rice), writer (Elton John) and composer (Hans Zimmer), "The Lion King" soundtrack is Disney's greatest musical triumph yet.

This soundtrack steps boldly off the well-worn, show tune Disney path to give the audience something completely different, completely daring - Disney rock.

The soundtrack opens with the powerful A Capella African words and deep bellowing

drums of "Circle of Life." The reggae undertones make the soundtrack's signature song ideal for mellow listeners.

"Hakuna Matata," possibly one of the most upbeat tunes in Disney history, translates into two English words. Combined, these words form into an encouraging phrase - "no worries." Despite the slight language barrier, the melody is addictive.

Not only are the lyrics irreplaceable, but the instrumental music of "The Lion King" soundtrack is perfect for those forced-family-fun, summer road trips through scenic landscape after scenic landscape.

And of course, what Disney soundtrack would be complete without a love song?

"Can You Feel the Love Tonight" takes the listener on a magical honeymoon via an African safari.

Filled to the rim with royal ties - "The Lion King" soundtrack is worthy of its crown.

THE BATTALION CLASSIFIED ADS

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'Little Big League' loses

Christi Erwin
THE BATTALION

"Little Big League" Starring Luke Edwards, Jason Robards, Dennis Farina, Ashley Crow and Timothy Busfield Directed by Andrew Scheinman Playing at Hollywood U.S.A.

"Little Big League" steps into the batter's box as a major league contender and in the end, strikes out. The movie is strictly minor league, as typical as cold beer and stadium dogs at a ball park.

The plot begins when Billy Heywood (Luke Edwards), an average 12 year-old, inherits the Minnesota Twins from his grandfather (Jason Robards).

But Heywood is disappointed with the attitudes of the Minnesota Twins. He can't understand why they don't think baseball is fun anymore.

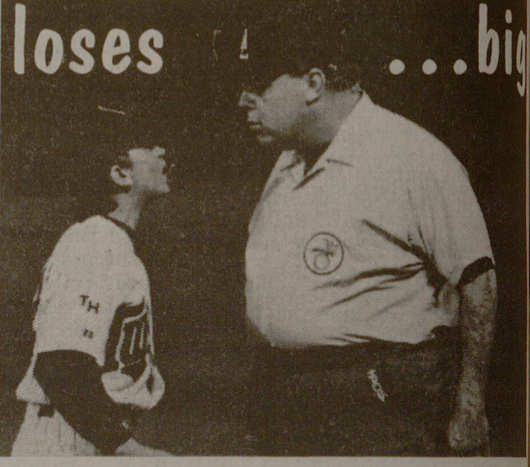
This is where the well-worn "winning and losing doesn't matter as long as you have fun playing the game" comes in.

Heywood fires the Twins' current manager George O'Farrell (Dennis Farina) and takes his place instead.

But, the team has problems taking orders from a 12 year-old.

Heywood slowly wins the team over with his knowledge of baseball trivia and his love for the game.

The team begins to forge a winning season, but Heywood finds out that baseball isn't all fun; he begins to miss his childhood.



If you enjoy the generic baseball movie, then "Little Big League" is the one for you.

It has its share of quirky plays, goofy characters and special guest appearances.

Although "Little Big League" is certainly a major league strike out, it may be good for some minor league entertainment.

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