



2017

Muppet Treasure Island

Lisa Packard

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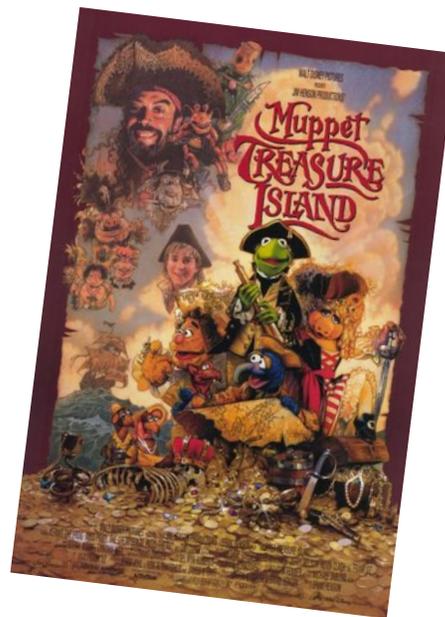
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Packard, Lisa (2017) "Muppet Treasure Island," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 38 : Iss. 1 , Article 45.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss1/45>

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Movie Review

Title: Muppet Treasure Island
Main Performers: Tim Curry, Billy Connolly, Jennifer Saunders
Director: Brian Henson
Reviewer: Lisa Packard
Studio: Jim Henson Productions
Year Released: 1996
Run Time: 99 minutes
MPAA Rating: G
Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate
Rating: Outstanding



Review

Jim Hawkins works at an inn, but wishes to be an explorer. Billy Bones, a guy staying at the inn, tells a story about buried treasure and the pirates who buried it there. A nasty bunch of pirates show up and tell Bones that if he doesn't hand over the treasure map, they'll kill him. Bones gives Jim the map before he dies and Jim decides to go on an adventure with his friends Rizzo the Rat and Gonzo the Great. They hire a ship and meet the one-legged man Long John Silver. Captain Abraham Smollett (Kermit the Frog) doesn't trust the crew and takes the treasure map from Jim so that pirates don't take it from him. When they reach the island, Silver kidnaps Jim and goes to get the treasure. Kermit meets his long lost love Benjamina Gunn (Miss Piggy) and get caught by Silver and his pirates who are still looking for the treasure. Jim escapes the pirates and returns to the ship to bring back reinforcements to save Kermit and Piggy. After the rescue, they take all the pirates prisoner, including Silver and the buried treasure. Silver escapes, but his boat sinks and is never heard of again. Jim gets to live his life of adventure and everyone gets to tag along.

This charming re-telling of the classic Treasure Island is one the whole family will enjoy. Tim Curry brings to life the villain of Long John Silver. Even though he is the sinister bad guy that uses trickery to get what he wants, he has amazing charm that you love him more and more as you listen to the silly songs and the joyful laughter he brings. Near the end when he lets Jim go, his love and admiration for Jim is hesrtwarming. Although Billy Connolly has only a brief appearance at the beginning, he sets the stage for the silliness and antics that will come. He brings a lightheartedness that gets you laughing almost immediately. Rizzo the Rat and Gonzo the Great bring great comedy to any situation, even when they are getting tortured for information. Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy, although only puppets, will have you rolling on the floor in laughter for their absurd romance. The development of this story is amazing. As Jim gets to go on his adventure and it gets more dangerous, he realizes that an adventure isn't all what it's cracked up to be, but he makes many friends and learns to understand the choices people make. He uses his bravery and courage for something good. This is a must see movie for any family that wishes to laugh and sing some silly songs about pirates and going on adventures.

*Contains mild violence.