

Burton's 'Nightmare' a moviegoer's dream



"The Nightmare Before Christmas"



Where "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" revitalized the interest and process in combining live-action and animation, "The Nightmare Before Christmas," will revolutionize the concept of stop-motion animation.

Stop-motion animation is a special effects technique that has been around since the mid-1930s. It involves an inanimate object or model being photographed one frame at a time, with slight movements or changes in between frames. When all the frames are run together, the illusion of life is created. This technique has been used in movies ranging from the original "King Kong," made in 1933, to this year's "Jurassic Park."

No film, however, has had a content made up entirely of stop-motion animation. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is 100 percent animation.

The story and characters of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" are the brainchild of Tim Burton ("Edward Scissorhands," "Batman") who also served as a co-producer of the film.

Burton has created Halloweentown, where every day is Halloween, and all the bizarre-looking residents find extreme pleasure in scaring one another—or anyone else, for that matter.

The leader of the town is Jack Skellington, the graceful, pencil-thin "pumpkin king." Deeked out in a tux, he yearns for something beyond the everyday scares of Halloweentown.

Jack accidentally stumbles into the entrance to Christmastown, and he is amazed with the concepts of gifts, Christmas trees and snow.



Courtesy of Touchstone Pictures

Jack delivers his "new and improved" version of Christmas to a surprised young boy in the Real World who has been eagerly waiting for Santa to arrive.

He travels back to Halloweentown and attempts to describe Christmas to his fellow residents, but it is to no avail.

Jack eventually decides Christmas needs to be changed—to be given the slant that only the residents of Halloweentown can give it.

Sally, a rebellious, resourceful creation of the local mad scientist, is entranced by Jack but senses danger in Jack's plans.

Jack sends three of his cohorts—

Lock, Shock, and Barrel—to kidnap Santa Claus from Christmastown so that he can replace the jolly elf.

Bizarre, darkly humorous, and entrancing, the film is unmistakably from the mind of Tim Burton, and fans of his will not be disappointed.

The film is fabulous—both visually and conceptually—from beginning to end. Directed by Henry Selick, in his feature-film directing debut, he

flings the moviegoer into a world of

fantasy, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

An impressive cast for the voices of the Halloweentown characters was assembled for "The Nightmare Before Christmas," including Chris Sarandon ("The Princess Bride") as the speaking voice of Jack Skellington, and Catherine O'Hara (the "Home Alone" films) as the lovable Sally.

Danny Elfman, who provided the powerful scores for both "Batman"

movies, was a busy man with "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Not only was he responsible for both the wonderful songs and powerful score for the film, but he provided the magnificent singing voice for Jack Skellington as well.

Incredible animation, terrific music, great story. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a DEFINITE must-see.

—Gerry Beltz

From Ethiopia BAARO

Members of Ziggy Marley's backup band Dalloi have formed "Barro." While touring with Marley, the band members appeared on the David Letterman Show, Arsenio Hall, Soul Train, NAAC Image Awards, and other television shows. They call their music "the natural evolution of African, reggae and world beat music." **Sat., Oct. 23—9:30-close ZOO BAR, 136 No. 14th**

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'Rudy' bound to warm hearts

FILM

"Rudy"

From the writing-directing team that brought "Hoosiers" to the screen in 1986 comes "Rudy," the feel-good movie of the season, maybe the whole year.

Based on the true story of Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger, who also served as the film's consultant, it is the classic story of a kid striving to dodge a destiny no one believes he can escape.

"Rudy" opens in Joliet, Ill., where Rudy is part of a working-class family that revels in watching the football games of the Fighting Irish.

He declares at a young age that he will go to Notre Dame and play football, but these ideas are put down by his father (Ned Beatty) and older brother Frank (Scott Benjaminson) as being unrealistic and unattainable.

Still, Rudy (Sean Astin, "Toy Soldiers") persists. He plays football in high school, where his only athletic ability is that he tries really hard. He also doesn't do well in his classes—he later finds out that he is slightly dyslexic.

After he graduates from high school, Rudy succumbs to "destiny" and goes to work in the steel mill with his father and brothers,

just as he is supposed to do.

One day Rudy watches his best friend get killed in an accident at the plant. The sight snaps him back into action to fulfill his lifelong dream—to achieve what his family, friends, teachers and fiancée all said was unachievable.

This is the second feature film for the team of director David Anspaugh and screenwriter Angelo Pizzo, who also served as co-producer for "Rudy." The heartwarming chemistry they made in "Hoosiers" is at work here as well, and it works perfectly.

Classic underdog stuff, "Rudy" is definitely worth a look. Run to it if you get the chance.

—Gerry Beltz

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Houses

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One trip on the Ride of Terror costs \$2.50. The rides run Oct. 21-24 and Oct. 26-30, from 7:30 to 10:45 p.m. Reservations can be made for parties of 10 or more.

Rosenberg said the ride was not intended to "turn anybody's hair white."

"Well, you might run into a large spider, or you could be accosted by Dr. Sicko," he said. "We just stage people in the forest for fun."

"We want to make people go 'eck'," he said.

Rosenberg said the Ride of Terror had attracted a wide range of people, including students.

"We get a lot of college students," Rosenberg said. "They hoot and holler and everybody has a good time."

Rosenberg said the ride was for "children of all ages, from 6 to 76."

"It's just having a little fun and bringing out the child in you," he said.