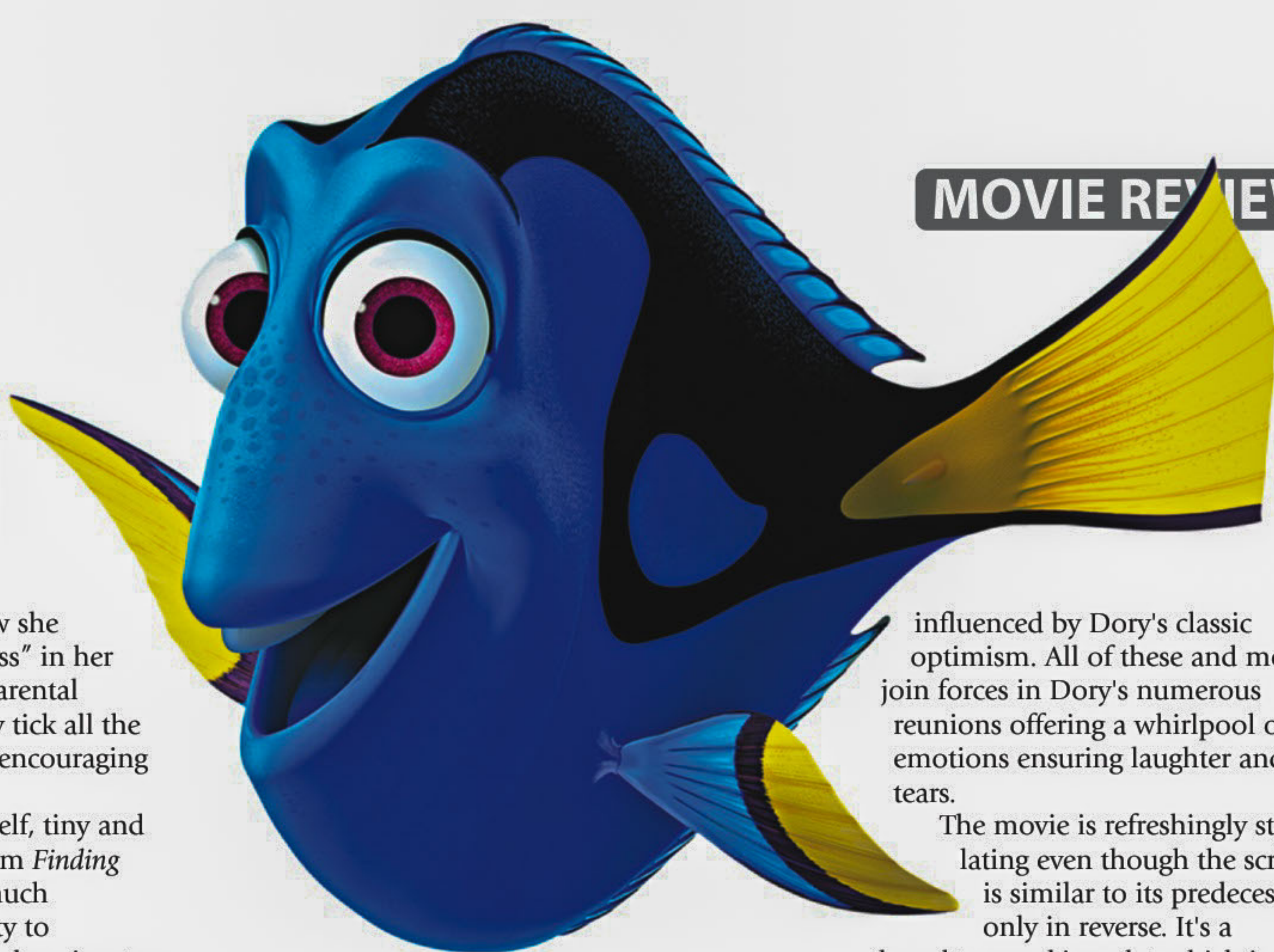


Just Keep Swimming

MOVIE REVIEW



IQRA LABIBA QAMARI

Remember the not-so-happy clownfish who had you worried sick about his abducted son? How we all jumped in joy rooting for their reunion as the father Marlin (voiced by Albert Brooks) swam halfway across the ocean aided by a scatterbrained yet amusing blue tang to rescue his son Nemo (Hayden Rolence) from an aquarium?

Thirteen years after the aquatic classic, *Finding Nemo*, Disney casts the spotlight on the pop-eyed, fearless blue tang Dory (Ellen DeGeneres) with the "attention span less than that of a goldfish".

