

= Snow White (2001 film) =

Snow White : The Fairest of Them All , is a 2001 American @-@ Canadian @-@ German fantasy adventure television film co @-@ written and directed by Caroline Thompson and produced by Hallmark Entertainment . The film was first released theatrically in Europe , and subsequently aired in the United States on ABC as part of their series on The Wonderful World of Disney on March 17 , 2002 .

Based upon the traditional Snow White folktale first recorded in 1812 by German folklorists , the Brothers Grimm , the film deviates from earlier interpretations of the story in several respects . Set in a fantasy kingdom , it tells the story of Princess Snow White (Kristin Kreuk) , and the attempts of the Evil Queen Elspeth , Snow White 's evil stepmother (Miranda Richardson) , to eliminate her . Trying to escape the Queen Elspeth 's machinations , Snow White flees to the forest , where she befriends Sunday (Michael J. Anderson) , the leader of the seven dwarves , and together they plot the monarch 's overthrow .

Reviews were mixed , with Miranda Richardson 's performance coming in for particular praise , but Kristin Kreuk 's coming under criticism for being too bland . The film would subsequently be released on DVD .

= = Plot = =

John and Josephine deeply wish to have a child and when she is born with skin as white as snow , lips as red as blood , and hair as black as ebony , they name her Snow White . However , Josephine , Snow White 's mother , dies in childbirth , leaving John alone with their child . In the winter , John struggles to find food for his daughter , Snow White , when he sheds a tear over a frozen lake and frees a creature known as the Green @-@ Eyed One . As thanks for freeing him , Green @-@ Eyed One offers John three wishes . For John 's wishes , he asks for nourishment for his daughter , a kingdom to raise his family , and a queen for a new wife , as the creature cannot raise the dead .

John 's wishes come true , though he is unaware that the Green @-@ Eyed One owes Elspeth , his hideous spellcasting sister , who is an old and ugly crone , a wish of her own . In order to fulfill her ambitions , the Green @-@ Eyed One transforms Elspeth into a beautiful and young woman who will marry John and become his queen , second and new wife , and Snow White 's stepmother . The creature also provides Elspeth with a magical mirror that allows her to see others unseen and to deceive John . As years pass , Elspeth forms a good relationship with her stepdaughter , Snow White , who becomes a beautiful princess 16 years later . However , Elspeth is vain and keeps a room full of magical mirrors which assure her each day that she is the fairest of them all whenever she asks .

When Prince Alfred arrives in the kingdom and falls in love with Snow White , Elspeth is furious to discover that images of Snow White are appearing in her mirrors , which means that her stepdaughter is the fairest of them all . Driven with jealousy , Elspeth orders Hector , a hunter , to take the Princess into the forest and kill her , and then return with Snow White 's heart for her to consume . In the meantime , Elspeth transforms Alfred into a bear . Unable to kill Snow White , Hector presents Elspeth with the heart of a wild boar instead . When she learns the truth , Elspeth kills Hector , imprisons John in her mirrors , and stifles Snow White with an enchanted ribbon .

Snow White is saved by seven dwarfs , each named after the days of the week and possessing the power to transform into a rainbow to move from one place to another (but are only capable if all seven dwarfs are present) . The eldest is Sunday , who is a victim of one of Elspeth 's spells that has left half of him as a garden gnome . The dwarfs allow Snow White to care for their home , though the dwarf Wednesday is initially suspicious . When Elspeth learns that Snow White is still alive , she prepares a poisoned apple and transforms into Josephine , Snow White 's deceased mother , with the magic mirror the Green @-@ Eyed One gave her . Aided by Monday , who is turned into a garden gnome afterward , Elspeth , disguised as Josephine , finds her and convinces her to eat the enchanted and poisoned apple , which seemingly kills Snow White .

With her task finished , Elspeth tries to resume her beautiful guise with the mirror . But instead , the

magic mirror returns her to her true form , even more loathsome than before , as punishment from The Green @-@ Eyed One for killing her stepdaughter . Snow White , a sweet and innocent human being . The dwarfs , unable to save Snow White , place her in a coffin of ice and leave her near Monday 's statue . When she receives a kiss of true love from Prince Alfred , in his bear form , she is revived . The spells on Alfred , Sunday , and Monday break , and Elspeth 's mirrors shatter , freeing John . Elspeth gets tackled and killed by gnomes , who have been freed from their enchantments . Freed from Elspeth , the Green @-@ Eyed One is able to go his way . Snow White and Alfred live happily ever after while the dwarfs decide to move on to find Sleeping Beauty .

