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'Maleficent'

By Derek Zemrak

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unconditional love in order to return to happier days. Ellen Fanning ("Super 8," "We Bought a Zoo") plays Aurora, the Sleeping Beauty.

Maleficent is a spectacular, visual piece of art that should be experienced in the theater and not on an iPhone. The film is directed by two-time Oscar winner Robert Stromberg, who won his Oscars for art direction in "Alice in Wonderland" and "Avatar." This is Stromberg's directorial debut. His illustration of the beauty of filmmaking is visible in each scene as his strong direction comes through in the performances of both Jolie and Fanning.

Seven-time Oscar recipient and 12-time Oscar nominee Rick Baker ("Ed Wood," "An American Werewolf in London," "Men in Black") is the special makeup effects artist on the film. Baker is the master of his craft and I predict another Oscar nomination for his work in "Maleficent." The makeup in the movie is astonishing.

For all you trivia buffs - "Maleficent" will go down in history as the first movie role for Vivienne Jolie-Pitt, daughter of Jolie and Brad Pitt, as she plays Aurora at age 5.

"Maleficent" is rated PG with a total running time (TRT) of 97 minutes. The film's battle scenes, green smoke and the dark forest trees maybe too scary for the little ones.

Listen to Derek every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. on Real to Reel, 1450AM KEST.

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