

Reel Raves

By Cary Littlejohn



Summer is heating up, and that means lots of summer blockbusters at the theater! But with so many movies and so little time, how will you ever know what's worth seeing?

It's not a decision to be taken lightly, because let's face it: the movies aren't getting any cheaper.

That's where I come in; I'm here to spend that \$10.00 so you won't waste yours.

Each month I'll bring you a different movie review, preferably one that you can see with the entire family.

Summer 2017 seems to be the summer of big animated sequels, but are they worth it?

A well-rounded animated film, *Cars 3* shows Pixar returning to find the sweet spot in the franchise that it missed in *Cars 2*, with a story that is funny, sweet and at times sad, but despite all these pros, *Cars 3* is firing on maybe only six out of eight cylinders.

Lightning McQueen (voiced by Owen Wilson) is back at it again, this time as the elder statesman of the racing circuit; racking up wins, he seems at the top of his game. But the game as he knows it is changing: a new breed of technologically-advanced young racers break onto the scene, led by Jackson Storm (voiced by Armie Hammer), a young stud who grew up watching McQueen in his prime. In a desperate attempt to remain relevant, McQueen pushes himself to the breaking point and suffers a devastating crash.

McQueen returns to Radiator Springs to recuperate and soul-search. He's welcomed by old friends, Sarge, the no nonsense Army Jeep and his unlikely friend Fillmore, the hippie VW van, Sally, a smart and sassy lawyer Porsche, who also happens to be McQueen's love interest; Ramone, the brilliant paint shop lowrider; Flo, a flashy 1950s show car and diner owner; Luigi and Guido, the Italian tire masters, and the one and only Tow Mater with all his folksy wisdom and charm.

More changes follow, namely new management for McQueen, who at first seems eager to let his old hero have a shot to reclaim his throne, but he soon shows an uglier side-- one that's intent on making McQueen nothing more than a marketing spokesman. To avoid this fate, McQueen must prove himself and there's no room for failure. To assist him on his return to form, a personal trainer named Cruz Ramirez (voiced by Cristela Alonzo) pitches in, but she, like seemingly everyone McQueen encounters these days, is young enough to have grown up idolizing the aging star. Unconventional training and help from unexpected sources lead to one final race that will determine McQueen's future in racing.

The desire to appeal to both children and adults in the audience is a staple of Pixar and what makes their movies so universally beloved.

My mom repeatedly says to me, "There isn't a day so bad that can't be made better by watching *Toy Story*." This sage advice from a mom to her 29-year-old son is a testament to the long-lasting appeal of the layered humor in Pixar's greatest films.

With *Cars 3*, Pixar again layers its humor, and the funny parts are more generally appreciated by children in the audience, but the over-arching themes of the movie are felt more by adults in the audience, namely the passage of time and diminishing of abilities. The children in the audience may understand the story, but they are years away from any appreciation of what McQueen is going through in this film. The passage of time brings changes, and one of the most notable changes in McQueen's life is the absence of The Fabulous Hudson Hornet, known to his friends as Doc, whose ghost looms heavily over most of the film. Missing Doc's mentorship, McQueen searches for inspiration by finding his way to the birthplace of stock car racing-- the hills of North Carolina.

Thomasville Speedway was the home track of Doc Hudson, and McQueen treats his visit as a pilgrimage to a holy land, much like a reverent blues enthusiast might treat a visit to the intersection formed by Highways 61 and 49 in the Mississippi Delta. A deep and abiding respect for the history of the place washes over McQueen, and despite Doc's absence, a symbolic transfer of power and wisdom from mentor to mentee takes place at the old race track. This reality is all-too-familiar to adults in the audience, as we've all struggled to overcome and persevere by often looking to the past for inspiration, guidance and strength. This pays off for the film because it deals with established characters in this universe, and without much effort at all, we see the human stories and drama unfold in the lives of these animated cars.

Sadly, *Cars 3* falls short of the brilliance of Pixar classics like *Toy Story* and *Finding Nemo*.

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Velma Wright is home from the hospital doing good. She was able to drive herself to church first Sunday. Little Fred Wright is home from the hospital. He's been on vacation. He visited his aunt who lives near Jackson.

