

John Evans wrote this article for the Dallas/Fort Worth Heritage, a monthly Christian newspaper published in Ennis, Texas.

***What's
Happened
to Disney
Films?***
by John Evans

Many of today's over-30 adults who grew up on a diet of Disney movies are now responsible, God-honoring parents. They want their children to experience the same magic in films and videos that they once enjoyed.

Does the name "Disney" still mean the same in the '90s that it did in the '60s? Not at all. Disney is now a huge conglomerate with such diverse subsidiaries as Miramax Films, Hollywood Pictures, and Touchstone Pictures. The films they produce range from the violent, degrading *Pulp Fiction*, a Miramax film, to the delightful *Beauty and the Beast*, a Walt Disney Co. film. In between these two extremes are a myriad of movies of varying degrees of decency and offensiveness.

Listed below are descriptions which illustrate the undesirable content included in some Walt Disney Pictures films intended for young children. These comments are based on reviews from the Preview Family Movie and TV Guide.

The Little Mermaid (1989), G-rated animated film. While Disney's villains in the past have simply been mean and nasty; Ursula, the wicked sea witch, is downright evil. Her bizarre appearance and morbid undersea abode exude images of witchcraft, and some scenes are likely to frighten small children. Also, offensive, sexually suggestive dialogue is uncalled for. In one scene the evil Ursula intimates that the mermaid will have to "let her body do her talking." In romantic song, Ariel sings to Eric, "You know you ant to do it." Even more disturbing, however, is the picture on the video box that includes a very obvious phallic symbol.

Aladdin (1992), G-rated animated film. The panther entrance to the cave and a volcanic eruption are violent, jolting, and intense. The Genie transforms the evil Jafar into a sorcerer who violently manipulates others. Jafar changes into a giant snake to fight Aladdin. Again, the evil characters are more than scary – they attack. Also, the videotape includes some suggestive dialogue whispered in the background during a balcony scene between Aladdin and Jasmine. The words, "Take off your –" can be heard, implying that the muffled word is "clothes."

Lion King (1994), G-rated animated film. New Age and occultic concepts appear to be introduced when it's said that the father lion is living on in the son. Also, a remark is made that dead kings are looking down on the young lion. These can be interpreted literally as the Hindu concept of the universality of the soul. Also, when the young lion talks to his dead father, this violates the biblical admonition against communicating with the spirits of the dead.

Pocahontas (1995), G-rated animated film. This brand-new feature film favorably depicts Indian animism, the belief that every natural object, such as rocks and trees, have spirits. Also, it portrays communication with spirits of the dead as acceptable. "The producers give an exaggerated picture of the white colonists as greedy, bloodthirsty monsters who just want to rid the land of 'those savages.'"

The Walt Disney Pictures company continues to produce Disney's G-rated films as well as its more family oriented movies, such as *Iron ill*, *Angels in the Outfield*, *White Fang*, and the *Mighty Ducks* series. However, several years ago, the Disney organization decided to produce more "mature" films and established two wholly owned companies to produce them, Hollywood Pictures and Touchstone Pictures. Also, a few years ago, Disney acquired Miramax Films, which distributes some very offensive films, most of them produced in foreign countries.

A few examples of the most offensive films these companies have produced or distributed are given below.

Pulp Fiction (1994 – Miramax Films). Disgusting R-rated adult film which contains over 320 obscenities and profanities, ongoing graphic and gratuitous violence, a homosexual rape, and much bizarre behavior.

Color of Night (1994 – Hollywood Pictures). Gruesome R-rated murder mystery with bloody killings, stabbings, an impaling, and choking. Also, a sexual affair with graphic sexual content and nudity, and over 100 obscenities and profanities.

Priest (1995 – Miramax Films). This controversial R-rated film sympathetically portrays a homosexual priest and depicts other Catholic priests as disreputable characters. Contains scenes of graphic homosexual lovemaking. Catholics nationwide protested the film.

Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988 – Touchstone Pictures). Suggestive, violent PG-rated cartoon film in which some characters are boiled in toxic waste and flattened by a steam roller. Also, features an implied extramarital affair, crude language, sexually suggestive humor, and a voluptuous, seductive female character.

For parents who want to select only wholesome, decent entertainment for their families, the Preview Family Movie and TV Guide publishes reviews of all current films twice a month. The reviews contain information on the desirable elements in a film as well as a detailed description of any offensive material.