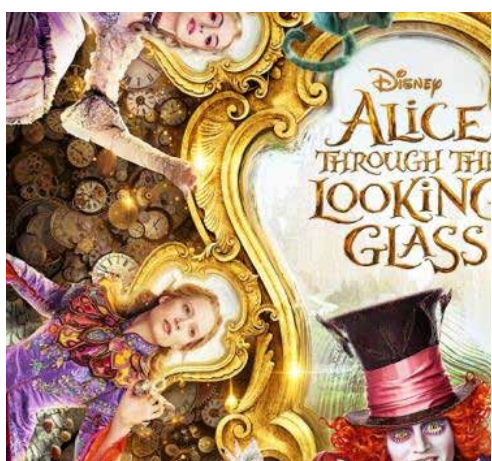


MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

It's Hard to See Good in 'Looking Glass'

By Derek Zemrak



Patti Leidecker and Adam Reeves Photo provided
These days Hollywood is about producing sequels and reboots, formerly called remakes. If it makes money a sequel is immediately in the works. Prime example is the 2010 box office success, "Alice in Wonderland," which grossed over \$334 million in U.S. ticket sales on a \$200 million budget.

It was a box office triumph for Disney and Director Tim Burton but it received mixed reviews from moviegoers. But any victory in Hollywood seems to equal sequel, which brings us to the release of "Alice Through the Looking Glass." This time, director James Bobin ("The Muppets," "Muppets Most Wanted") is calling the shots, but with less gothic style and holding closer to Lewis Carroll's fantasy classic novel with a much more vibrant use of color and flamboyant flair.

You may or may not recall in the first film Alice started her voyage at sea and this is where this movie starts. Alice, once again played by Mia Wasikowska, returns from her expedition only to be threatened by her ex-fiancé Hamish (Leo Bill, "The Girl with the Dagon Tattoo") to regain her ship, the Wonder. Alice decides she must return to Wonderland, this time through a

mirror and not the traditional rabbit hole.

Down under, Alice learns that her old friend, the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp), is deeply depressed over the death of his family and asks Alice to help him. Alice believes she can make things better for Hatter by stealing the time traveling chronosphere from Time (Sacha Baron Cohen). Sacha is a positive addition to this franchise. Adventuring in the past Alice learns of the relationship between the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter) and the White Queen (Anne Hathaway).

All the flashy computer generated imagery (CGI) cannot save a subpar script and the characters just do not draw you in. "Alice Through the Looking Glass" has a total running time (TRT) of 1 hour and 53 minutes with a PG rating.

Now playing at the Rheem Theatre:
 "X-Men: Apocalypse," "The Angry Birds Movie" and "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising"
Now playing at the Orinda Theatre:
 "Alice Through the Looking Glass," "Money Monster" and "The Meddler"
Upcoming Special Events at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres:
June 9, 7 p.m. – FREE MOVIE NIGHT in Orinda – "M*A*S*H"
June 18, 7 p.m. – An evening with Litz Plummer as she performs the greatest Broadway and movie songs.
June 15, 2 p.m. – Moraga Movers Present, "Father of the Bride," hosted by Larry Swindell
July 14, 7 p.m. – FREE MOVIE NIGHT in Orinda – "Stand By Me"
July 23, 7 p.m. – Eileen and Brett sing the greatest American ballads from Judy Garland to Frank Sinatra.
July 30, 7 p.m. – Charlie Chaplin Festival screening of "The Kid" with live piano score written and performed by Patti Liedecker.

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Service Clubs Announcements



We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at **The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa**, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

June 3
Robert Priebe, Moraga's successes and challenges

June 10
Andrea Fazel, Street Law In Our High Schools

Annual Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary President Roast coming up June 17

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting. Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

June 2: Rachel Zinn, Superintendent Lafayette School District will be speaking about the Bond Measure C
June 9: Alex Lidgren – Exchange student speaking on his year in Lafayette/US

ROCK THE PLAZA: Fri. – June 3, The Allmond Brothers Clan
 www.rotarylafayette.org

Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Not to be missed

GARDEN

The Lafayette Community Garden presents Getting to Know the Food We Grow from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on June 5. Explore seasonal foods grown in the Lafayette Community Garden. Their nutritional benefits as well as simple, healthy ways to prepare them will be discussed. Led by Jaime Askew, a certified nutrition consultant and garden member. Participants will also harvest the foods from the garden in this class and create a nutritious and delicious dish for all to share.

Now you can have a beautiful garden...and eat it, too! Gardening and horticulture expert, Bob Hornback will show you how to produce your own organically-grown veggies,

fruits and herbs in plantings that are attractive enough for the front yard. You'll learn everything you need to know about designing, installing, maintaining and harvesting an edible landscape. From 10 a.m. to noon on June 11 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. \$20 - \$25. More info: www.gardenshf.org or (925) 947-1678

Creating a Sustainable Garden Workshop: Learn how to build healthier soil, chooses water-wise plants and manage pests in the least toxic way during this free workshop, 10 a.m. Saturday, June 11 at McDonnell Nursery in Orinda. To reserve a seat please call (925) 252-3713 or info@mcdonnellnursery.com.

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