



Welcome to Sunnyside!

Toy Story 3 Brings Beloved Trilogy Full Circle

by Brigid Presecky

SPECIAL FOR FILMS FOR TWO

The third installment of Pixar's *Toy Story* franchise bids farewell to the characters that have come to be classics in the eyes of children—and adults—everywhere. The film opens with a montage of owner Andy as a child, playing with and enjoying all of his toys as if nothing could make him happier. Director Lee Unkrich, who co-directed the franchise's second film, brings us forward to present day, a day in which Andy is headed off to college, packing his once-cherished toys away in a trunk in his bedroom. A series of accidents—and the feeling the toys get that all but Woody are about to be forgotten—lead the toys from the attic, to the trash, to a daycare donation box.

Facing destruction by hordes of toddlers, it's Woody to the rescue once again. Despite the obstacles that stand in his way (ranging from teddy bear Lotso, the self-appointed king of Sunnyside's toy domain, to an extremely well-outfitted and hilarious Ken doll), Woody plans an escape route for his gang (which includes old favorites like Buzz Lightyear, Jessie the Cowgirl, and Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head). And joining Ken and Lotso are more new characters like Aerobics Barbie and Chuckles the Clown.

Toy Story 3 doesn't hit a single false note from beginning to end. Each scene delivers on all accounts—voices from the actors (including Tom Hanks as “Woody,” Tim Allen as “Buzz,” Joan Cusack as “Jessie,” Ned Beatty as “Lotso,” Michael Keaton as “Ken,” and many, many more), sound effects, visual perfection, and most importantly, the storyline. (The screenplay was written by Michael Arndt who won an Oscar in 2007 for his *Little Miss Sunshine* screenplay.)

Although sadder and scarier than the two previous *Toy Story* movies, this particular movie might well be the most important one in the trilogy. Despite having deep, meaningful moments throughout, the film also works the funny bone. Young audiences will love seeing Mr. Potato Head transform into Mr. Tortilla Head, and older audiences will laugh out loud when Ken takes Barbie to his ‘Dream House’ to see all his snazzy outfits (choreographed to music from *Saturday Night Fever*). In 109 minutes, we get every human emotion.



Old Memories...



New Challenges

For those audience members who, like Andy (and me), are heading off to college, *Toy Story 3* teaches one important lesson—nothing stays the same forever. It exemplifies moving-on, letting go, and growing up (something not everybody is always ready to do.) As hard as we try to hold on to childhood, we have to let go, no matter how difficult it may be. Setting aside or giving away beloved, cherished toys may seem silly, but it's like giving away old friends—friends from a time when life was simple.

Winning Pixar its highest grossing opening weekend ever, *Toy Story 3* rounds out the series—for both Andy and his toys—with humor and sentiment. Evenly spreading life lessons and entertainment, *Toy Story 3* lovingly reminds audiences that moving on and growing up aren't easy tasks, but change doesn't always have to be a bad thing, especially when joy is brought to others. Though Pixar has come a long way since its debut film (the first *Toy Story*) premiered in 1994, this final installment proves that its stories still hold enough heart to fill the entire theater.

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Brigid Presecky is a recent graduate of Providence Catholic High School; she begins studies as a member of the Class of '14 at Dominican University in River Forest next month. From 9/08 thru 5/09, Brigid was a member of the Cindy Bandle Young Critics Circle sponsored by Chicago's Goodman Theatre in collaboration with the Association for Women Journalists—Chicago, & Jan was the very lucky AWJ member assigned to mentor Brigid—a very easy & most delightful assignment!

Good luck at Dominican, Brigid, & please keep in touch ☺