

Tales from the Albright
Episode 91: Guess the Movie, Part 2

Alyssa: Hello, Welcome to Tales from the Albright: A Podcast by the Scranton Public Library. Hello, we are back with more movie reviews today. I'm still here with Kate.

Kate: Hello.

A: And we'll just get started. Do you want to start this week?

K: I will go first this time. OK, for a film I highly dislike, I have watched it surprisingly often. About 6 times. I don't know why, but for whatever reason I have felt a need to revisit it every other year to make sure it's still as bad as I remembered.

A: OK

K: This movie is set in 1971. One of the little girls has an Alf doll despite the fact that Alf premiered in 1986. Mr. Scorsese, why are you targeting Marvel movies as theme park rides when this egregious stuff exists?

A: Oh my gosh, what is this? I should know this.

K: never a good sign when you spend the first half of the film waiting for it to get good, only to slowly realize the train has already left the station.

A: I should know this, and I don't know it.

K: You're probably going to start getting it

A: Okay

K: with these. Little ridiculously stupid movie. This is a horror movie about capitalism.

A: Okay?

K: You're probably going to get this one

A: Yeah, I'm just blanking

K: Yeah, you're gonna. This person is probably from Britian. Why are all horror movies and massive houses? I want to see a horror movie in a Council house. Please hire me.

A: Is this the Conjuring?

K: Sure is.

A: I love the Conjuring so much.

K: When the demonic activity rises. You think people aren't going to? Just sell their homes and move.

A: People can't afford to sell their house and move

K: Sell them to who?! This is my last. Book James Wan told the producers that he wanted to make a generic ghost movie with no interesting characters and a watered down version of his trademark style, and they said sounds like a hit here's \$20 million.

A: That's so rude

K: It is.

A: Do you want me to tell you one of my favorite parts of The Conjuring?

K: Yes

A: Ryan Gosling's notable band Dead Man's Bones.

K: Right.

A: Their song is in the movie, and it's my favorite.

K: Thats awesome. Is it like part of the soundtrack or is it in the movie?

A; Yeah, well it's also in the movie in the movie am

K: Okay Yeah, yeah, yeah

A: So, I was watching it, and I was like its's Ryan Gosling's band.

K: So, you knew that Ryan Gosling's band before you watched the movie?

A: I think was like on a rewatch.

K: OK.

A: But I was very excited about it.

K: I understand.

A: OK. I enjoyed this. I just want to be a hater.

K: OK, respect

A: So satires are supposed to be funny. So no, this isn't the satire. It's just a stupid movie.

K: Is this Airplane?

A: No.

K: OK.

A: As soon as the Penguin showed up as his power animal something was fishy.

K: What? Did I watch this movie?

A: Yes you did watch this movie

K: OK,

A: Boo, this is why men scare me. If you aren't happy with your life, go to therapy. Don't start a cult. I hate this misogynistic movie, but it gets a star for how low waisted Brad Pitt's pants are.

K: Fight Club?

A: Yes

K: The Penguin? Where? What?

A: Because he undergoes like the like meditation or whatever and meets the penguin.

K: That's right. That's like the first 10 minutes of course. Yeah, of course.

A: And Marla was there.

K: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. OK.

A: Why do I see actual reviews, though? I thought we weren't supposed to talk about it. We get it. I haven't seen it, but it's something. It's just fighting and white guys

K: No, It's so much better than that. Also, side note, when people review things they haven't read or watched, that irks me to no end.

A: I Know you should have at least tried a bit. Everyone on letterbox spoiler tagging their Fight Club reviews is so funny, as if we all don't know what the deal is with Fight Club. Also Dumbledore dies.

K: OK. Meatloaf is in that movie, did you know that?

A: Yeah, I did know Meatloaf. I grew up with Meatloaf so I

K: He was in your house?

A: No

K: I know.

A: I just remember I watched Fight Club and I was like that's Meatloaf.

K: Should have been just a 2 minute YouTube video sketch. There's not really any emotional storyline or deep characterizations to connect to outside of the humor while it tries to gain some heart slash sympathies for the characters later on, I think it's added too late in the narrative that I couldn't feel anything for a character who had effectively been constructed out of one minor jokes and situational comedy. Weird when a movie is supposed to be a comedy, its actors seem to be achingly aware they're in a comedy, jokes that the audience is clearly supposed to laugh at keep getting served every minute, and yet absolutely none of it is funny. What comedy is there?

