

THE WORD

Truth Behind Making New Sequels

Are the making of sequels for the money or the fans?

by **Rey Galvan**

Staff Writer

Pixar Animations Studios is ready to roll out some fan-requested sequels starting next year in 2016, but the big question is: are they doing it for the money or for the fans?

This past August, Pixar Animations Studios attended Disney D23 Expo in their own panel and revealed more information on the total lineup of sequels starting next year. John Lasseter, chief creative officer of Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios, announced that there will be four new sequels including: Finding Dory, The Incredibles 2, Cars 3, and Toy Story 4.

Screenwriter and producer Michael Givens, who helped make Tough Guys and has worked with well-known actresses such as Big Bang Theory's Kaley Cuoco, offered up his opinion from a filmmaker's perspective. "People wonder if they do it for the money; Pixar's num-

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ber one rule is that they don't make sequels. If they make a sequel, it has to have an important story to tell and be a high quality product," says Givens.

Givens pointed out that Toy Story 2 and 3 was a great ex-

ample of a sequel with the right story and good quality.

President of Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios Ed Catmull spoke to Buzzfeed back in 2013 addressing why Pixar made sequels saying, "Every once in a while, we get a film where we want or people want to see something continuing in that world -- which is the rationale behind the sequel. They want those characters, which means we were successful with them. But if you keep doing that, then you aren't doing original films."

Going back on whether it's done for the money or for the fans, senior Raizel Salazar made her own notion on the matter.

"I think the money and fans are both important to the movie makers and writers since they have to have a decent audience in order to profit from these sequels," Salazar says. While speaking to the L.A. Times last year, Lasseter asserted Pixar's reasoning for doing sequels.

Lasseter explained, "A lot of people in the industry view us doing sequels as being for the business of it, but for us it's pure passion. We only make sequels when we have a story that's as good as or better than the original."

Whatever the public audience seems to perceive, it appears as if Pixar is truly doing it for the story and not necessarily for the money. As Givens was quick to point out, "A sequel is fine if you have something important to say."

MTV Video Music Awards Red Carpet Experience

My experience of taking a look behind the cameras

by **Marisa Lopez**

Entertainment Editor

Courtesy of the Iiota Team, I got the chance to attend the red carpet for the MTV Video Music Awards on August 30th in Los Angeles. Kanye West, Taylor Swift, and Justin Bieber were only a few of the celebrities that graced the red carpet. The executives of the awards show decided to break tradition and make the pre-show celebration a bit different this year.

Our check-in spot was held in the shopping center Fig&7th's parking structure. We waited in line to scan our tickets and walk to the venue. This year, the red carpet took place on the top floor of a parking structure, but not outside of course, or else we would surely melt due to the extreme heat. We were led into a humongous tent that didn't even make me feel like we were on a parking structure. The inside was air conditioned and the set-up was nothing like any other red carpet.

The carpet was almost like a maze, going in all of these different directions just to get the end. Different press representatives and companies were scattered along as they awaited the stars to finish their poses on the carpet. Untraditionally, the carpet was not red nor was it even a solid color; it resembled the design of a television that lost connection. You know, the rainbow colorblocked screen? Yes, that

adorned the carpet underneath all of the dressy oxfords and high heels that walked along it. They had one main stage for two of the live stream performers, Walk the Moon and Todrick Hall. Along each section of the maze-like carpet, fans stood behind the rope to admire the stars that walk by.

My friends and I were at the very end section of the carpet so it was where the stars exited. We were only two rows back,

mirable. You're getting a behind-the-scenes perspective on what everyone is doing before the show and how they are off cameras. You could see the celebrities talking to one another and sharing a laugh here and there. The performances were so much fun to watch; the stage for Walk the Moon and Todrick Hall was at a distance behind us, so we just had to turn around and have fun. As celebrities came to our end point, they would talk to us and



Pre-show performers, Walk the Moon, working the carpet

which was great for us. One of the press representatives that stood in our section was the Make a Wish Foundation. They greeted celebrities, talked about their organization, and took pictures. There was also a giant green screen for the celebrities to place abnormally large, funny stickers on and afterwards, they would take pictures in front it. The whole atmosphere was ad-

mirable. We got to see Vanessa Hudgens, Cody Christian from the MTV show Teen Wolf, YouTube icon GiGi Gorgeous, and many more. It was definitely an event I will not forget.

If you are ever interested in going to events like these, sign up at Iiota.com! They will definitely give you a night to remember, as they did for me at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Beauty Behind the Madness: Album Review

How the mysterious figure became a superstar

by **Vanessa Perez**

Special Features Editor

Alternative R&B singer The Weeknd (aka Abel Tesfaye) recently released his highly anticipated album Beauty Behind the Madness to a positive response from fans and a mixed reaction from critics.

The once mysterious Canadian act has now become one of the biggest artists on the planet with his more "mainstream" piece of work. With top hits such as "The Hills", "Can't Feel My Face," and "Earned It" under his belt, Tesfaye has solidified himself as a superstar in music. The album definitely contrasts from his earlier work such as Trilogy and Kiss Land, which contained simple beats and haunting vocals, but The Weeknd still manages to keep his dark style on pop and dance infused tracks.

"I liked the album because I think it's the best music he's made in his style," senior Saul Ruvalcaba stated. "No other artist is making music like him."

The album's first track "Real Life" starts off with a warped guitar before leading into Tesfaye's signature high vocals. The production is impressive as it mixes synths with soft strings and piano, easily setting the tone for the rest of the album.

Track 2 "Losers" is a collaboration with British soul singer Labrinth. The song infuses jazz elements with an almost techno beat between the hook and the verse. Tesfaye asks listeners "So what can you show me / That

relationships, and drugs. While the lyrics deal with not so pretty topics, The Weeknd still manages to deliver them in a warm way with his superb vocals. The old school hip hop sample mixed with electronic beats is also reminiscent of West's earlier work on Gradu-



The Weeknd (Abel Tesfaye) performing live at a recent concert

my heart don't know already?"

Next up is "Tell Your Friends." Co-produced by Kanye West, the track gives listeners an exclusive look at Abel's lifestyle: fame, re-

lation and 80s & Heartbreaks.

One of Tesfaye's most well known tracks "Can't Feel My Face" is like nothing he's ever done before. The classic pop song

the Night" was inspired by Jackson's "The Way You Make Me Feel" causing critics to nickname Tesfaye "The Dark Side of MJ." The features on BBTM are hard-

ly anything but extraordinary. "Dark Times," featuring fellow hit maker Ed Sheeran, is a blues-infused ballad that contains some of the most emotive lyrics on the album: "Only my mother could've loved me for me / In my dark times."

Fan favorite "Prisoner" guest stars Tesfaye's female counterpart when it comes to somber lyrics and falsetto vocals, Lana Del Rey, delivering a morbid R&B song that doesn't disappoint the fans who have wanted this collaboration for years.

The Weeknd even took to twitter to thank the songstress for her contribution to the record. "Thank you @LanaDelRey for lending your beautiful presence to this project. You mean the world."

The album is definitely different from anything The Weeknd's ever done. Looking back at his past work, it's clear that the once mysterious Tesfaye is ready to become a superstar with his unique mix of pop, jazz, dance, and R&B beats and his beautiful vocals.

All in all, although it's a new experience from his past projects, Beauty Behind the Madness has the power to cement The Weeknd as one of the leading artists in the music argument. My favorite tracks are "Angel," "Losers," "In the Night," and "Acquainted." I would give this album a solid 9/10.