

Document Citation

Title	Robin Hood
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Source	<i>Films In Review</i>
Date	1973 Dec
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	625-626
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Robin Hood, Reitherman, Wolfgang, 1973

ROBIN HOOD

If the viewer, young or old, is willing to forego memories of a "classic" Robin Hood, the legendary hero, and accept a cartoon form that transposes familiar characters into animals with somewhat tenuous adherence to the old story, he will have a good time with the new Walt Disney version, produced and directed by Wolfgang Reitherman.

This is a gay and happy picture with slight, but lilting melodies, good dubbing in of human voices, and delightful dialogue which is often witty and highly amusing. A rooster-minstrel, (voice Roger Miller who also wrote some of the music) sings an

"updated" folk-style ballad based on one of Robin Hood's (allegedly) favorite expressions, "Oo-de-lally." Little John as a bear (Phil Harris' voice) warbles a funny version of an old medieval tune, renamed "The Phoney King of England." Friar Tuck is a badger (voice Andy Devine). Robin Hood (voice Brian Bedford) and Maid Marian (voice Monica Evans) are foxes and cleverly gowned. Prince John (voice Peter Ustinov) is a vain, cowardly, scrawny, ill-tempered lion, whose adviser is a flattering snake, Sir Hiss (voice Terry Thomas). They make an hilarious pair.

We see medieval England with its castles and towns, an archery tournament and an array of animals — mice, rabbits, raccoons, as well as trumpeting elephants and marching rhinos which Sherwood Forest never sheltered. Also in Prince John's entourage as duenna to Maid Marian is an endearingly plump hen, Lady Kluck (voice Carole Shelley). Directing animators Milt Kahl, Frank Thomas, Ollie Johnston and John Lounsbery have done an outstanding job. The George Bruns music has all tripping along beautifully. For anyone who enjoys movies and likes to come home with a pleasant taste in the mouth, it's your dish.

TATIANA BALKOFF LIPSCOMB