Lou Ethel Morgan is still doing fine. Her daughter Valarie and her husband came from Alabama to help take care of her.

Mrs. Ann G. Brown is at home using a walker after breaking her hip. She is still going to therapy. Next week (after the second Sunday) she plans to start using a cane.

On Wednesday, July 5, TRIAD met at the Multi-Purpose Building in Lexington. There was no speaker selected to give The Right Information And Direction. However, Sheriff Willie March gave the crime update. He stated we (Holmes County) are up to six murders for 2017. Crime update was on stolen items, robbery and murders. The sheriff is still stressing that peo-

After the storm God will take care of you

By Gary Andrews
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Over the past ten years my

This is not surprising, since sequels rarely retain the magic spark of the original, but the standard to which we hold Pixar is different exactly because of the two franchises I just named and the wildly successful and high-quality sequels they produced.

But *Cars 3* is no slouch, packing subtle humor and heartfelt emotion into a stereotypically stylish Pixar package.

Kids will laugh, adults will think and all will enjoy.

* Cary Littlejohn is an attorney at Barrett Law Group, P.A. in Lexington, MS. He is an avid moviegoer, often seeing over 50 movies per year in theaters. He lives in Lexington with his dog, Millie.

wife and I have been through two disastrous tornadoes.

The deadly storms created havoc with entire neighborhoods and took several lives.

In the aftermath of each one I was very pleased to see the response of people throughout the town. People from several states came to help, some as far away as the Great Lakes region.

The nature of American people is good. The reaction of these people has helped untold thousands that have gone through destruction. They brought food, water, and other necessities of life, but most of all they brought brotherly and unconditional love to the ones that were hurting.

The Bible tells us to be accountable to Christian brothers. Philippians 2:4 says, "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

On both occasions I witnessed many students, both in high school and college, come to the aid of their fellowman with clean-up crews. These kids wanted to help in some way and after all of the emergency personnel had completed their jobs then these young people jumped in and worked very hard to alleviate some of the pressures and the pain that these tornado victims were going through.

God is good! His people are

wonderful people and willing to help in any way they can.

There have been countless others that have contributed monetarily because they were physically unable to work or couldn't leave their jobs to come and help. People from all over the United States have called and/or sent money to help in the clean-up and rebuilding of these devastated areas.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 sums up the actions of these people as it says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up."

When we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior He will take care and provide for us.

Even the ones who don't know Him personally have been helped by the ones that do and maybe their Christian views have shown what God can do for everyone.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for being a great God and taking care of our needs. Even in the times of disasters you have always been there for us and provided for us. Amen.

Suggested daily Bible readings: Sunday - Romans 12:9-13; Monday - 1 Corinthians 12:26; Tuesday - Proverbs 18:24; Wednesday - John 13:34-35; Thursday - Isaiah 32:17; Friday - Philippians 4:10-20; Saturday - James 5:7-20.

Gary Andrews is the author of *Encouraging Words: 30-days in God's Word*.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The **HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** will hold its next quarterly public participation meeting on **Monday, July 17, 2017, at 6:00 P.M.** in the **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING ROOM**. This is in compliance with revised Board policy to hold one **evening Board Meeting** each quarter.



Ashley Boatner
Jacob Williamson
September 23

Sara O'Reilly
Jamie Boyette
October 7

Laura Ellis
Justin Rennhack
October 21

Brett Spell
Grey Clark
November 20

Katelyn Bienemann
Davis Ables
December 9

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MEMORIES OF MOM

Lenzell (Nell) S. Nelson
July 15, 2016



We, the children of Lenzell, would like to extend a special THANK-YOU on her birthday to the only two of Lenzell's granddaughters that were there to assist her with her care during her time of illness: Margaret (Jason) Nelson-Dural and Monica (Jeremy) Nelson-Huntley.

Ma, have a happy birthday as you rest in heaven.
Alpha: July 15, 1922 ~ Omega: December 17, 2016
Love,
Children: John, Ozie, and sonly grandson, Chesalon Nelson.