

“Learn to believe again” *Bridget Jones’ story continues*

Angie Stewart
Charger Staff

It is time to get into the holiday spirit! What better way to do that than by watching a Christmas

The Polar Express is rated G and directed by Robert Zemeckis (*Forrest Gump, Cast Away*). Tom Hanks (*Forrest Gump, Cast Away*), Michael Jeter (*Open Range, Welcome to Collinwood*), Peter Scolari

changes when a steam train arrives in the front of his house called The Polar Express. At first he is somewhat shocked and stunned and does not want to get on the train. Finally, at the last minute, he takes the plunge and jumps on.

He is told the train is headed to the North Pole to see Santa Claus, but he remains skeptical. However, the young boy meets new kids and makes many new friends along the way.

All kinds of magical and strange things happen on the train that he can not explain yet he still has doubts.

Finally, the train arrives at the North Pole.

Somehow the little boy and his friends get lost from the group. They have to find their way around the North Pole to see Santa Claus before he leaves to do his Christmas runs.

After many adventures and challenges they finally make it to see Santa. But the young boy wonder if seeing Santa will make him believe there is a Santa again or not.

The characters in *The Polar Express* looked like real humans. New technology called “performance capture” made this possible. The actors’ live-action movement and emotions are shown using this system. This opens up many creative opportunities for actors and filmmakers.

The actors did an excellent job in *The Polar Express* in capturing the characters and their voices. Tom Hanks was the voice for five different characters and surprisingly even contributed in a song.

The Polar Express is a magical tale based on a Caldecott Medal Children’s book by Chris Van All-

Allison Coffey
Charger Staff

Ever since she first entered the hearts of millions, Bridget Jones has been a heroine to many women. Now, three years after the first movie was released, Bridget is back for a second time in *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*. Both movies show Jones, played by Renée Zellweger, as a thirty-something year old bachelorette looking for love.

The first movie introduced us to the heroine, her friends and her two love interests: Mark Darcy, played by Colin Firth, and Daniel Cleaver, played by Hugh Grant. *The Edge of Reason* begins a few months after the first movie stopped. Bridget and Mark are together and everything

seems to be going fine with the heroine. This of course is not the case. Soon after we see the couple blissfully happy, Bridget becomes

which Bridget works. Bridget, after a series of mishaps, ends up in jail. The movie ends happily, somewhat reminiscent of the first movie. Both movies are based on books written by Helen Fielding.

Though the books are humorous, the slight and not-so-slight changes in the movies make them more enjoyable.

There are a few blurry spots in the movie and times when the music overshadowed Bridget’s voice. All of this is forgivable after the scene in which Mark and Daniel fight in water with “I Believe in a Thing Called Love” by The Darkness playing in the background.

Since it is *Bridget Jones*, this movie is the perfect excuse for girls to ditch their guys and finally have some fun!



movie?

The Polar Express is one such Christmas movie hitting theaters this holiday season. It opened in theaters on Nov. 10. It ranked second in the box office during its first week of release.

(*Reflections*), and Nona Gaye (*Ali, The Matrix: Reloaded*) provide the voices for the characters.

The Polar Express is about a young boy who is having doubts about the existence of Santa Claus.

One Christmas Eve, everything

Amber Dixon
Charger Staff

Trans-Siberian Orchestra play old Christmas music with a new age twist. They have released four CDs and a DVD. Some of their songs include, “God Rest Yea Merry Gentlemen” and “Carol of the Bells” (my favorite).

They have three albums which include, *Christmas Eve and Other Stories* (released in 1996), *The*



Christmas Attic (released in 1998) and *The Lost Christmas Eve*, which was released last year and featured twenty-three songs.

TSO are among the top five holiday sales every Christmas. When they make an album, it takes almost one hundred people, including the members of the orchestra, singers and the rock band.

Paul O’Neill started TSO eight years ago.

TSO tours every Christmas season. They can only perform half the crew at a time during their performances.

Rayne returns with a vengeance

Kristen Herd
Charger Staff

The half vampire/half human temptress, Rayne is back again and as bad as ever in *BloodRayne 2* on Xbox and Playstation 2. Rayne has a fresh new haircut and a new mission to fulfill. She is taking on a more personal fight. Her father, Kagan, killed her mother and the rest of her family. Her siblings are trying to take over a city and Rayne must stop them. Her siblings call themselves the Cult of Kagan. The Cult of Kagan has designed a way for the vampires to walk around in broad daylight. This could mean the end of humanity. This invention has been named “The Shroud.”

Rayne is the only way that the cult can be terminated, and she will stop at nothing to get it done.

BloodRayne 2 has more attack combos. That means that, for all the gamers like myself who panic when in danger and hit every button on the keypad, that tactic might pay off because an attack combo could result.

Rayne can now fence and grate poles. These moves make it easier for Rayne to get around the areas that she needs to be in.

Rayne’s vision modes are the same as in the first *BloodRayne*. She can find her next target by bringing aura vision into view. This helps Rayne seek out enemies and directions she needs to go next.

Dilated vision puts everything into slow motion so she can attack her enemies more accurately. There is also a blood rage mode to cause more damage as she is advancing on her victims.

There is also more music for players to enjoy. To make the music better, Dolby Digital enhances the games sound.

With more fatalities and all new cheats, anyone is sure to have a great time playing *BloodRayne 2*. New *BloodRayne* entertainment will be out soon. This month a comic, *BloodRayne: Skies Afire* will be released from Echo Worldwide. In addition to the comic, a movie is scheduled to come out, *BloodRayne: The Movie*.



BLOODRAYNE2 -- Rayne stops to gather her plans for her next attack on her siblings. She will attack them with her blades of fury, as she continues on with her vengeance against her family. Photo courtesy of bloodrayne2.com.

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