

'Ice Age' sequel leaves fans in the cold

'Adventures of Buck Wild' ruined by Disney

By Rajiv Venkatesh

The first few Ice Age movies are family films, enjoyable whether you prefer slapstick comedy or cleverly crafted jokes about evolution. However, the latest addition to the franchise, "The Ice Age Adventures of Buck Wild" lacks its predecessors' broad appeal, choosing to limit itself to a simpler, less thoughtful form of comedy.

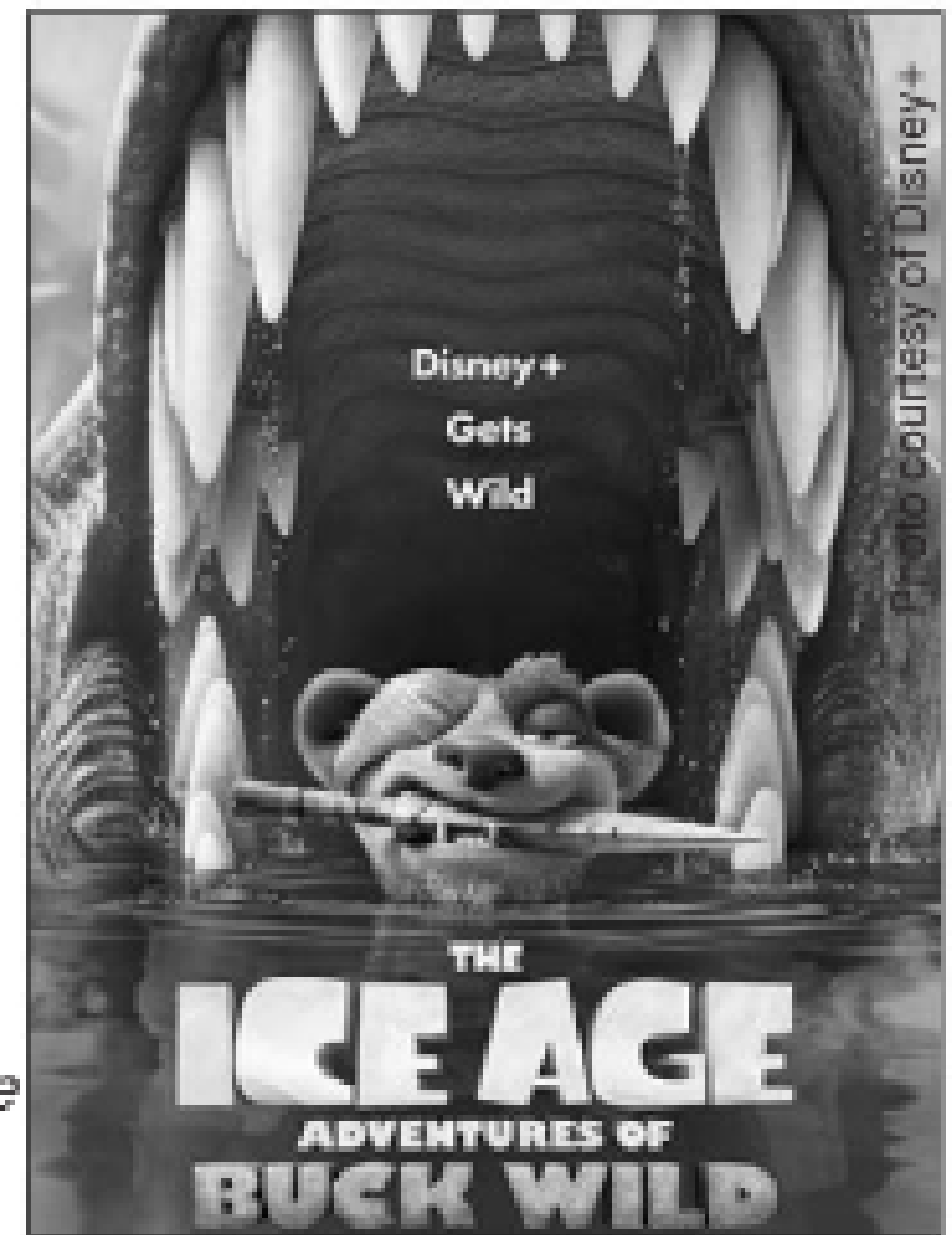
Gone are the days in which the original voice cast was joined by stars like Queen Latifah and Drake. Instead, most voice actors from the previous films were recast, adding to the feeling that this movie is a spin-off, rather than a true addition to the franchise. The newly cast voice actor for Manny does his best to replicate Ray Romano's irritated yet comforting voice, but the end product is no better than if Siri had been cast as the voice of the animated mammoth.

While many of the recast voices appear for only a brief moment, viewers must deal with the worst part of the movie – the villainous dinosaur Orson for almost all of its 90-minute runtime. The Ice Age franchise has always loved anachronisms, inventing a fantastical "Lost World" of dinosaurs despite their extinction over 63 million years before the franchise's eponymous time period. However, I feel that a scientist should have been consulted, or at the very least someone with a sense of aesthetics, since my memory of the villain's storyline is clouded by my fear while watching the movie of Orson's grotesque, protruding brain.

Though the villain is the worst part of the film, the absence of Scrat is a close second. In each of the six movies that preceded, the squirrel-rat hybrid provided comic relief as

he created the continents and caused floods on his relentless quest for his beloved acorn. However, Disney was unable to include Scrat in this movie after losing the rights to the character. This is perhaps the film's greatest loss, since its director is most famous for an Oscar-nominated short film about Scrat, and would have been able to improve the film by incorporating Scrat in some greater way.

In the end, "The Ice Age Adventures of Buck Wild" goes the way of Scrat: another franchise ruined by Disney. As it searches for a plot, for some deeper meaning, it comes up empty, with only a paltry 90 minutes of mildly entertaining swashbuckling to show for it.



ICE AGE SPINOFF:
New movie should have been a TV show.

'The Ice Age Adventures of Buck Wild'

Genre: Animated Comedy

Released: January 28, 2022

