

# 'Toys' Buzz and Woody blast off with a bang

**LIGHTS! CAMERA! REACTION!**

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**TOY STORY**

★★★ (out of four stars)

When I agreed to take my eight-year old nephew to see the new movie "Toy Story," I didn't have a clue what I was in for. Only one word could describe the film: awesome, incredible, amazing, superb, killer and really, really cool. Take your pick. From start to finish, I couldn't take my eyes off of the big screen. To tell you the truth, I may have gotten more enjoyment out of the movie than my nephew did.

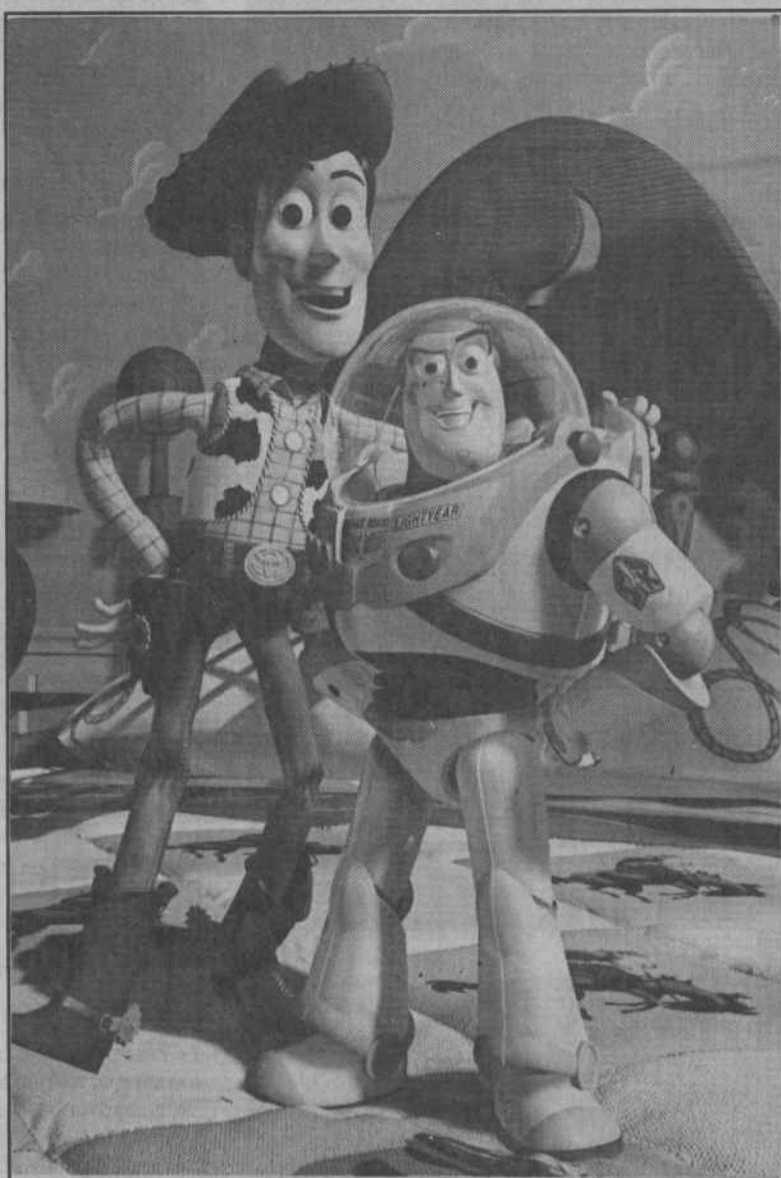
The basic idea is that toys come to life when humans are not around, and return to their "toy-state" when people return. Even though they have feelings, they realize they are there for when people want to play with them.

"Toy Story" centers around the toys belonging to a young boy named Andy. "Sheriff Woody" (voice by Tom Hanks) is the boy's all-time favorite, and the leader of the toys. "Buzz Lightyear" (voice by Tim Allen) is Andy's new toy, and a threat to becoming his favorite. Among the other toys are "Slinky Dog" (voice by Jim Varney), "Bo Peep" (voice by Annie Potts), and "Mr. Potato Head" (voice by Don Rickles). Mr. Potato Head is absolutely hilarious and will have you rolling throughout the film.