= = Cast = =

Miranda Richardson as The Evil Queen Elspeth , Snow White 's evil stepmother

Kristin Kreuk as Snow White

Karin Konoval as Elspeth 's Old Crone form

Tom Irwin as King John , Snow White 's father

Vera Farmiga as Josephine , Snow White 's mother

Tyron Leitso as Prince Alfred

Clancy Brown as the Green @-@ Eyed One , the Granter of Wishes

Michael Gilden as Monday , the red dwarf

Mark J. Trombino as Tuesday , the orange dwarf

Vincent Schiavelli as Wednesday , the yellow dwarf

Penny Blake as Thursday , the green dwarf

Martin Klebba as Friday , the blue dwarf

Warwick Davis as Saturday , the indigo dwarf

Michael J. Anderson as Sunday , the violet dwarf

José Zúñiga as Hector , the Huntsman

= = Development = =

In order to write the script , Caroline Thompson went back to the original written account of Snow White , published by the Brothers Grimm in 1812 . She came to the decision that the folktale was about the " fear of change " , as two women , Snow White and her stepmother , came to adjust with the changes that they were facing in life . Noting that the original 19th century folk tales were far " darker " in content than most 20th century adaptations , such as Walt Disney 's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937) , she sought to utilise some of these dark elements in her adaptation . The idea for the Green @-@ Eyed One was introduced by co @-@ writer Julie Hickson ; Thompson noted that he was a " genuinely moral being " who tried to help people , comparing him to the genius of the peace found in Late Medieval literature .

Upon reading the script , Kristin Kreuk noted that she had been " entranced " , believing that the main message that audiences would take away from the film was that of not judging an individual 's personality based upon their physical appearances . Richardson thought that Caroline Thompson 's adaptation was " much more in keeping " with the ethos of the Grimm tale than subsequent adaptations due to its " darker " nature . Praising Miranda Richardson as being perfect for the role of the Evil Queen , Snow White 's evil stepmother , named Queen Elspeth in this version , Caroline Thompson asserted that she had been " a blast to work with . " Caroline Thompson noted that she cast the actors to play the dwarves according to their own individual personalities ; she remarked that Warwick Davis was a " phenomenal actor " while Penny Blake was " so funny " and Michael J. Anderson was a " genius . " Together , she thought that they brought an " array of talents " to the production . Michael J. Anderson himself claimed that he identified with his character , the " philosopher of the group " , and really enjoyed playing the role . Commenting on his character of Wednesday , Vincent Schiavelli noted that he was miserable because " he really thinks that he 's a dwarf " even though he isn 't .

Caroline Thompson would also praise her " magnificent collaborators " in costume and set design .

The set designer noted that they constructed a castle that they felt was best described as " Viking art nouveau . "

= = Release = =

The film was released theatrically in Europe and the Middle East in 2001 , and debuted in the United States on March 17 , 2002 , when it was broadcast as part of ABC 's The Wonderful World of Disney series . Both Region 1 and Region 2 DVDs of the film were released . Reviewing the Artisan DVD release for the Combustible Celluloid website , Jeffrey M. Anderson praised its " gorgeous full @-@ screen transfer " , featurette , and cast @-@ and @-@ crew biographies , but highlighted that it contained no director 's commentary track .

= = Reception = =

Laura Fries reviewed the film for Variety , describing it as a " unique and lavish production that certainly warrants attention " but warning that it would be inappropriate for young children . Asserting that ABC had made a " big mistake " by airing it as a part of their Wonderful World of Disney series , she thought that it was " often nightmarish " , harking back to the original Grimm version more than the better @-@ known Disney adaptation ; in particular , she singled out the " evil queen / witch " and " satanic messenger who grants wishes . " However , she praised David Brisbin 's set design , remarking that he had created a kingdom which was " equal parts gingerbread baroque and David Lynch " and that Caroline Thompson " clearly relishes " in this universe . Noting that the " magnificently villainous performance " from Miranda Richardson " virtually steals the show " from the " doe @-@ eyed " Kristin Kreuk , she believes that the latter does " little to upgrade " the image of Snow White as the most victimized of fairytale characters .

Writing for The New York Times , Hal Erickson praised the film for mixing its " more frightening aspects " with " slapstick comedy and awesome special effects . " Jeffrey M. Anderson reviewed Snow White for the Combustible Celluloid website , awarding it three stars out of four . Remarking that Thompson " completely eradicates " the Disney interpretation of the folktale , he praised her directorial debut , noting the influence of Tim Burton but claiming that she offers " a more universal sweetness " than he does . He notes that while remaining accessible to children , the film still " drinks more deeply of the story 's dark elements " . David Parkinson of Radio Times awarded Snow White two stars out of five , praising Miranda Richardson 's performance and comparing it to that of Sigourney Weaver in Snow White : A Tale of Terror . He also acclaimed the casting of Vincent Schiavelli as the tall dwarf , but in contrast , he criticised Kristin Kreuk 's " inanimate performance " , seeing her as a " dull heroine . " M.S. Mason of the Christian Science Monitor said : " Beautiful young Kristin Kreuk makes a lovely Snow White " although felt that the film was only " passable family fare " .