

Frozen Movie Review

by Brett Cooper



Disney's *Frozen* is the new *Wizard of Oz*. It is a film that within the next ten years the vast majority of moviegoers will have seen. A film that for many will be a perennial favorite. A film that will melt hearts.

My wife and I have four boys, ages 9-15. No girls. You'd think we're not exactly the target audience for the princess-focused *Frozen*. Yet our boys saw it in theaters. Twice. And my wife and I did so twice more. And we are not musical fans, Disney nuts or weirdos - I swear.

How can an animated flick about two princesses, their two castles, their two snowmen and a whole lot of winter compare to films featuring the likes of Lawrence, Cooper, Phoenix, Bullock and Dench?

3 Reasons Why *Frozen* is Hot

Reason #1 - The Music

After years of floundering, Disney finally fixed their flat feature malaise by tapping Broadway talent. Robert Lopez, who along with wife Kristen Anderson-Lopez wrote and composed *Frozen's* many memorable songs, is known for his Tony-winning work on *Avenue Q* and *The Book of Mormon*. Idina Menzel, the voice of Princess Elsa, performed in a number of Broadway hits, including *Rent* and *Wicked*. These three represent the tip of *Frozen's* talent iceberg. The result of the ensemble's collective expertise is a varied selection of catchy, clever, amusing and poignant songs that form the backbone of the movie's success.

The other day while grocery shopping at Aldi, my wife and I overheard two girls who must have been about ten years old trading lyrics from *Frozen's* "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" I've also caught 8th grade girls in my classroom belting out the Oscar-nominated "Let It Go." And recently YouTube has seen a flurry of homemade *Frozen* fan renditions such as this [cat remake](#) and this [cuteness overload overdub](#). I'd say these are proof of the power of the movie's music.

Reason #2 - The Characters

Frozen's cast of characters offers something for everyone:

Elsa - The tormented older princess. Her magical powers must be repressed, or she will hurt those she loves. "Conceal, don't feel" is her motto.

Anna - The unflappable younger princess. Though frustrated because she doesn't understand why her sister always keeps her distance, nothing will hold Anna back from a rescue mission when Elsa accidentally sets off an eternal winter and then flees the kingdom to hide her magic.

Olaf - The adorably comical magical snowman who sees the world through summer-colored glasses. When skewered by an icicle, for example, he says in bemused wonderment: "Oh, look at that. I've been impaled!"

Hans - The suitor prince. He's perfect. Too perfect? Anna doesn't think so. When Hans sings, "We finish each other's..." Anna replies, "sandwiches!" At which Hans declares, "That's what I was gonna say!"

Kristoff - An ice-selling mountain man. He's more comfortable sharing carrots with his reindeer Sven than he is dealing with people. "Reindeers are better than people," he sings while voicing both parts of a duet with his faithful furry buddy.

Plus many more characters... including the deliciously self-serving Duke of Weselton ("not Weaseltown!"), a genial family of love-expert stone trolls, and Oaken, proprietor of a trading post /sauna, who looks like a middle-aged, hulking-up version of the blond guy from Abba, with impressive facial hair and a Swedish accent three sizes too small for his barrel of a body.

Reason #3 - The Themes

Frozen's secret sauce is its sophisticated development of themes. It features four primary themes that ably guide young viewers and resonate powerfully for adults. Here is a short, spoiler-free rundown:

1. Hiding your true self leads to a "frozen heart."
2. Running away from your problems does not solve them.
3. A sacrifice of true love need not be of the romantic variety.
4. Attitude is everything.

If you agree with any of these notions, or if you like good music, or appreciate good characters, or call yourself a movie fan, you need to see *Frozen*. Even if you don't care for Disney. Even if you don't dig musicals. Even if you don't have any little girls.