

Aladdin's Coup: Disney made one of its best moves ever when recruiting Howard Ashman and Harold Menken to

Aladdin' rekindles Disney's classic spell



JOHN MONAGHAN

A new golden age for Disney animation? The ratistic and popular success of "Beauty and the Beaut" and "The Little Mernald" certainly hints at it. Though not of the same callber, "Aleddin" provides a good-natured blend of dyenture and non-

tured blend of rollercoaster adventure and non-stop gags.

Aladdin, a hendsome young thief, lives off his wits on the mean streets of Agrabah. When he saves the life of a young maid-

he saves the life of a young maid-en in the marketplace, he realizes only later that she is the Sulfan's daughter Jasamine.

The Sulfan's advisor Jafar-tall, black-robed, and bearing more than a passing resemblance to an older Joan Crawford — uses Aladdin to acquire a magical lamp that will grant three wishes. The sand-monster who possesses it insists that only this noble bay can enter his gaping mouth to re-

trievs it.

There's plenty of adventure along the way, especially involving a flying carpet brought alive through the magic of computer animation. You can count on it to woosh beneath Aladdin when he's falling deep into a chesm or playfully toppling off Jasmine's veranda.

Disney mode one of its best moves ever when recruiting Howard Ashman and Harold Menken to score these pletures. Lyricist Ashman contributed three clever songs to the project before his death last year. Tim Rice, collaborator with Andrew Lloyd Webber on "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Exita," added another two.

The tunes range from thoughtful to the project have been dead way tributes to modern Whitney Huston-style balleds. Best are the spirited ones, including "One Jump Ahead," as Aladdain outwits palace guards, and "Friend Like Me," where the Genie from the lamp unleashes a garish display of his powers.

Robin Williams, who provides the Genie's voice, dominates

"Aladdin's" second half. You'd almost think he directed the animation, since the nonstop barrage of a pid fire gags completely plays into his over-the-edge comic style. He appears as a game show host telling Aladdin what he can and can't order from the lamp. He appears as a game show host telling Aladdin what he can and can't order from the lamp. In the state of the

during the film's 2012 re-release?. Probably the same way we look today at the vintage Warner Brothers cartoons, where animators tried to outdo each other with the most gags per minute. "Anddin' doesn't possess the emotional clarity and meticulous cyo for atmosphere that distinguish the best Disney features, But don't let that stop you from having a great time on this well-crafted magic carpet ride.



Film offers an insightful look at lives of 2 brothers



Garbage man Dominick Luci-ano goes through life with a smile on his face, ca-gerly planning a birthday outing to Wrestlemania and dreaming of and dreaming of the day his brother Eugene

becomes a suc-cessful doctor a nice house on a lake. The brothers are fraternal twins, older by 12 minutes Dominick has been

time when some changes are likely. Dominick holds his job and is pretty independent, if gullible. He tends to believe the outrageous stories spouted as gospel by a co-

stories spouced as george of worker.

Dominick supports his brother, who is finishing his internship and wants to do his residency at Stanford, far from their home in Pittsburgh.

"slow" since he was injured in a childhood fall.

The fine 1988 film "Dominick and Eugene" looks at the lives of the brothers, very well played by Tom Hulce and Ray Liotte, at a Tom Hulce and Ray Liotte, at a The brothers, whose parents are both dead, have been inseparable for years but their relationship isn't ideal.

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The brothers, whose parents are both dead, have been inseparable for years but their relationship isn't ideal. Strained by the demands of medical school, Eugene can blow up at his brother when he forgets to walk his dog won't stopping talking in the middle of the night. Eugene is quick-tempered but saves his real fury for a guy who takes advantage of Dominick.

Hulce is very good as Domini-

ick, who is concerned that maybe he is stupid, not just slow. Without out being maudlin or overwrought, he makes Eugene a

overwrought, he makes Eugene areal person who is dealing with some extra challenges and basically doing pretty well.

Dominick has befriended a boy who lives along his trash collection route and shares his love of comic books. For his trouble, Dominick is berated by the boy's abusive father.

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When Dominick witnesses his When Dominick witnesses his young friend being abused by his father, the shock and terror on his father, the shock and terror on his face reaches far beyond what he has just seen. It's a heartbreaking scene, as the painful memories flood over Dominick who is too distraught to speak. Hulee plays the scene very well, making Dominick's subsequent action noble and completely well intentioned.

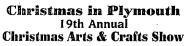
Director Robert M. Young keeps the film on a steady course that avoids the pitfalls of melorama. These are people who care deeply for each other but sometimes inflict the most damage on those they love most.











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