



NEWS & REVIEWS

“Alice In Wonderland” By Meredith Day - 2/05/2010

Like good Shakespeare, “Alice In Wonderland” entertains on all levels.

Tim Burton has truly outdone himself with AIW. Not only is all Burton’s poignant, traditional de rigueur present in this cacophony of dimensional eye candy, he has added additional elements to his well-known brand, cranking up his brightly dark humorous sparkle.

This viewer found herself regretting not having more time to savor the wonderful character generation and development of each unique persona. Each one such a finely drawn work of art that one wished the film would pause to allow the viewer to fully inspect the unique element craftsmanship.

Like a fairy tale, true to the original, with left and right hand turns, Burton’s scary is truly scary. Wading through moistly adhesive decapitated heads, the occasional eye gouged out. Alice and the White Queen are wonderfully bent Snow White-ian heroines on a dark sub-landscape.

One has to love to hate Helena Bonham Carter’s Red Queen. So perfect in her imperfectness. So expressive with a mere hiked eyebrow. It was also hard to tear away from Tweedledum and Tweedledee, the texture of their skin so flawless. For some reason the Bandersnatch brought to mind the “Emo” in Jim Carrey’s excellent, Grinch in this viewer’s mind.

Depp’s Mad Hatter transcends all previous Depp roles. It leaves one wondering how someone of his insanely evolved level of craft has been so underappreciated by the Academy over the years. Is he able to be so consummate at leaving himself in the dressing-room because, frankly my dear, he doesn’t give a damn?

While most actors are worried about their good angles and cellulite, Depp is able to, with complete abandon, deliver an earth shaking performance that can only be categorized as a finely conducted musical symphony of character development. As with the team of Depp and Burton, which came first the chicken or the egg? Or is it just the sum of the parts..... Etc.

The saturated colors of AIW enhanced the dimensional art. So well filmed that you could reach out and touch the forehead of the Red Queen. Caress the fur coat of the White Rabbit hair by hair. Particle generation par excellence.

Granted, there were some hitches in the 3d, Small flying characters moving too fast to be fully appreciated. Dimensional main titles and credits floated on black (why bother). Foreground objects not really in the dimensional pocket.

That being said, there is so much to see in this extraordinary film that it begs for multiple viewings.

We must appreciate that we are looking at a new evolution of a closely held, secretive, old art form. Burton is breaking new ground where old school 3d mavens didn't even dream of going. There is no good operations manual on 3d. It is dial in as we go. Earn while you learn.

The Zanuck Company, historic Hollywood royalty, is once again at the forefront, leading the pack. They are helping to lay the breadcrumbs from 2d into the brave new 3d universe for all else to follow. They make stunning choice of association after stunning choice. Both in content and talent, on both sides of the camera.

If the mesmerizing trailers of "Clash Of The Titans" are any indication, their next event looks to be groundbreaking entertainment as well.

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