

Revival of the *Star Wars* trilogy a blast from the past

STARRING: Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford

DIRECTOR: Steven Spielberg

RATING: PG

PLAYING AT: Carmike, Mission Valley, Pleasant Valley, Tower Merchants.

For many, the revival of the *Star Wars* trilogy brings back not only visions of Luke Skywalker fighting against the forces of evil, but also childhood memories of times past. For me, it was lying in the folded-down backseat of a station wagon, smushed between my two younger brothers, sipping on grape Kool-Aid, and peering in between my parent's two heads at the local drive-in.

Years later, as an adult, I still envy Princess

Movie Review By Wendy Kelly

Leia's lovely locks, and my buried childhood crush of Han Solo flutters in my heart. The quest of the rebels to protect their base against the Empire and the new Death Star is as riveting today as in its first 1977 release.

But the movie on the big screen now is somewhat different than the original. There is a new scene with Jabba the Hut, which was a little disappointing because he does not have the same foreboding presence as in *Return of the Jedi*. Other small bits of footage were added, but are only evident to the experienced eye. The new digitally enhanced sound made "making the jump to light speed" in the Millennium

Falcon impressive. The swoops of Luke's light saber seemed to come from around the theater. And the voice of Darth Vader will haunt your dreams now just as it did 20 years ago.

The new additions aren't the only reason people are seeing *Star Wars* again. Many want to share their childhood favorites with their own children. Others want to take themselves to a "time long ago in a galaxy far, far away." The nostalgia of the movie is as big a draw as the movie itself.

Being older has also changed the movie for me. As a young child, much of the meaning of the movie went over my head. I don't remember

recognizing the tension between Han Solo and Princess Leia. Even the eye contact between the two speaks volumes about their future. I also missed the love/hate relationship between R2D2 and C3PO. When I was younger, their banter bored me, but now I can appreciate C3PO's wit and can imagine R2D2's intended responses. It's like seeing a new movie, almost.

Many people question the value of releasing a classic—is it better to let the past stay in the past, or should we relive it? It depends on the person. If remembering *Star Wars* as it was on the screen and in your mind is important to you, then don't go see it. But for many, and a whole new generation of *Star Wars* watchers, it is being enjoyed again. And there can't be any harm in that. With all of the hoopla surrounding this release, it leaves me wondering where my Princess Leia action figure is.

Mother portrays sweet and funny maternal relationship

STARRING: Albert Brooks, Debbie Reynolds

RATING: PG-13

PLAYING AT: Mission Valley

"A 40-year-old man living with his mother?! For heaven's sake! What will the neighbors

say?" At least, that's what Beatrice Henderson (Debbie Reynolds) says, who plays the mother in Albert Brooks' movie *Mother*.

The son and aspiring writer, John Henderson (Albert Brooks), wonders, after two divorces, why he has such bad luck with women, in this heartwarming and funny film. After all, doesn't he try to be supporting to the women he's with? And why doesn't he like women who support him?

These are questions he is in search of answers for when he tries what he calls "the experiment" of going to live with his mother again. He feels his relationship with her hasn't been as good as the one she has with his younger brother, Jeff. Jeff, who is happily married with children, talks to his mother almost every day and feels satisfied by her reinforcements, while John worries his relationship with "Mother" has had a negative effect on his relationships with other women. He tells a friend: "This is affecting my whole life. I feel estranged from my own mother!"

Once he arrives, his mother, whose husband died some years ago, becomes uncomfortable with the "experiment" of having a grown man living in her house, even if it is her son. She feels that she has to explain the situation of

John's living with her to everyone she meets, even the sales clerk in the Gap. John says she has an "approval" problem.

Some cute scenarios arise while John is back at his old childhood home. Parts of the move-in scene are slow, and the viewer wonders if there's not enough time between laughs to go phone their own mother. But not to fear,

things spark right back up again when John begins moving all of his high school, 1970s paraphernalia back into his old bed-

room. Peace signs decorate the walls, along with orange and green flower stickers and a lamp in the shape of a guitar.

John begins to learn things about his mother that he never expected. Some are silly, like the fact she keeps more old food in her freezer than fresh food in the refrigerator. "Mother," John says, "you're supposed to put more in the refrigerator and less in the freezer. That's why the freezer box is smaller!" Some of the things he learns are more astonishing, like the fact she has a lover that she's not intimate with, but that she "only has sex with occasionally."

After "Mother" goes out with her lover one night, John discovers an old hat box in the closet that, once opened, reveals that his mother has a talent that she's never discussed. (It also reveals the climax of the whole movie.) This discovery helps John find the missing pieces to the puzzle of his difficulty having a close relationship with her.

Mother is filled with situations we all can relate to between mothers and children. With Valentine's weekend coming up, why not phone your own mother and head out to the theater for a film that will leave you with a fresh outlook on life!

Movie Review Addie Tschamler

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