

OPINIONS

No more faith, trust, and pixie dust for Disney

By Sarah Ifft
Staff Writer

Many images come to mind when you hear the word “Disney.” Some images include the classic animated films such as *Cinderella* and *Pi-nocchio* or the live action movies like *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Star Wars*. What mostly comes to mind is the numerous theme parks across the globe that bring the corporation billions in revenue. The Walt Disney company has certainly built an empire in the world of business and media. As much as I love Disney movies and the theme parks in California and Florida, I feel that Disney is taking over too much and is losing its originality. Disney has slowly transformed from the creative company it once was when Walt Disney

oversaw it to a mega corporation with one sole intention--to make money. Walt Disney’s vision to “keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things” and the concept of “not making movies to make money” but “making money to make more movies” have seemed to disappear as the company has bought out so many other businesses. It feels like they bought these companies just so they can slap their famous name on another brand and claim ownership of other ideas. One example of this is *Star Wars* movies without the help of Disney. Ever since Disney bought the company in 2012, they have produced several new *Star Wars* films. With *Rogue One* coming up this month, and two other movies that are rumored to be about the backstory of Han

Solo and Boba Fett soon to follow, Disney can’t stop making movies that have been dealt with before and beaten to death. Another company Disney acquired recently is Marvel. What’s really frustrating about this is all the remakes. There have been three different versions of the Spider-Man films produced over the past fourteen years. The first set starred Tobey Maguire, the second Andrew Garfield, and the third set will feature Tom Holland in the newest installment *Spider-Man: Homecoming* in 2017. Sadly, the company’s lust for money and power is showing in their amusement parks as well. Next year, guests will be unable to ride the popular attraction Tower of Terror because a *Guardians of the Galaxy* ride will take its place. In addition, Disneyland and Disney World are both set to include *Star Wars* Land. Unfortunately, that means that Big Thunder Ranch, which opened in 1986 and was an area of the



Walt Disney’s signature next to the company’s infamous logo.

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park that had a BBQ restaurant and a nearby petting zoo, would have to be demolished in order to create this newer attraction. I understand that changes need to occur at Disneyland and Disney World to keep with the times. In fact, it was Walt Disney himself that stated that “Disneyland will never be completed” and “will continue to grow as long as there is imagination left in the world.” But the key I think the company is missing here is the last part—imagination. I believe that Disney needs to go back to its roots and take classic or newly-created stories and puts their own creative twist on it. The world does not need more live-action films based off on the original Disney films (the business is planning on making 18 of these) or re-hashed ideas that other companies came up with. We need original stories from the corporation that started it all.

Are movie remakes worth watching?

By Taylor Powell
Contributing Writer

Recently there has been an addition to the Harry Potter universe with the film, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. This movie is considered a prequel to the Harry Potter films and honestly, when the movie was announced, I let out a great sigh of annoyance. I feel my frustration is valid because this is the age of prequels, reboots, and remakes. Let’s all come to the agreement that not much mainstream entertainment is original. Who asked for another *Independence Day*? Do you truly believe *Jurassic World* was a good idea? And a *Blair Witch Project* sequel was not needed in the least bit. I truly believe that not

a single person wanted to see the characters from *Monsters Inc.* go to college. It’s understood that these companies are just cashing in on our nostalgia. So, yes, as a die hard Harry Potter fan I was very frustrated when this film hit theaters. What is wrong with leaving something in the past, especially when it ended so well? Are these remakes truly the worst things ever or are they just done in bad taste? Even though Harry Potter ended well, there is so much to expand on in that universe. This is why the recent movie focusing on the world of Harry Potter did really well in theaters. When it comes to remakes, it can be done in a different way and become more modern with the times. Honestly, when a modern spin is put onto an old film, it can actually be a

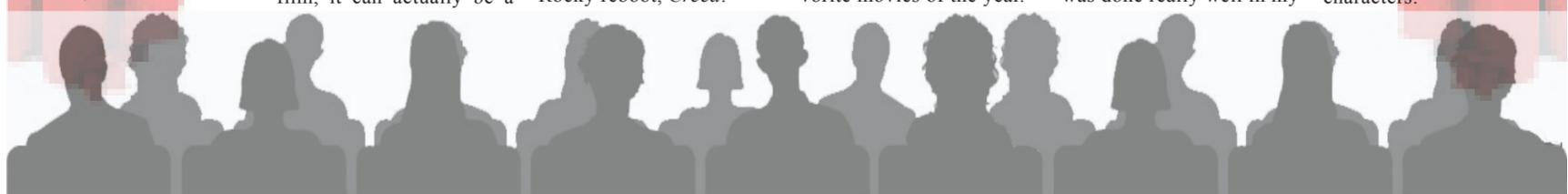


A comparison of the 2016 Movie poster of the Blair Witch Project (left) and the original 1999 Blair Witch Project movie poster (right).

Graphic by Madeline Oden

really entertaining film. For instance, last year’s Rocky reboot, *Creed*. It was a wonderful film and possibly one of my favorite movies of the year. The year before, *Robocop* was remade and it was done really well in my

opinion. The entertainment world is something that can continuously be expanded on. These movies become our escape and sometimes we are left wondering, what’s next? As an audience we fall in love with the characters and the story. Whether the story is magic, sci-fi, or simply a film about everyday life, we like knowing what is going to happen next, and entertainment companies realize what we as an audience want to see. So, next time a reboot or remake is announced, attempt to not roll your eyes. Give the film a chance because it is being told from a different perspective and in a different time period. And whether or not these films are Oscar-worthy, in the end they are a chance to escape reality for a short period of time and be entertained by your favorite characters.



All Graphics by Madeline Oden

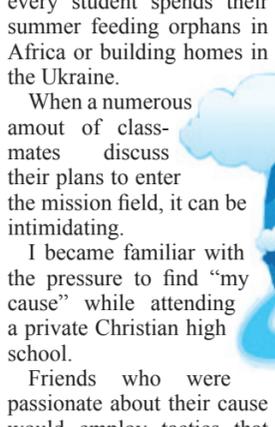
Stay-at-home Christian

By Tori Van Hooser
Staff Writer

Going to a Christian university can be hard when you’re not called to every single cause that is presented to you. It sometimes seems like every student spends their summer feeding orphans in Africa or building homes in the Ukraine. When a numerous amount of classmates discuss their plans to enter the mission field, it can be intimidating. I became familiar with the pressure to find “my cause” while attending a private Christian high school. Friends who were passionate about their cause would employ tactics that pulled at my heartstrings and stoked the fire in my soul so that I felt connected to a specific cause. While the intention behind the phenomenon is

pure, it can sometimes give those not called to a particular cause anxiety about not feeling that call. I couldn’t be more excited for my friends jetting off to the far reaches of the world this upcoming summer. But I’m not called to international missions, and that’s okay. I’m allowed to empathize with a picture of an orphan without needing to catch the next flight overseas to care for them. I’m allowed to love on missionaries and support them and not desire to fol-

low in their footsteps. I’m allowed to serve and do missions right where I am. This doesn’t mean that I don’t have the faith that missionaries do, or that I’m more materialistic, or that I’m far from God. Quite the contrary. It actually means that despite the pressures from within the community of Christians, I know God will use me. I can take comfort that He is going to use me just as missionaries overseas. So, if you’re not feeling the tug of international missions, it’s not because you’re weak. It’s not because God doesn’t want you or that you’re not listening hard enough. The world that God has created is a mission field, and every soul not bound to the Father is an orphan. Jesus made us to worship Him and to do the good works He has created for us. And that doesn’t just mean overseas. It means everywhere.



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