

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

1937

“Snow White” is the very first animated movie. Thus one should not expect perfection. However, the Disney producers created an involved and detailed enchanted world beyond imagination. It is almost as if that world already exists and the producers are just reporting what they see. Based on the Grimm fairy tale, the story Snow White is timeless.

The Disney Company has overused the term Masterpiece when referring to its own movies. But this one truly deserves that title.

The story is simple and familiar. Snow White's evil stepmother wants her killed because Snow White is "the fairest of them all." She is saved from this fate, and hides out with seven dwarfs. And the intrigue continues from there ... But, more interesting than the basic plot is the clever method to draw in the littlest children in the audience. For

example, the little bird characters warn Snow White that the hag selling apples was her evil stepmother in disguise. Everyone in the audience understands the warning, but Snow White does not! Maybe if everyone under 5 years old in the audience yells out, “Don’t eat the apple!!”, she will get the point:

Strange as it may seem, the exact same trick was used in the recent movie “Finding Neverland”. In a particular poignant moment, the question is asked “do you believe” and of course one expects the little children in the audience to blurt out “I believe”. But to everyone’s surprise, the adults answer the call and exclaim, “I believe”! Of course these adults are the same people who as little children failed to give Snow White the warning many decades ago.

Finally, the same little kids who first saw “Snow White” so long ago will tell you that the most memorable character was not Snow White, but were the seven Dwarfs!!