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Arthur Christmas

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Movie Review

Title: Arthur Christmas

Main Performers: James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie, Bill Nighy

Director: Sarah Smith

Reviewer: Amanda Durrant

Studio: Aardman Animations, Sony Pictures Animation

Year Released: 2011

Run Time: 97 minutes

MPAA Rating: PG

Interest Level: Preschool, Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent



Review

It's Christmas eve in the North Pole as the current Santa is preparing for what is thought to be his 70th and final mission of delivering presents. He doesn't use just an ordinary sleigh though, but a highly advanced spaceship called the S-1 that is managed by Santa's eldest son Steve. In the hustle and bustle of packing the sleigh, a present falls off the conveyor belt and is left behind. Santa's youngest son Arthur is on a mission to get the present delivered in time for Christmas morning, but Arthur is only responsible for the mail as he often messes things up. With the help of Bryony the elf and Grandsanta, Arthur loads the present onto the old model reindeer pulled sleigh. They set off, but encounter countless problems along the way and Arthur learns that Grandsanta is not there to help deliver the present, but for his own motives. Each of the men in Arthur's family find out that Arthur has a true heart of gold and deserves to be the next Santa as he successfully gets the forgotten present delivered and the joy of being Santa shows on his face.

This is a great Christmas movie that really exemplifies what the holiday spirit is all about. It features all the infamous Christmas figures such as Santa, the reindeer, and the elves while adding in a family for Santa. It is great for the kids to see that even magical Santa has a family that doesn't always see eye to eye, but by working together they can accomplish even things that seem impossible. This movie is entertaining for kids and adults alike, as it has fresh new take on the holiday premise, with some quips that keep the adults laughing too. The 3D computer animation is well done with vibrant colors and lots of action that introduces new technology to the time old tales of Christmas and makes it more relatable to kids of the new generation. The movie culminates with a happy ending for everyone, which is what we've come to expect from children's movies.