Enchanted
Study Notes

Synopsis

A classic Disney fairy tale collides with modern-day New York City in a story about a fairy tale princess from the past who is thrust into present-day by an evil queen. Soon after her arrival, Princess Giselle begins to change her views on life and love after meeting a handsome lawyer. Can a storybook view of romance survive in the real world?

UK release date Friday 14 December 2007

Certificate PG

Directed by Kevin Lima

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures (UK)

Teachers' Notes

This short resource gives teachers of pupils between ages 7– 14 years handy and relevant activity ideas inspired by the film Enchanted. They can be used before or after seeing the film. They are especially useful to enhance a class or school trip to see the film together at the cinema. If you are interested in finding out how Film Education can help you arrange this with your local cinema, please contact us at events@filmeducation.org

These notes examine the following areas:

■ the combination of live action plus animation – differences, similarities, the potential of each medium

■ playing with stereotypes – classic characters in modern settings. Mix and match scenarios for the fairy tale genre

■ enchanted 'make over' – make yourself over as a Prince or Princess

■ fairy tale parodies – move your favourite fairy tale to a modern setting (your hometown?)

Key Characters

Princess Giselle – an all-singing, all-dancing classic Disney Princess who is thrown into modern-day New York City after she is cursed by an evil queen

Prince Edward – Giselle's 'one true love' in the fairy tale world, Edward is a typical fairy tale prince – dashing, daring and slightly disillusioned!

Queen Narissa – the evil Queen whose jealousy of Giselle drives her to extremes

Nathaniel – Queen Narissa's right-hand man

Robert – the handsome lawyer who helps Giselle when she lands in the real world

Classic Animation
& Modern Live Action

The film Enchanted is like no other classic Disney fairy tale. It mixes the elements of traditionally animated adventure and magic with the modern-day live action setting of New York City.

Activity

1. List the Disney animated fairy tales that the class has seen. What makes them the same? What makes them different?

2. Why do you think Walt Disney chose animation as his preferred medium for such stories?

3. What can you achieve with animation that you cannot achieve in a live action movie?

4. What expectations do audiences have from a live action movie that they wouldn't have from an animated movie?

5. What do you think the effect will be to have both animation and live action in one movie?

Playing with Stereotypes

In Enchanted, we see a typical Disney princess trying to make sense of modern-day New York. She finds it hard to understand why people are not kind to her and why people aren't living 'happily ever after'. We also see a stereotypical dashing Prince struggling to come to terms with the fact that he is no longer in an enchanted forest. White chargers have changed into strange metal beasts, and magic mirrors are in fact TV screens.

Activity

Mix and match the following film stereotypes to come up with your own 'Enchanted-inspired' story scenario:

Setting	Character(s)	Object(s)
enchanted forest	animals that can tidy your room for you	poisoned apple
busy railway station	group of farm animals	tattered, old map
magic castle	beautiful princess	golden bird's cage
high-rise office block	teenage school-girl/boy	rocking chair
witch's lair	handsome prince	red rose
school playground	baby	mobile phone
cottage in the woods	evil queen	pumpkin
on a bustling high street	grumpy old man	old, dusty book
locked up in a turret	talking chipmunk	broken stool
in a house on a cul-de-sac	plucky pigeon	magic coat

For example: if you put a teenage school-boy into the enchanted forest with a golden bird's cage, what type of story would you get? What would happen if you found a talking chipmunk in a high-rise office block with a mobile phone!?

Create a story pitch for a range of different scenarios and try them out on your classmates. Choose the best one and create a script, storyboard, poster, title and synopsis for that tale.
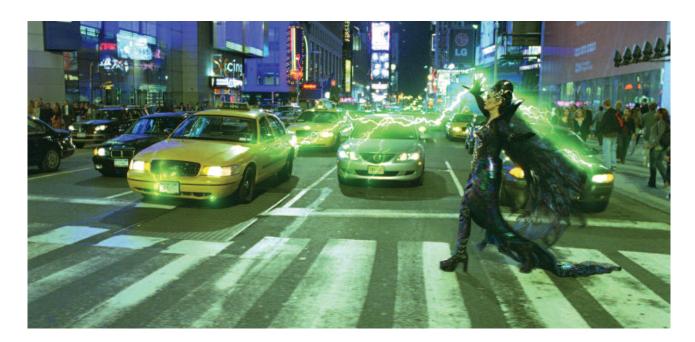
The Enchanted Make-Over

Secretly, everyone wants to be a beautiful Princess or a handsome, brave Prince.

Activity

Take pictures of each other and create 'before and after' images of how you would look if you transformed yourself into a Prince or Princess. What would you look like in a fairy tale world? What clothes would you wear? What would you be called? Where would you live? How would you talk?

Fast Forwarded Fairy Tales

Enchanted takes a classic fairy tale format and moves it to a modern setting for a whole new take on the genre.

Activity

Choose your own favourite fairy tale and re-imagine it as if it were set in your hometown now. How would the story have to change?