A: What comedy is on there?

K: The hype for the director on film Twitter is something I'll never understand. He always acts so smug about how funny and weird he is, even though his brand of comedy is as basic as it gets.

A: All I'm thinking of is Quentin Tarantino.

K: No,

A: And it's not him.

K: No

A: Because I didn't put any of his movies on there.

A: Oh my gosh, I can't.

K: None of these are actually. These should have been more specific, but I didn't get very specific. Not even a white exhale through the nose on this one legitimately stone face emoji for 86 minutes.

A: Is it like A Cinderella Story is it?

K: No. Do you want me to give you a hint?

A: Yes.

K: Vampires.

A: Is it What We Do In the Shadows?

K: Yes it is.

A: The point is that it's run of the mill, you know.

K: I know, I know. I didn't put any vampires in this, so let me just finish.

A: OK,

K: Was hoping to be pleasantly surprised, but this was just one wince, inducingly, lame loathsome Big Bang Theory tier bit after another

A: How do these people not love Petyr?

K: I don't know.

A: Peter is the best part. He gets fried to a crisp because he just wants to eat a chicken.

K: The best way to describe this movie is a 90 Minute Office episode, which some will enjoy.

A: That's fair.

K: And then last one felt like a too long SNL sketch.

A: These people don't know good times.

K: It's not for everybody

A: I love that movie so much

K: I still haven't seen it.

A: You need to watch it now.

K: I do.

A: I love Petyr. There's a polaroid in it of Petyr. He's like the ancient vampire

K: Yeah, I've seen gifsets and stuff

A: And he's just in balloons. And it's the best

K: I'll have to watch it. You're very, you sound very upset.

A: Cause its the best movie. Loathsome Shakespeare Tolkien wannabe. No grace. No tact. Yucky. Awful.

K: Oh Gosh, wait a minute, let me think. Princess Bride?

A: No.

K: OK,

A: It doesn't get any easy answers, but reference is the same thing like that friend who says. Do you know what I mean? It's become so boring. Too long for a brief moral lesson found on at crossroad. However, the photography is wonderful.

K: Is this The Green Knight.

A: Yes, it is.

K: Yeah, OK

A: Never before have I seen a movie that's this sincere that straight up doesn't believe in its source material. Straight up slowly through ghoulish extent.

K: What? Can we circle back to Shakespeare Tolkien wannabe? Because this is based on Sir Gawain and The Green Knight, which came about 400 years before Shakespeare and about 1000 years before Tolkien. What is happening?

A: People are not happy.

K: People don't like it. People don't like it.

A: This movie is like my ex girlfriend's pretty to look at with nothing of real value under the surface. Recommendation, watch it if you want to pretend like you liked it so you can look cool to the nerdiest people on this site.

K: You don't like Joel Edgerton? Come on, guys. Brutal. Brutal.

A: My knight in shining armor turned out to be a loser in aluminum foil

K: Ohh, poor Gawain. That's literally like the point. Oh, he's trying to be a knight. That's the point.

A: No matter how many shots of the Highlands you throw at me, I still will not be fooled Arthurian legend and storytelling is thrown to the swamps, leaving only a tepid compilation of visuals that refuses to breathe a new significance into the tale.

K: These people with no idea what they're talking about. I wrote, I wrote a paper on this movie, okay. I wrote a paper on the difference between this movie and its original source material. I won't get into it, but there's stuff in there, I'm telling you.

A: I believe you.

K: Yeah, sorry I'm like using you as proxy for these people. Sorry. Are you done with that?

A: Yeah, I'm good.

K: Okay. Okay. Some kid is going to watch this to help him do his English literature homework and it will make him drop out of school entirely.

A: Is it Romeo + Juliet?

K: No. I think the editor edited these scenes in the wrong order.

A: Is it The Great Gatsby?

K: Yes

A: Leo version.

K: Leo version

A: Baz Luhrmann version.

