**Batman vs Superman Fails for Viewers**

by WILSON MADDOX

After three years of anticipation, the movie that answers the question of whether Batman or Superman would win in a fight, premiers. On one hand, most fans enjoyed it, and it was a commercial success. On the other hand, it was almost universally disliked by critics. Personally, I find myself somewhere in between.

“Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” is set after the events of the previous Superman reboot, “Man of Steel”. After a controversial incident that causes the deaths of several terrorists holding Lois Lane hostage, the world begins to question if Superman is the hero he claims to be, or if he is a threat to society. Bruce Wayne, aka Batman, has already jumped to this conclusion, and prepares to take down what he sees as the biggest threat to human existence the world has ever faced.

The movie has a good start, introducing a young Bruce Wayne and the death of his parents at the hands of a mugger; the event that made him the masked vigilante we know him to be. It also shows him discovering his fear of bats. The exposition does a good job of explaining why Batman, another hero, would want to pick a fight with Superman, citing the events from ‘Man of Steel’ that destroyed a Wayne Enterprise building and killed his employees.

However, the movie disappoints in the actual fight, which takes place for completely different and ridiculous reasons. The action will entertain those who just want to see superheroes brawl it out, and to be fair, the action is pretty entertaining. But there is little to no plot build up to the fights, the movie was just throwing the viewer into the thick of it. Overall, the movie just felt like it was trying to squeeze too much into 2 hours and 30 minutes. As for the fabled appearance of the Justice League, mostly all we get is foreshadowing of The Flash, Aquaman, Cyborg, and maybe Green Lantern.

When it comes to the portrayal of the characters themselves, I was deeply disturbed by Batman’s murder of numerous criminals. Exploding cars with people in them, exploding people, and marking people for death - these all seemed to be the very opposite of the Batman I know. The fact that he murders multiple people throughout the film, whether it was accidental or not is up for debate. The fact that this isn’t even addressed by the movie at all is the most troubling.

While others may like this dark take on the Caped Crusader, for me it’s a tasteless rendition, especially when compared to other depictions such as Christopher Nolan’s Dark Knight trilogy. That’s not to say that I didn’t like Ben Affleck’s role as Batman. He did an awesome job despite all the doubt about him playing the role. My issue is with the writers who made Affleck’s character at best, an unconcerned Batman, who fills more of a gray area than he usually does when comes killing. A reckless, manslaughtering, gun-using Batman aside, the other characters in “Dawn of Justice” pretty much match up. The movie isn’t what I expected it to be, but it wasn’t bad either. For all its flaws and false advertising, “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” is simply an overhyped, overrated, over critiqued, just okay movie.

**Disney Portrays Societal Issues in Zootopia**

by YESSICA NARANJO

Sloths, sly foxes, and adorable bunnies are probably what come to mind when you think of Disney’s new animated film, Zootopia.

Zootopia follows the story of Judy Hopps, a sweet bunny who pursues her childhood dream and becomes the first rabbit police officer. Despite graduating top of her class, Judy faces discrimination in the police force and is assigned to parking duty rather than the important missing mammal cases. While on parking duty, Judy meets Nick Wilde, a sly fox with whom she forms an unlikely partnership. From there, the duo begins searching for Mr. Otterton, one of the missing mammals. That leads to a surprising series of events that keeps viewers on the edge of their seat.

Without a doubt, Zootopia is Disney’s best animated film since The Lion King. Aside from its undeniably cute animals, the film brings up a lot of risky, but prevalent messages.

Right away, the movie hits you with one of its central themes, “you can be anything.” But along with that theme is the message that you need to work hard in order become anything you want to be.

Judy doesn’t quit when she’s constantly told that she can’t be a bunny cop. Instead, she works hard and shows everyone that even a small bunny can be a big cop.

Riker messages revealed in the film show prejudice, racism (in this case, specism), and discrimination in Zootopia. While at first everyone seems to live in harmony, it is quickly exposed that each species is still stereotyped. Bunnies are carrot farmers, sloths run the DMV (clever, clever Disney), and foxes are sly con artists. While it may at first seem comedic, it’s clear that each species struggles with their stereotypes, as well as stereotyping each other.

One example is when Judy’s parents give her a bottle of fox repellent before her train ride to Zootopia. Judy claims she doesn’t need it, but finds herself carrying the bottle throughout the movie, a fact that later on goes to hurt and offend her unexpected partner and friend, Nick.

After some predators begin to mysteriously go savage in Zootopia, prejudice becomes a lot more common. In one scene, a bunny mother scoots herself and her child away from a tiger that sits next to them on the train. Like many other scenes, it speaks volumes, reminding us that, like in Zootopia, prejudice still exists.

Aside from its obvious message, the movie is filled with easter eggs, including clear references to The Godfather and Breaking Bad. Kids will enjoy it, teenagers and parents will enjoy it even more.

It’s cute, it’s funny, it’s clever, and an inevitable classic. Disney, you’ve done it again.