

Out With the Old

Directed by George Summers

Country: UK

Year of production: 2020

Genre: Animation, Student

“A suave and fierce insight into the surprising mechanics of finding our way back home”



Synopsis

The idea and concept of the short student animation “Out with the Old” directed by George Summers is revolving around the tender and heartwarming story of a charming wood doll that gets hazardously separated from its comfortable house when the family who owns it moves house. It’s journey back home will be one of whimsical adventures and a beautiful crossing of the spirit into maturity and gentle growth, something we all long to experience in our lifetime.

Rating: Very Good

Idea

The idea surrounding this warm animation emerges from the concept that life's unexpected challenges can become blessings in disguise and cherished opportunities when embraced with an open mind and an honest heart. This joyous and charismatic visual delight manages to build a unique and comforting atmosphere making it an impossibly relevant and compelling little gem of a film.

Rating: Very Good

Script



Arguably the narrative supporting “Out with the Old” may not offer exciting twists or solve the mysteries of the universe. However the unparalleled ability to transform an extremely ordinary scene from a doll’s life and transcend into something magical and other-worldly as well as bring excitement into the simple adventure of finding one’s way home, can not be overlooked. A confused doll still clinging to its broom (with the features of a mature man) walking along a deserted forest

path in the middle of the autumn scenery may appear to our senses as an ethereal being, barely human (yes pun intended!), but on it’s path to deliverance and self-discovery. And as his path crosses the one of the clueless elephant toy, there is something deeply stirring and powerfully meaningful arising from this most unexpected encounter. And whilst no dialogue is employed, the journey will not be short of adventure, comedy, drama, a bit of tension and lots and lots of warmth.

Rating: Very Good



Cinematography & Editing

Created with great care, the combination of live action technique, stop motion and live outdoor photography mark the sparkle with which each frame is designed and constructed as well as the subtle and smooth frame changes so important to the telling of a visual story. It is a challenge not to be enchanted by the artistry and patience invested in the craft of each shot.

The editing seems effortless as it is completely tuned to the genre and style of this inventive and sweet story.

Rating: Very Good

Acting

Although we can't refer to the acting aspect in the most conventional sense of the concept (as it is an animation), we can't overlook the beautifully defined and vivid characters portrayed in this little short and the deeply human substance that has been instilled in them.

Their authentic simplicity, feistiness and intoxicating charm contribute to the creation of a very intimate and friendly atmosphere, which helps shape their personal journey as full fledged characters and explore their growth in this special micro cosmos.

Rating: Excellent

Directing & Director's Vision

Sets

The impressive and daring technique used to create the backgrounds and the beautifully chosen landscape contribute immensely to the creation of the ideal mood to complement the animation elements and support this whimsical tale of courage and friendship.

Rating: Excellent

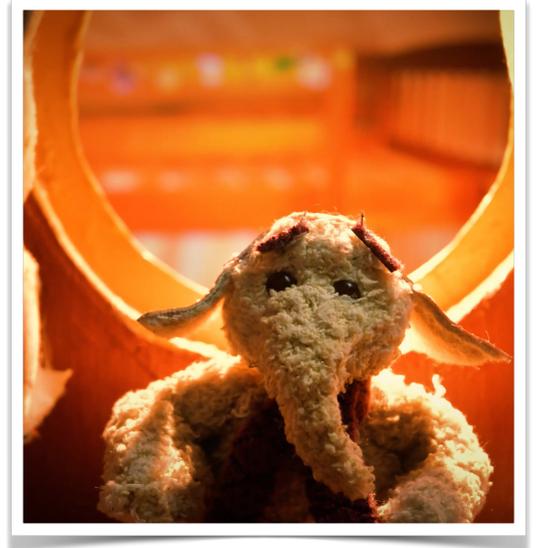
Music

With a diversity of musical instruments and sounds utilised, the sound aspect of the animation is an absolute delight to experience and helps the viewer immerse himself/herself into the realm of the story with a swift grip. By achieving such a symbiotic relationship between the visual and the auditive side the animation settles itself into the beautiful and calm mood, ready to be enjoyed and savoured with its surprising little quirks and simple allure.

Rating: Excellent

Film Ending/Array of Meanings

There is pure innocence pouring from every little part of this enticing animation. This simple and beautifully expressed narrative comes to a heart warming end when our adventurous Doll Man finally reaches his lost home to find it all messed up and dirtied by its unexpected and rushed journey. As he is pondering at the amount of work needed to clean his house he realises that his new friend and the promise of future adventures together out shadow the problem at heart. With this sweet and lovely finale, there is no question in regards to the social and human value of this gentle animation. There is still so much to be learned from the simplicity of a well told story that one can't be disappointed by what can only be considered a very happy ending.



The distinctive and wondrous style and inspiration of director George Summers manages to give the animation "Out with the Old" a life of its own, immersed with simple wonders and enchanting candour. Knitting together a straightforward yet refreshing narrative with capable and well crafted animation techniques, George Summer emerges as a truly intuitive and elegant director, far more invested in the true sense of the social wit, and the exploration of the visual with a fresh and curious mind. The result is a full commitment to rediscover the profound in the mundane and the positive in life's unsuspected challenges.

Rating: Very good



Final Conclusions

“Out with the old” directed by George Summers offers an inspiring insight into the powerful connection that we can access in within ourselves when raising up to the big and small provocations of our daily lives. The ingenuity and magnetism oozing from the visual along with the beautiful crafted characters that bring life and meaning to the entire animation, this little silent gem proves to be both compelling and meaningful. Hinting in the title that this animation deals with an existential development, the simple and honest approach to the art of filmmaking help it stay true to a highly undervalued intention: that of recounting the story of ordinary “characters” who are coming to unexpectedly profound realisations about the quandary of life in their universal journey to find their way back home.



Reviewed by Ioana Dorofte