Finding Dory is a nail biter from the go: a year after the events of *Finding Nemo*, Dory sets out on a journey to reunite with her parents. We get to witness little

adorable Dory repeating how she suffers from "remember-y loss" in her flashbacks brimming with parental lessons, as Charlie and Jenny tick all the boxes of the coolest parents encouraging her to never give up.

As Dory's story unveils itself, tiny and trivial details about Dory from *Finding Nemo* resurface again with much significance – from her ability to communicate with whales to her signature song "Just keep swimming". What develops beautifully is, the audience stumbles upon all the answers just as Dory does.

The plot is set in fictional Marine Life Institute, California as Dory finds herself in quarantine, but the sequence is fast paced as new characters are introduced and all of them are caught in edge-of-the-seat rides. We are introduced to Dory's childhood

friend Destiny (Kaitlin Olson), a near-sighted whale shark, along with her neighbour, a beluga whale Bailey (Ty Burrell) who is sure his echolocation ability is not functioning. The limelight however is taken by Hank (Ed O'Neill), the chameleonic, grumpy septopus, whose stealthy skills of an escape artist are just as delightful as his changing take on life

influenced by Dory's classic optimism. All of these and more join forces in Dory's numerous reunions offering a whirlpool of emotions ensuring laughter and tears.

The movie is refreshingly stimulating even though the script is similar to its predecessor, only in reverse. It's a thought-provoking plot which is relatable to audiences of all ages. Ellen DeGeneres does more than justice to the role of Dory who is enlightening with her exuberance and impulsiveness when it comes to dealing with her ordeals. Her positivity despite her amnesiac self leaves an imprint on the audience and she emerges a hero although she won't remember a thing.

TV SERIES REVIEW



HUMOUR DONE RIGHT

MASHIAT LAMISA

In a year like 2016, when I need my personal dosage of Tina Fey more than ever, what can be better than a perky, extremely original, whip-smart, and horribly funny sitcom created by her?

Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt is by far the most awkward and uneasy show that deals with dark issues with charm, elegance and lots of glitter and unicorns. With brilliant actors like Ellie Kemper, Tituss Burgess, and the *30 Rock* alum Jane Krakowski. Co-creators Tina Fey and Robert Carlock have taken pop-culture cynicism and human ridiculousness to a whole new level, which is not just brilliant but also heart-warming.

The show produced a total of two seasons with thirteen episodes each. Both the seasons are equally funny and binge-able. Kimmy Schmidt, the main character played by Ellie Kemper, is one of the four "Mole Women" from Indiana who spent 15 years of their lives in an underground bunker being convinced by a cult leader about the arrival of an apocalypse. After being rescued, Kimmy decides to live in New York City in her very yellow sweater and pink pants while the three other women choose to make good use of the empathy provided to them for being "poor mole women" in forms of

money, fame and some "mole sauce". As ridiculous as it sounds, it only gets more original from here. Kimmy being the optimistic, unbreakable person she is, finds a roommate Tituss who's broke, fabulous and an aspiring Broadway star. She gets a job as a nanny for a rich upper-class Manhattan aristocrat - Jacqueline (Jane), a character who perfectly portrays New York City's moneyed class and their very expensive depression. Although traumatized from what the cult leader (played by the handsome Jon Hamm) did to her and the other women in the bunker, Kimmy moves on to have a cheerful yet confusing lifestyle with her awfully bright wardrobe.

Ellie Kemper does a wonderful job to bring out the genuine silliness required in Kimmy's character. The way she reacts after being introduced to technology after 15 years and the made-up words she says are absolutely hilarious. The other characters are just as funny. Kimmy's boss, Jacqueline, at first seems like a foolish, selfish, rich, white woman who goes to strange looking plastic surgeons and has an almost broken marriage. The character takes a more definitive shape as we come to know about her Native American history and becomes more likeable in season 2. There's also Dong, Kimmy's Vietnamese lover who

develops a hilarious American accent in season 2 after watching several episodes of *Keeping up with the Kardashians*.

What's really cool about this show is that there are racially diverse characters. With most of the funniest gags and punchlines dealing with racism, this could be interpreted in a very wrong way but I think Tina Fey has done a wonderful job in portraying constructive humour. There are ridiculous pop culture references in almost every sentence. It took me a while to catch all the references but once I did, the show became much more amusing. It's absolutely remarkable how a lot of sensitive issues like trauma, manipulation, feminism, overreacting internet warriors, and racial tolerance have been presented here in the most logical, sensible and at the same time, satirical way.

To me, the biggest plus point of this show is its duration. Each episode is only 22 minutes long with an extremely catchy auto-tuned title song. So if you're up for a sitcom that's worth your time and your precious laughs, *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* is one to watch.

Mashiat Lamisa is often seen frowning at the sight of people who dislike poetry and tomatoes. She can be reached at mashiatlamisa@outlook.com.