Zootopia

2016

Comedy/Adventure ‧ 1h 48m

Analyzing "Zootopia": A Tale of Inclusivity and Determination

In Disney's "Zootopia," audiences are transported to a bustling city inhabited by mammals, where animals behave much like humans. The film follows Judy Hopps, a spirited bunny who leaves her rural home to pursue her dream of becoming a police officer in the vibrant metropolis of Zootopia. Despite graduating at the top of her class, Judy is unfairly assigned to parking duty instead of working on important missing mammal cases. Undeterred, Judy teams up with a sly fox, Nick Wilde, and together they uncover a sinister plot orchestrated by Assistant Mayor Bellwether to turn predators aggressive, aiming to manipulate the city's voting and governance.

Themes of Inclusivity and Determination

Similar to other Disney films, "Zootopia" not only features endearing characters and an engaging plot but also prompts deep reflections on the importance of mindset. The movie emphasizes the value of accepting everyone, regardless of differences, and advocates for a city free from prejudice. It also delivers the powerful message that achieving dreams requires perseverance in the face of obstacles and entrenched biases.

A City of Harmony and Diversity

At first glance, Zootopia appears to be a harmonious city, with different districts like the Rainforest District, Tundratown, Sahara Square, and Little Rodentia designed to accommodate specific animals' needs and habits. This diversity is highlighted in a scene where the exit door of a train features three different sizes to cater to creatures of various sizes.

A cartoon character coming out of a train

Description automatically generated

Addressing Stereotypes and Prejudice

The film cleverly portrays various stereotypes, such as bunnies being carrot farmers and sloths working in the Department of Mammal Vehicles. These stereotypes, while initially comedic, highlight the struggles each species faces with societal biases and the tendency to stereotype one another. For instance, Judy carrying a bottle of fox repellent offends her fox friend, Nick, inadvertently showcasing the impact of prejudice.

Real-World Parallels

In Zootopia, as predators inexplicably become savage, prejudice becomes more evident. Scenes such as a bunny mother distancing herself from a tiger on a train reflect real-world issues of racial sensitivity. The film turns these real-world racial sensitivity issues into a talking point, as illustrated by Judy's observation that while a bunny can call another bunny "cute," it's not acceptable when another animal does the same.

The movie effectively addresses these themes, encouraging viewers to reflect on their own biases and the importance of tolerance and understanding in society.

In conclusion, "Zootopia" skillfully weaves together entertaining storytelling with thought-provoking themes, making it a must-watch film that resonates with audiences of all ages.

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