K: Yeah. Speaking of, most of this movie is bouncing between agonizingly on the nose, or what would happen if you gave an annoying theater kid an insane budget, which I guess is basically what happened.

A: Why?

K: Seems like a mummy of the original work. Simply another case of style over substance, except the style is so overbearing and ugly it just about diminishes any and all the power of the source material. The visuals are ugly, the editing is dreadful and someone should lock up the guy who decided the Electro style soundtrack suited the film.

A: It's based on the 1920s. It needed to be updated

K: What I didn't include was like the 10 million. Oh, I love when Beyoncé and Jay-Z were in the 1920s. Or its like, oh Lana del Rey in love with

A: I I love that soundtrack. Thats rude.

K: That's the whole thing about that movie is that it's like it's people like play acting like they're in the 1920s, which is like a theme of the book in a way.

A: Yeah.

K: I do not believe that Baz Luhrmann knows how to read.

A: That's so rude.

K: Here's my last one. The word great seems to do a lot of heavy lifting here. I will never understand.

A: I have nothing to say. Bad acting nonsensical script, uneven pacing, and hokey effects.

K: OK, that could be anything.

A: Yeah, the future is actually longer and less interesting than the present.

K: I would say Blade Runner, but I didn't put that on my list.

A: So PG in the 70s can sometimes mean R rated for nudity.

K: Okay

A: Truly dumb. The source material as it plays here is pretty thin, but it seems like the remake with better special effects and more adequately drawn characters could make it compelling. The one star goes to the bonkers set design.

K: It's Logan's Run.

A: It is.

K: I got to tell you guys, I hate Logan's Run so much. I've seen it like three times. It's so boring. It looks so good and the soundtrack is so good, but it's so boring. And the second-half is out of this world, bonkers. Spoiler they've been like, 20 miles away from Washington, DC the entire time living in this dome. Logan is not a good person. The girl he's with deserved better, Etcetera, etcetera. So I'm, I'm on the side of the litter box reviewers. I have a very strange relationship with it.

A: OK, I have two more reviews

K: OK.

A: The action in this movie just straight up sucks.

K: Yes,

A: There was a weird sexualization of all female characters, and I just do not understand the main characters motivations for almost anything that he does. The only good thing is that it is really cool use of retrofuturism aesthetic, other than that kind of garbage.

K: Honestly, yeah. And don't even get me started. I have the one black man in this movie is inside like a robot suit.

A: Oh, my Gosh.

A: It's, like, covered in mirrors. Also since it is covered in mirrors. And sometimes when he turns, you can see the camera. Because it's like it's reflecting everything, it's reflecting. You can see like the cinematographer and everybody.

A: OK, one more. This is awful. So bad. It's almost good. Never thought that a cheese shredder could be a villain.

K: True, that's the aforementioned robot. He tries to freeze them so that they can use them for food upstairs, which doesn't make any sense. This doesn't make sense. OK, I was not impressed. I felt like I was watching a desperate professor try to make his lecture interesting by putting on a chicken costume and singing the chemical properties of molecules.

A: Ohh my

K: At least seven times in this movie two men who know each other well, conceal their identities by wearing preposterously fake beards. Is this supposed to be a running joke?

A: Is this The Prestige?

K: Yes, yes. Kept checking the time. I felt like there was always 40 minutes left. Before the twist was revealed. I thought, no, they wouldn't make it that obvious, but at last they did. Just two bros casually dedicating their entire lives to impressing each other. I respect Christopher Nolan for trying to make magicians cool, but it just can't be done.

A: Its based on a book

K: I have three more. One sentences.

A: OK.

K: How could a film attempt to take itself seriously whilst also featuring David Bowie playing Nikola Tesla, who could also clone and teleport cats by electrocuting them?

A: It's amazing.

K: I respect it.

A: I don't know what you want. And then all the top hats. Its great.

K: The biggest illusion in the Prestige is the illusion that is actually good.

A: OK, if someone knows how to get 97 minutes of my life back, please let me know.

K: Oh, 97 minutes. OK, go on.

A: Meh. Horror is weak. Comedy was weak. Acting was weak. Weren't any striking visuals other than special effects and the gore, which were a tiny part of the film. I don't understand the hype.

