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REVIEWS

'Her Majesty' preview to benefit youth camp

By

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By December Lambeth

Reviewer

"Her Majesty" — a poignant story about a young girl who comes of age — will have its American sneak preview in Kansas City at 7:45 p.m. at the Glenwood Arts Theatre in Overland Park, Kan., on Thursday, April 29, to raise funds for Rotary Club 13's Youth Camp in Lee's Summit.

The film will officially open to the public on Friday, April 30th.

Through a special arrangement with Mark J. Gordon, writer-director of the film, and the film's U.S. theatrical distributor, Panorama Entertainment, Rotary Club 13 will host a "sneak preview" of the movie for interested movie-goers at \$10 per person with a question-and-answer session with Gordon following the screening. For a \$20 donation, attendees will receive a ticket to the movie plus a ticket to a special patron wine reception with Gordon later in the evening.

Gordon, who has written a number of independent films, wrote the fictional account of "Her Majesty."

The film, set in New Zealand, has won scores of awards at film festivals around the world and tells the rich tale of 13 year-old Elizabeth Wakefield, a New Zealand girl who lives in the town of Middleton and realizes her lifelong dream when Queen Elizabeth comes to her small hometown.

The movie touches on universal themes and ideas of tolerance and truth, love and friendship and courage in the face of adversity.

"Her Majesty" is a quaint film that warms the heart and makes the audience think about humanity. Set in New Zealand in the year 1953, it's amazing to see the similarities between life at that place and time and what it's like here and now. Elizabeth Wakefield (Sally Andrews), lead character, is faced with becoming a young lady, all that comes with it and more. She is dealing with her brat brother, racism against the Maori people, small town thinking, puppy love, and idealizing the queen. Elizabeth thought of the queen as teens today would think of Britney Spears: She hung posters up on her walls and put on pretend coronations.

She has a huge crush on her drill team instructor, even though he is too old for her, and has an older brother who taunts her every day. Elizabeth, against her father's wishes, becomes close friends with a Maori woman, Hira (Vicky Haughton). She gets the opportunity to learn so much from Hira; about the true history of the town and how the Maoris people had owned the land.

Town folk had chastised Hira and the kids would torment her by throwing stones at her windows and calling her a witch.

Elizabeth didn't care if she would get the same treatment, she believed in truth and equality for all. She was quite a mature little girl with a clear way of thinking. The characters are so rich and full of life and conviction in "Her Majesty," one can't help but to laugh and cry along with them.

Mark J. Gordon, writer and director, worked hard to get the Hollywood studio system interested, but finally found himself going to outside funding. "Her Majesty" is funded completely by private individuals.

"Her Majesty" will be playing at the Glenwood Arts Theatre in Overland Park, starting Friday April 30th.

For tickets to the event or for more information, call 835-2088.

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