

Entertainment

OZ, THE GREAT AND POWERFUL

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If you're feeling like you shouldn't go see *Oz the Great and Powerful* out of loyalty to *The Wizard of Oz*, don't. Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Cowardly Lion don't make any appearances in the film which is set about 30 years before the 1939 film, way back when the Wizard was just getting started in Oz and the Wicked Witches of the East and West still looked like a beautiful woman.

This film deserves praise from all angles that includes the opening credits sequence, done in black and white, in lettering from the turn of the 20th century, the camera appearing to be flying toward the credits as a series of walls part and doors open.

The 3-D special effects are amazing.

It's in 1905 that we meet Oz as a young carnival magician. He's a fraud, an opportunist and a lothario, who is either a decent fellow underneath it all or only looks like one because he's handsome and played by James Franco. Afraid of poverty and a drab existence, he chooses the life of a mountebank, even when it means giving up the woman of his dreams. While he happens to be fleeing Kansas in a hot air balloon a tornado comes, and he ends up in Oz or maybe he doesn't.

It's interesting to view *Oz the Great and Powerful* as a possible dream which young Oz never wakes up from because he's dead and that he's a dreamer more like the girl in "Pan's Labyrinth" than Dorothy. You may counter this by asking why he dreams of the same place and characters that Dorothy does, but in the construct of this movie these just might be archetypes. This is just an idea, something to play around with if you do decide to go and see the film which is highly recommended. It's upon landing in Oz, that he meets Theodora (Mila Kunis), a sweet vulnerable young woman who is struck by the coincidence that his name is actually Oz. She automatically assumes he is the wizard,



James Franco, *The Great and Powerful Oz* and Michelle Williams, *Gilda the Good Witch*

foretold in prophecy, and instantly falls in love with him by default.

Some more food for thought comes from the clothing of Theodora. It's safe to pay close attention to how she's dressed. The Gary Jones' costume design is more than brilliant. It's psychologically incisive. If the character's clothes make you feel reassured, that means something. If a character's clothes make you uncomfortable and you don't know why, that means something else.

Nevertheless the most moving element in this film is the character of a porcelain doll, whose legs are broken in an aerial attack by an evil witch. Time stands still in the best way for the scene in which Oz glues the doll's legs back together and she can walk again. It's a flawlessly done scene, with animation effects so unbroken you forget to appreciate them. In its place you'll get carried away by the delicacy of the frames, the saccharinity of the moment and the power of the metaphor: Good and gentleness, people's lives, are porcelain, while the world rains down bombs.

Overall the *Lion's Eye* gives *Oz the Great and Powerful* a thumbs up!

What's Up with The Beibs?

Sick on Stage, Cancelled Shows, Public Arguments, What Next???

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If you follow any sort of entertainment news in your daily life, you've probably heard about the recent hiccups Justin Bieber has been having both personally and professionally – and his fans are beginning to worry. Whether you love him, or love to hate him, people everywhere are putting their two cents in to whether they deem his newest problems the beginning of the end or just a bad couple of weeks in the life of the world's most famous 19 year old.

All within the span of two weeks in March, Justin started one of his sold out shows just over two hours late, and then fainted during another. He then cancelled one of two shows in Portugal, which was rumored to be a result of "poor ticket sales", had a very public breakup with Selena Gomez, and had an all out cursing match with the paparazzi. Let's not forget his, eh hem, "argument" with his neighbor. All of this comes after allegations that Justin was seen hanging out with a rougher crowd as of late, and even partaking in recreational drug use. For this spitting clean image he has portrayed in his career thus far, this is quite a shock to his fans.

Has he been worked too hard? Is it just that he's just 19 and we should ease up? Is there a Britney Spears-esque meltdown on the way? For every instance he felt he let down fans he has appeared to make very sincere apologies almost immediately, recognizing his faults. Justin has always been a media gold mine – meaning entertainment news will blow anything out of proportion if it involves Justin Bieber to get the audience they're searching for. While I think it's a little worrisome all of this has happened within such a short amount of time, there's no doubt in my mind that Justin will be back full force after announcing to fans via Twitter that he's back in the studio writing and looking forward to new music.




A tabloid favorite, Bieber gets sick on stage in 2012



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