K: The gore? What am I talk? What? Okay

A: Another perfect example of how nostalgia can code even the greatest reviewer's vision. The fact that this film has a 3.8 rating on here is a sin. This is one of the most flat, boring, ridiculous films I've ever seen. Perhaps it was popular when it was released. Leave it in the past.

K: Oh my goodness. I have no idea.

A: The writing was a bit too misogynistic and bad for me, and there are definitely some unintentionally hilarious parts of this movie. Also, dogs made me allergic.

K: What?

A: Carnivorous lunar activities. despite the incredible special effects this film has and the transformation scene is phenomenal. This film is terrible and some of the worst dialogue I've ever heard slash seen in any movie

K: Is this like the thing?

A: No.

K: Or is it like Alien?

A: No.

K: OK.

A: Just YouTube superhero werewolf transformation sequences and don't bother with the rest

K: Oh is this is an American Werewolf from London?

A: Yes.

K: Yeah. Listen at 97 minutes. That movie is tight. That means it gets to where it's trying to go. It doesn't mess around. It's just doing its thing. I'm so sad they didn't put Werewolves of London in it, but It is what it is.

A: Yeah, and that's all through.

K: OK. I'm surprised that it took me that long. The gore? I mean I guess it is kind of. Yeah, I mean you attack people because he's a werewolf. Have you ever seen that movie?

A: I've seen bits and pieces.

K: The end is awesome because it's him, like dead in an alley because they had to shoot him while he was a werewolf and his girlfriends like hysterically crying and it cuts to his like dead body in the trash bags and it cuts to black and then Bad Moon Rising by Clerence

Clearwater Revival and the credits start to roll and it's so good. OK, this is my last one. The opening credits are unintentionally hilarious. Unfortunately, the movie begins after that.

A: Is this Agatha and the Curse of Ishtar?

K: Listen, I looked. I promise.

A: I know you looked.

K: I looked. There just weren't enough good ones with like meat. There weren't any, like, substance l good ones.

A: I understand

K: Or they all had, like, swears in them or they were all, like, too specific. I think a lot of them were probably like, I only watched this movie because of the shirtless guy digging a grave

A: Its the best scene.

K: which I think is one of the first things you told me about,

A: It's the most stupidest scene ever. Cause he's in the grave, shirtless digging the grave

K: Yeah

A: Because the lady, Katherine Woolley. This is all based on, like, real people. And it's not. Her pet monkey gets killed, so he's digging a grave for the monkey and then Agatha comes walking and he's like, oh, I should put my shirt. And then he's like, wait, no. And then rips his shirt back off. And it's the funniest, stupidest thing I've ever seen in my life. And there's just, like, a dog sitting there. It's great.

K: Honorable mention for Agatha and the Curse of Ishtar. Girl, I would have done it if I could.

A: I know.

K: Agatha, I would have done it for you.

K: OK, let me continue this one. That is not Agatha and the Curse of Ishtar

A: It could have been though, because like it opens and it's like Agatha Christie after meets her second husband on an archaeological dig and then the movie starts and it's the complete. It's just fanfic of real people.

K: Totally bonkers. Probably. Oh man, you can barely understand what they're saying, but that's OK, because all the exposition is either through subtitles or the news. That is lazy writing and the exact reason why keeping the same dialogue it does not work

A: Is this Romeo + Juliet?

K: Yes

A: I love this movie.

K: It's honestly it's fun. It's a lot of fun. It's good. I have nothing against it.

A: It's very true to the source too.

K: Yeah exactly. People have problems with that.

A: I know they do.

K: Excluding 1993 Super Mario Brothers, this is the worst ever seen in my entire life of living.

A: I remember being a child and watching the 1993 Super Mario Brothers

K: Oh Boy.

A: like multiple times

K: Do the Mario! Oh boy. No, sorry, but no. At least it's still better than Twilight, mainly due to the main characters dying and stuff.

A: Ohh my

K: somewhere in England Shakespeare is turning in his grave

A: Somewhere in England, Shakespeare is having the best time of his life with that movie.

