

EDITORIAL

I feel like we have all heard of that one joke about how Bengali parents want their kids to pursue a career in medicine yet they are the ones who are most reluctant to visit their doctor for a check-up. More often than not, it is an option they don't even want to consider. It is an option that they turn to only when they have exhausted everything else.

And that is precisely why every time my mom tells me she is feeling a little sick, I begin to spiral. It is a situation we are all too familiar with. Every appointment they don't make, pills they refuse to take, check-up they decline, feels like a tug-of-war. The constant nagging eventually leads to outbursts and arguments.

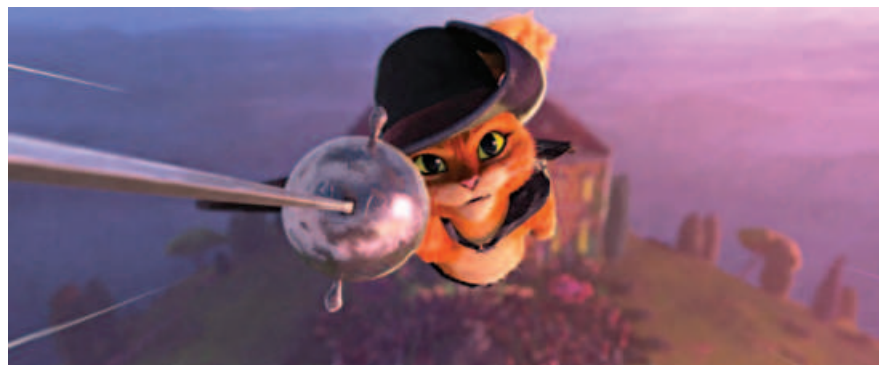
What begins as concern for their wellbeing is later engulfed by frustration and powerlessness. I wonder if they view it as a selfless act or intend to show just how strong they are.

- Abir Hossain, Sub-Editor, SHOUT



PLAYWATCH

MOVIE



Puss in Boots: The Last Wish and the delivery of a masterpiece of a sequel

SHAIKH SABIK KAMAL

I never thought I'd write a review of the *Puss in Boots* sequel, let alone a good one. However, here I am today, utterly amazed by the 100-minute-long movie that encompassed and executed different concepts to near perfection.

DreamWorks' *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* is a product of excellent story-telling and resplendent visualisation. Released as the kick-off movie from DreamWorks Animation for 2023, this *Shrek* spin-off is the second instalment in the *Puss in Boots* series.

The movie centres around its protagonist, Puss, on his expedition to find and utilise a mystical wishing star to grant him his eight lost cat-lives again. He teams up with the confident and ambitious Kitty Softpaws, a familiar character from the preceding movie, as well as an unnamed optimistic dog, Perrito, to reach his path overcoming challenges including an enchanted forest, fearsome antagonists, and the acceptance of reality.

The movie does the finest job of walking the line between adult and kid-friendly entertainment. Even after building its realm around simple and digestible bases, the movie showcases many mature themes. Not only that, it tackles several plot points without oversaturating the theatrical experience.

Subtlety is a weapon the movie has established quite splendidly while bringing forth fleshed-out characters and the motivations behind their deeds and decisions. From showcasing a bold keynote of a familial bond to surmising the inevitable case of mortality, it accentuates questions about existence as well as validates diverse resolutions.

The movie also addresses many psychologically motivated themes. Trauma, fear, and even panic attacks have gotten a fair portrayal in it without carelessly

being reduced to a passing joke or pushed to an unpalatable state.

As mentioned earlier, the movie also caters to the younger audience. It successfully captures an imaginative roller-coaster ride of entertainment for them while also mediating a wave of childhood nostalgia to watchers such as me, who grew up with the late-2000s era of animation movies.

Moreover, the humour in this movie is reminiscent of the signature comedy style from the *Shrek* series. It stands its ground to be fresh, iconic and liberated without feeling repetitive or overly generic. Personally, I've felt that a lot of the newer animation movies have followed this trend of simulating jokes uneventfully, which makes them feel very bland and forced. However, *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* successfully incorporates unforced humour for its watchers to enjoy.

Lastly, the movie's primary antagonist is a brilliantly written character and possibly one of the best-written villains in the history of animated movies. How and why, are two thrilling factors I would leave to dear readers to seek out for themselves.

All in all, this movie delivers an enjoyably rich experience, which is something I haven't seen in animated movies in a long time. From clever dialogues to subtle and detailed storytelling, the movie succeeds in harvesting a memorable cinematic escapade.

I believe *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* will be a great turner to the current youth's collection of nostalgic movies. It is worthy to be standardised as a classic for animation studios in the years to come.

Shaikh Sabik Kamal was found utterly lost in his attempt to write out a proper blurb. Consider helping him out at sabik2005kamal4787@gmail.com

TITLE OF YOUR MIXTAPE



A

Kids
MGMT

Softcore

The Neighbourhood

Acting My Age

The Academic

Zombie

DAY6

B

The Nights
Avicii

brutal

Olivia Rod

Vengeance

BIBI

I Can't Carry This

Anymore

Anson Seabra

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submissions within 500 words.