First of all, Andy's family is moving, and the toys want to make sure no one is left behind. It is also the boy's birthday, a time when the toys fear being replaced. Woody is very fearful of losing his spot on the bed with Andy, especially after meeting Buzz Lightyear, who is a space ranger. All of the toys are impressed with the new guy and accept him into the group. At the same time, however, they sense Woody's jealousy.

Buzz is later "accidentally" knocked out of the window. Taking the blame, and sensing the anger of the toys, Woody decides he must rescue Buzz to help prove it was only an accident. Upon finding each other, the two must find their way back to Andy's house before he moves.

Throughout the film, Woody tries



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Woody and Buzz Lightyear star in the first computer-animated full-length feature film (voices by Tom Hanks and Tim Allen).

to make friends with Buzz, yet at the same time wants to convince him that he is just a toy. (The guy thinks he's really a space ranger with a mission to save the universe!)

"Toy Story" is the movie industry's first-ever fully computer-animated feature film. The finished product contains a trillion bytes of information and over 114,000 frames. It's a co-production of Pixar and Walt Disney

Pictures and is directed by Academy-Award winning filmmaker John Lasseter. It's a shame it lasts a mere 77 minutes, because it leaves you wanting more.

"Toy Story" is definitely for all ages, not just the little ones. And if you're like me, you'll want to see it again. It will amaze you, delight you and will be, without a doubt, one of the best movies you'll see all year.



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Martin Short, Diane Keaton, Steve Martin and Kimberly Williams star in "Father of the Bride Part II."

## Steve makes the movie

**LIGHTS! CAMERA! REACTION!**

**Associated Press**

**FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II**

There's something mildly ironic about the ad campaign for "Father of the Bride Part II" that says to "expect the unexpected." Because if you've seen just the film's trailer, there's not much that will come as a surprise.

That doesn't mean this sequel to the original "Father of the Bride" is without charm. Despite its grinding predictability, there are some genuinely endearing moments, thanks primarily to the comic brilliance of Steve Martin.

In fact, if it weren't for Martin and his deft touch as a physical comedian, there would be little to recommend here. With his trademark mobile face and nimble form, he imbues this film with a bit of magic.

Based on the 1951 film "Father's Little Dividend," starring Spencer Tracy in Martin's role, the plot's been updated with a twist aimed squarely at aging baby boomers.

Martin plays George Banks, a contented father who has his house paid off and his daughter married. He's got a beautiful wife, Nina (Diane Keaton), a woman he seems to love more every day. His son Matty (Kieran Culkin), is stably entering adolescence, no small feat.

So, now George is relishing the onset of his golden years, gleefully anticipating his hard-earned freedom and all that it entails.

Of course, that is not meant to be.

First, daughter, Annie (Kimberly Williams), announces that she's pregnant. George narrows his eyes at son-in-

law, Bryan (George Newbern), muttering, "first that runt steals my daughter, then he makes a grandpa out of me."

That's just the beginning of George's ordeal. Before you can say, "kitchen seduction scene while the kids are out," wife Nina has her own big news to break.

Pushing 50, Nina's pregnant with their third child, makes for some of the best comic exchanges. Imagine the ridiculous possibilities of having a child younger than his niece or nephew.

Because this is Hollywood, there's never a discussion of options for Nina's unplanned pregnancy. So with the abortion issue safely skirted here, the Banks wrestle predictably with the implications of Nina's pregnancy.

This movie has such a warm, glowing Capra-esque feel about it that it never occurs to you that this dueling mother-daughter pregnancy could really pass for a campy talk-show topic: "Mother Stole Daughter's Thunder by Getting Pregnant!"

Martin Short reprises his role of Franck Eggelhoff, the maniacally unintelligible decorator-party planner. B.D. Wong is also along as his sidekick, Howard Weinstein.

One subplot of the film comes about three-quarters of the way through and very nearly deflates the light, frothy feel of the film. As Nina and Annie enter the hospital, Nina experiences a mysterious problem that threatens the unborn child.

There's a great deal of forced hand-wringing and suddenly this nicely paced effort with plenty of bounce begins to slow to dreadful dullness. There's never any question as to the outcome of the artificial crisis; it becomes something to simply endure before we can get the perfunctory warm-fuzzy ending.

# Mademoiselle



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