

Prince Caspian



Courtesy of www.media-file.net

Fantasy world engages kids and adults

By **Julie Parker-Coburn**

Copy Editor

The second installment of the famous “Chronicles of Narnia,” “Prince Caspian” achieved a remarkable feat when I saw it: even though the movie is two-and-a-half hours long, it held the attention of all the children in the theater.

The four children in the story, Narnia’s kings and queens, Peter (William Moseley), Susan (Anna Popplewell), Edmund (Skandar Keynes), and Lucy Pevensie (Georgie Henley) are sent back into the magical world they encountered a year ago, only to find out that 1,300 years had past.

The children are quickly faced with the challenge that Narnia is just a myth and was overthrown many years prior to their return. During their adventure they meet Prince Caspian, whom they rely on to help restore Narnia. Caspian (Ben Barnes) faces his own troubles with his uncle and is forced to leave his home.

With a beautiful setting of oceans, rocky cliffs, tall pine trees and forests of all colors, director Adam Adamson gives the movie a great fantasy feel. The combination of forest creatures, mythical creatures and humans invites comparisons with the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy, directed by Peter Jackson. The movie offers non-stop action that is kid friendly. “Prince Caspian” is a bit more violent than the first movie, “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” but the intensity is comparable to Disney’s “Pirates

of the Caribbean,” which shows little if any blood.

“Prince Caspian” is the second installment in the “Chronicles” but actually sits fourth chronologically in C.S. Lewis’ series of books. Some children may have been guided through the series by publication dates and others by the recommendation of Lewis’ stepson, Douglas Gresham. I was guided through Gresham’s recommendation via a schoolteacher and was oddly confused when “Prince Caspian” came out second. Knowing the series, I was able to fill in the blanks that “Prince Caspian” leaves to the viewer’s imagination. I find this a Catch-22 and feel a little jaded by Lewis’ attempt to build suspense. However, looking back, reading in the recommended order might better suit the younger mind.

Many of us read “The Chronicles of Narnia” during our elementary and middle school days. The seven-book series is unusual among children’s books as it focuses on children who take on more adult issues in a fantasy world. Some children who attended public schools after 1995 may not have had the opportunity to read any of the “Chronicles” books. Many people have argued that the series should be banned from public school libraries because of Lewis’ incorporation of religion and fantasy.

The movie abandons Lewis’ intention of explaining Christianity to a young audience. Aslan, who symbolizes faith and sight, is barely noticeable in the movie. It may have been Disney’s intention



The Chronicles of Narnia:
Prince Caspian



Rating: PG

For Epic Battle Action and Violence



to get rid of any religious undertones in the movie. However, not being a practicing Christian myself, I found the books to have great insight on how children can build inner strength and understand the power of imagination. Side stories such as the brothers’ and sisters’ feuding and tension are also wise. Their struggle within brings a higher understanding of what purpose they serve and gives a realistic look into how siblings respond to each other. Truly the books are beautiful to anyone practicing any faith or none at all. I recommend the movies if you have never read the books, but I highly encourage everyone to pick up the books.

