

Tekst 9 Lees bij de volgende tekst eerst de vraag voordat je de tekst zelf raadpleegt.



Soft-paw shuffle hides an environmental kick

By Nigel Andrews

It is time we sorted these penguins out. They have never been the same since falling over backwards while watching planes fly overhead in the Falklands. More recently, they were caught in a debating crossfire over the meaning of *March of the Penguins*.

Happy Feet had to be a refreshing change. Here penguins get to sing, tap dance and be dubbed by Robin Williams. The digimation is gorgeous: craggy icescapes, sapphire seas. The lines of white-and-black birds resemble picturesque queues of head waiters. The songs are wall to wall. And when the little chick Mumble, who grows up to be voiced by Elijah Wood, endeavors his first soft-paw shuffle, the audience delivers a mega number of “oohs” and “aahs”.

Mumble’s eccentric dancing talent is tut-tutted over by his parents, though applauded by the young Latino penguins led by Ramon (Robin Williams). Then there is the lonely sage and rock hopper Lovelace (Williams again), who thinks conformity is for the birds and a greater truth exists beyond that prescribed by the penguin tribal elders. Mumble and his pals duly trek to the extreme edge of the world to learn the secret of life, death and existence.

The story. So – what do you know? Although slightly muddled, this Christmas-timed *family* film written, produced and directed by George Miller (*Mad Max*, the *Babe* saga) turns out to be another fable about God versus Not-God. Happily, though, it is more. Its philosophy is holistic¹⁾ rather than holy, with health warnings for the future of all human beings, saintly or

secular. After a sequence of accidents has landed Mumble in a seaquarium, the film becomes near-surreal. It ends on a *Clockwork Orange* note as kindly human terrorism, the fascism of "care", brings its deadly warmth to the South Pole.

By now the "kidflick" sticker is peeling off the tin and tots in the audience are beginning to wonder what is hitting them. A little girl in the row behind me, at the public preview, turned to her companion and said: "I thought this

was a film about tap-dancing penguins."

They stayed the course, though. So will adults, many of whom will admire the film's courage in seeking a northwest passage from children's fare to grown-up fairy tale. Although early scenes trade on coochy-coo sentimentality, the last act sets the mind dancing as well as the feet. Better the brave than the banal, the occasionally puzzling (though persistently picturesque) than the implacably preachy.

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noot 1 holistic: gelovend dat alles in de natuur met elkaar samenhangt

Lees bij de volgende opgave eerst de vraag voordat je de tekst raadpleegt.

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Je wilt naar de film *Happy Feet* en bent geïnteresseerd

1 in de muziek.

2 of de verhaallijn ook voor kinderen geschikt is.

2p **40** Hoe denkt de recensent hierover?

Geef voor elk aspect aan of de recensent hier wel of niet uitsluitend positief over is.

Noteer het nummer van het aspect, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.