

The Nightmare Before Christmas

Before I'd seen one of Tim Burton's older film's, "The Nightmare before Christmas", I really did not enjoy his productions. Thanks to this film in particular, I like them even less. The full production of the film took little over three years to complete, so obviously it was an enormous project **(6)**. Alike the rest of them, the characters were ugly looking, and not pleasant to look at. Alike the rest of them, Danny Elfman (who appears as a musical score composer frequently in his films) had created annoyingly cheerful tracks, that did not fit in with the rest of the film. *Unlike* the rest of them, "The Nightmare before Christmas" did have a unique, yet simple storyline **(1) (2)**.

Possibly one of the biggest problems I have with Tim Burton's films is the way that his characters look **(3)**. Almost always they are ugly and distorted and do a lot to stop me from liking them. One of the most important elements in any movie, is that the audience like the main character – and in every single one of the Tim Burton films I've seen, I haven't liked the main character. In this particular film of his the protagonist is Jack, the Pumpkin King. To an infant he may seem scary, with his spidery movements and skeletal appearance, however once you pass the age of eleven maybe, he seems pathetic and weak **(4) (5)**. It appears to us that he is the leader of all the Halloween creatures, and yet the kinds of things that he does are rash and stupid **(7)**. Of course this is going to make you like him even less, despite Burton's obvious attempts at the opposite. Burton may have a reason for creating his characters in an embarrassingly ugly way, but I am unable to see it and as far as I am concerned believe that this is almost single handedly the reason his films are not very successful.

Another annoying factor stopping me from enjoying Burton's films (in particular, the Nightmare Before Christmas) is the musical score **(3)**. I don't know if it is just me but the soundtrack to a film makes all the difference to whether I enjoy it or not. And of course as you can guess, the soundtrack in Burton's films is not something I enjoy. Danny Elfman, the directors prime source of music in his films, can at times create some superb tracks, however generally I find that his music does not fit in with the film **(7)**. In "The Nightmare before Christmas" Elfman does the voice of Jack, as well as compose the music. Personally I thought he did not have much of a voice, and Burton had poor choice in selecting him to be the protagonist's voice. Also, as the film is set in a dark, gloomy place aka Halloween, I would have expected a darker, and gloomier soundtrack to go with it. Acknowledging, that there is a small percentage of the world that does enjoy stopmotion, this particular film of Burtons was thought unsuitable for a younger audience because of the violent and dark themes in the film – and yet I can't think of anyone older than that who would enjoy a film like this **(5) (7)**.

Finally, there was one more noticeable factor in this film to me: The Storyline **(3)**. Just as the music and appearance of the characters highlighted the faults in the film, the storyline highlighted the finer qualities of Tim Burton. As often as you would find a bad soundtrack or ugly protagonist in his films you can almost always count on him to produce an interesting and unique storyline. This storyline and plot in particular is the kind that other film writers kick themselves over. Such a simple, yet effective plot, I'm sure is what carried the film so far, gaining fans of all ages **(5) (7)**.

Some might say that the plot is even good enough to cancel out the obvious flaws in the music and character design. Personally, however I believe that those two factors are far too important for any plot – no matter how amazing – to overcome. Tim Burton's "the Nightmare Before Christmas" took a little over three years to complete, in my opinion, an enormous waste of time **(6)**. Perhaps, to another person, who did not care as much about how the characters looked and the music, another person who enjoyed the stop-motion, the film would be half-decent. But to an outside viewer, someone with no passion for stop-motion or Tim Burton's work, I feel that this film was a waste of time not only to make, but also to watch **(6)**.