K: This one actually makes me legitimately angry. Why would they say stuff like hand me my sword when they have guns? Baz has no problem making slight changes like turning cousin to cuz, but he doesn't want to change swords to gun or glock. Here's the thing guys cuz in the text. Cuz is in the original text of the play. Shakespeare shortens it Baz Luhrman did not do this. Shakespeare did it himself. I have two more. I would actually rather watch The Romeo and Juliet play in Hot Fuzz rather than this. Have you seen Hot Fuzz?

A: No.

K: You must rectify that as soon as possible. This one might be my favorite because it's just so simple, so straight. To the point. This is the only sentence in this person's review.

Perhaps we treated Gnomeo and Juliet too harshly. OK, that's it.

A: Why did all these A-Listers agree to be in this movie? I'm crying. Oh my God.

K: Is this Glass Onion?

A: No.

K: OK.

A: I suppose to some extent this film borders on being so bad it's good, but for me I just found it to be a car crash I couldn't look away from. The CGI is awful, and the plot could have been a funny concept, but perhaps it's so unlikeable is because it aged poorly. Not my cup of tea but could very well be yours.

K: Is this Spy Kids 3?

A: No

K: Like the first one scares me so much to this day.

A: Is it the Toe people?

K: No, it's when like the people and they like transform into the freaky, like the freaky heads.

A: Yeah.

K: And I'm sure that they like saying help me backward.

A: Yeah,

K: I can't. I can't. I can't do it.

A: Some things they meant saying in Hollywood films where a simple idea was given a mid size budget and told to go crazy. Many excellent film spawned from an elevator pitch and a \$60 million check. This film ain't one of them.

K: Is this like Hail Caesar or something?

A: No.

K: OK.

A: Never meet your heroes and never watch a movie you loved as a child.

K: Oof. OK, I have no idea what this could be.

A: So dumb and terrible. I was only first watch this because one of my sisters happens to love this goofy film invasion of alien films are bit overly done, but this was so over the top though.

K: Oh, this Mars Attacks!

A: Yes

K: Yes, yes, yes.

A: This movie was a fever dream. Crazy stacked cast,

K: Yeah

A: but everything just was truly one of the movies of all time. And we'll never get that 106 minutes back. Why I watched the whole thing? I couldn't tell you. Tim Burton has a very strange mind.

A: Mars Attacks is awesome because it's not like a good movie air quotes, but you get to see like Michael J. Fox is there and I think like Glenn Close is there and like a bunch of other people are there. And you get to watch them all like get picked off 1 by 1 and they're all, like, caricatures. And they're just having so much fun. And the end is ridiculous. It's, it's and it was based on like a trading card game. Did you know that?

A: I think I did.

K: Yeah. They're like, let's make a movie at Mars Attacks and they're like, OK.

A: All right. Well, that's all I have

K: Thats it? Yeah, okay, okay.

K: That was fun. That made me angry. It made me laugh. It made me cry. It made me feel extreme rage at people who don't understand the movies that I understand.

A: Yeah, that's just how it goes. Thats the human experience.

K: I feel like I have an aura of nerd emojis around my head right now because I'm just like um actually you just didn't get it. But that's how I feel.

A: I feel like its just highlighted that I enjoy movies that are knd of terrible.

K: I enjoy boring movies with a lot of white men in them, I guess.

A: I just enjoy movies where like nothing happens.

K: Yeah, so do I mean I chose 2001: A Space Odessey and Jaws. Well in Jaws, a lot happens and Jaws. Star Trek: The Motion Picture with its hour and 1/2 long alien spaceship fly by.

A: With this I struggled because I had to go like with a lot of generic movies because the movies I definitely remember as a teen from walking to blockbuster and just finding the worst movie imaginable don't exist on letterbox and no one remembers them at all. So

K: Yeah,

A: It was an adventure for me choosing movies. I had to go to my friends and be like what movies do I like

K: You picked some good ones I was able to pick. Like I'm sorry I couldn't do Agatha.

A: It's fine.

K: Honorable mention. It's nothing personal. It's just people again, like

A: Cause no one watched it.

K: No one watched it.

A: Thank you for listening and thank you for agreeing to do this.

K: Of course,

A: If you have any questions, comments or anything at all, please e-mail me at aloney@albright.org. That is A-L-O-N-E-Y at albright.org or feel free to call the library at 570-348-3000.