Cats on Film Pod

Transcript

Cats on Film Pod Episode 6
Stuart Little (1999)



INTRO JINGLE

INTRO SHOW

RAY
Hi everybody! Welcome to *Cats on Film Pod*. I'm your host, Ray Allyn, here with my co-host, Skipper.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Thanks for joining us every Tuesday as we review cats in film – the felineness of the cats, the humaneness of the humans, and what that tells us about the people on screen and behind the scenes. There will be spoilers.

Our movie today is *Stuart Little,* released in 1999. It's a combination of live action and CGI animation.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Let's recap!

Fluffy white Snowbell lives with some white people who decide to adopt a white mouse, Stuart, as their son. They chastise Snowbell for trying to eat the mouse. He's so offended that he asks some outdoor cats to help him get rid of Stuart.

But Snowbell's emotional attachment to the humans leads him to betray the outdoor cats to save a mouse. He still chases the mouse around the house, but doesn't get to eat 'im.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yep, entering on another unexpected cat scare – classic!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
I don't find the CGI mouths creepy, either.

CLIP FROM STUART LITTLE
STUART
Snowbell! Snowbell! You can't leave me!
SNOWBELL
Talk to the butt.
STUART
Snowbell, where you going?
SNOWBELL
Oh, I've gotta stare at traffic, yawn, lick myself. And believe me, that can take hours if you do it right. Ciao!

RAY
Quite realistic, aside from Nathan Lane's human voice.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
True. Smokey's right . . .

CLIP FROM STUART LITTLE
SMOKEY
A cat can't have a rodent for a master. I mean, what's this world coming to? It's against the laws of nature! Word of this gets out, it'll be bad for cats all over.

RAY
What *is* the distinction between animals that are pets, and animals that are treated more like people? Is it just that mice can walk on two legs?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Why wouldn't you want to speak a human language, Skipper?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
How would you compare the trade-off of your level of independence to the rights that humans give to animals who use human languages, such as apes?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Ouch. Yeah, yeah.
But might Snowbell get a say in who lives with the Littles if he spoke English to the humans?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
They keep insisting Snowbell go against his nature. Untold generations of cats have been ridding human homes of pesky vermin.
The "choosing your family" lesson is a nice notion, but in forcing their human values on Snowbell, he's brainwashed into turning against his fellow felines!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
And real live kitties getting thrown in the water! The mouse is fully CGI, but real live cats have to suffer through the betrayal sequence.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yeah, it was nice seeing them running through the park together. Mainstream media doesn't show that outdoor cat perspective very often.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
How do you rate the way cats are handled in *Stuart Little?*

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
One out of four paws might be too good for this one.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
True. They *are* realistic.

SKIPPER
Meows

END STING

RAY
Thank you for listening to *Cats on Film Pod.* Know somebody who loves children's book adaptations? Share this episode with them!

OUTRO JINGLE

END CREDITS

RAY
This episode was voiced and produced by Ray Allyn, with music by The DōsMan, and additional sounds from FreeSound.org.

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Cats on Film Pod!

SKIPPER
Meows