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The early Diancy carbons viers, of course, palmatainingly accorded by hand. There has been intended to the early consistency of computer projection could supplied or palmatain. But so, bloom animators are responsible for the sometrately convincing partiage. But and the cities major characters, who sometree has an another hand animal body request. But computers that exists with several tenestrable converse including a stampeds in which APP bates are seened to how paul the centure.

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My generation grew up mourning the death of Bambl's mother. Now comes "The Lion King," with the death of Mufasa, the father of the lion cub who will someday be king. The Disney animators know that an always and ancient archetypes like the crime of regicide. The Lion King, which is a over the superbly drawn animated feature is surprisingly solemn in its subject matter, and may even be too an animated intense for very young children visationally comes in the superbly drawn animated feature and the graph of the film sittle latest in a series of annual media eyents from Disney, which with "The Little Mermald," the subject inspiration for these recent films comes from the earliest feature carrons created by Walt Disney who himself; who in movies like "Dumbo," with the chaining of Mrs. Jumbo, and "Snow White and the several hound seven Dwarfs," with its wicked stepmother, tapped into primal fears and desires. Later Disney films behind different with the except of into the neverland of innocuous "children's movies," which were harmless but not very mean flow drifted off into the neverland of innocuous "children's movies," which were harmless but not very mean flow drifted off into the neverland of innocuous "children's movies," which were harmless but not very mean flow drifted off into the neverland of innocuous "children's movies," which were harmless but not very mean flow exciting. These most recent four animated features are once again true "family films," in that they entertain adults as well as children.

"The Lion King" is the first Disney animated feature not based on an existing story. In another sense it is based on half the stories in classical mythology. It tells the tale of the birth childhood and choice of the purply eventual manhood of Simba, a lion cub. The cub's birth is announced in the opening sequence of the movie, called "The Circle of Life," which is an evocative collaboration of music and animation to show movie, called "The Circle of Life," which is an evocative collaboration of music and animation to show all of the animals of the African veid gathering to hall their future king. The cute little cub is held aloft the minimals of the African veid gathering to hall their future king. The cute little cub is held aloft the minimals of the African veid gathering to hall their future king. The cute little cub is held aloft the minimals of the African veid gathering to hall their future king. The cute little cub is held aloft the minimals of the African veid gathering to hall their future king. The cute little cub is held aloft the minimals of the African veid gathering to hall their future king. The cute little cub is held aloft the minimals of the African veid gathering to hall their future king. The cute little cub is held aloft the minimals of the African veid gathering to hall their future king. The cute little cub is held aloft the minimals of the African veid gathering to hall their future king.

Of course this coming together of zebra and gazelle, monkey and wildebeest, fudges on the uncomfortable fact that many of these animals survive by eating one another. And all through "The Lion King" the filmmakers perform a balancing act between the fantasy of their story and the reality of the lungle. Early scenes show Simba as a cute, trusting little tike who believes everyone loves him. He is wrong. He has an enemy - his uncle Scar, the king's jealous brother, who wants to be king himself one day.

Villains are often the most memorable characters in a Disney animated film, and Scar is one of the great ones, aided by a pack of yipping hyenas who act as his storm troopers. With a voice by Jeremy Irons, and facial features suggestive of Irons' gift for sardonic concealment, Scar is a mannered, manipulative schemer who succeeds in bringing about the death of the king.

Worse, he convinces Simba that the cub is responsible, and the guilty little heir slinks off into the wastelands. (The movie makes a sly reference to a famous earlier role by Irons. When Simba tells wastelands. (The movie makes a sly reference to a famous earlier role by Irons. When Simba tells wastelands.) (The movie makes a sly reference to a famous earlier role by Irons. When Simba tells wastelands, "You're so weird," he replies "You have no idea," in exactly the tone he used in "Reversal of him, "You're so weird," he replies "You have no idea," in exactly the tone he used in "Reversal of Fortune.") It is an unwritten law that animated features have comic relief, usually in the form of a duet or trio of goofy characters who become buddles with the hero. This time they are a meerkat named Timon (voice by Nathan Lane) and a warthog named Pumbaa (Emie Sabella), who cheer up Simba during his long exile.

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The movie has a large cast of other colorful characters, including a hornbill named Zazu (Rowan Atkinson), who is confident and advisor to King Mufasa (James Earl Jones). And there are the three hyenas (with voices by Whoopi Goldberg, Cheech Marin and Jim Cummings); who are a tumbling, and take of squabbling, yammering team of dirty tricks artists.

The early Disney cartoons were, of course, painstakingly animated by hand. There has been a lot of talk recently about computerized animation, as if a computer program could somehow create a movie. Not so. Human animators are responsible for the remarkably convincing portrayals of Scar for the remarkably convincing portray convincing and the other major characters, who somehow combine human and animal body language. But computers did assist with several remarkable sequences, including a stampede in which afterdated nearlast seems to flow past the camera.

Despite the comic relief from the hyenas, the meerkat and the warthog, "The Lion King" is a little Despite the comic relief from the hyenas, the meerkar and the warrings, the agrim one: A little cub is more subdued than "Mermaid," "Beauty" and "Aladdin." The central theme is a grim one: A little cub is dispossessed, and feels responsible for the death of its father.

My generative grew up mounting the drafth of Bandris mother, blow comes. The Lion King," with the double or warran, the takker of the kion cub who will succeed by king. The Dieney and earth a systed elonu nA And beyond the gently, rolling plans of the great savanna lies a wasteland of bones and ashes. Some the same the savanna lies a wasteland of bones and ashes. Some the savanna lies a wasteland of bones and ashes. Some the savanna lies a wasteland of bones and ashes. Some the savanna lies a wasteland of bones and ashes. Some the savanna lies a wasteland of bones and ashes. of the musical comedy numbers break the mood, although with the exception of "Circle of Life" and Hadden "Hakuna Matata," the songs in "The Lion King" are not as memorable as those in "Mermaid" and the design of the control of the "Beauty." Basically what we have here is a drama, with comedy occasionally liftling the moody The of sensing result is a surprising seriousness; this isn't the mindless romp with cute animals that the ads might lead you to expect. Although the movie may be frightening and depressing to the very young; whinkered and it's positive that "The Lion King" deals with real issues. By processing life's realities inistories, children can prepare themselves for more difficult lessons later on. The saga of Simba, Which in its deeply not leave and buried origins owes something to Greek tragedy and certainly to Hamlet, disa learning experience assembly well as an entertainment. defined off into the nevertand of incorrous "shilldren's maytes," which were frameles inemplementant as liew excitor, . There must necest four entimated teatures are once again true "family films," in that they **Cast & Credits** nerblicle so liev as offubili dispelina

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