



Imagine Your Dream Kitchen at Direct Insider Prices.

Cabinets Lighting Flooring Appliances Furniture Electronics

Get Your
FREE
Visitor's Pass



[Film Reviews](#) [TV Reviews](#) [Music Reviews](#) [Write a Review](#)

[Yahoo! Buzz](#)

[Get THR Mobile Alerts](#) [FREE Newsletters](#)

FILM REVIEWS

Alpha and Omega -- Film Review

By Sheri Linden, September 10, 2010 03:10 ET



"Alpha and Omega"

who would get the biggest kick from the 3D effects, but for families on an entertainment budget, they're not special enough to warrant the extra cost.

Bottom Line: Even with a terrific voice cast, this animated romantic adventure is hit-and-miss.

Opposites attract and love conquers society's rules in "Alpha and Omega," a standard rom-com set among wildish wolves and dressed up in 3D animation. Abounding in dumb jokes that kids are bound to like but sometimes too scary for very young viewers, the movie -- also going out in 2D -- takes too long to find its footing and at best is proficient, not exhilarating. It's the youngest moviegoers

The Lionsgate release, opening wide Sept. 17, should capture decent box-office coin as an option for families amid the spate of adult-targeted fall fare.

A Burbank-Mumbai co-production of the Indian CGI company Crest Animation, the film invests its dimensional effects in its characters as they run, jump, fly and, less successfully, dance. The flat picture-book quality of its backgrounds has an old-fashioned appeal but might disappoint viewers used to more pop and dazzle. The visual scheme wouldn't feel wanting, though, if the movie's opening third weren't so devoid of charm. But even when the storytelling falters, the strong voice cast delivers spirited work that includes one of Dennis Hopper's last performances.

At the story's center are two young wolves in Canada's Jasper National Park. Humphrey (Justin Long) is beguiled by lifelong friend Kate (Hayden Panettiere). She's an alpha being groomed for leadership, and he's one of the ragtag omegas, sweet and funny but not exactly career-oriented, and never the twain shall meet -- or mate. With hunting territory at a premium, their pack faces a challenge from the encroaching Eastern wolves. (To its credit, the script by Christopher Denk and Steve Moore doesn't use the setting as an excuse for an eco-sermon.) In an effort to unite the packs and prevent war, leader Winston (Danny Glover) has promised his eldest daughter, Kate, to the son of Eastern leader Tony (Hopper).

The film gains momentum when park rangers relocate Kate and Humphrey to Idaho to repopulate Sawtooth National Forest, an agreeable prospect to the smitten omega. But Kate's sense of duty puts them on a road trip back home so that she can marry alpha Garth (Chris Carmack), according to plan. While they're stowing away on motor homes and trains, overcoming rainstorms and bears, responsible Kate learns to have fun and nice-guy Humphrey proves he can be a good protector. Back home, Kate's little sister, Lilly (Christina Ricci), a shy omega with pale violet eyes, falls for fitness showoff Garth, a romance that has more spark than the central one, which is too clearly destined from the start.

Directors Anthony Bell and Ben Gluck include a couple of brief but unfortunate musical sequences. It turns out that howling, for happily in love young wolves, sounds disturbingly like slick pop crooning. At the other end of the spectrum are sparingly used predatory elements that might be a problem for little ones. Besides the snarling wolves and stampeding caribou are the bizarrely violent verbal threats of Kate's mother (Vicki Lewis) -- not funny for any age group.

Earning laughs, though, is the repartee between a French golfing goose (Larry Miller) and his English duck factotum (Eric Price). Grown-ups will find themselves waiting for the bird duo to reappear and for Hopper's next line, the best of which -- "Howling with an omega, are we?" -- feels like a fitting epitaph, delivered with zing.

Videos

Advertisement

Top Stories

[Fox cancels 'Lone Star' after two episodes](#)

[Sources: Barry Diller resigns from Live Nation board](#)

[EXCLUSIVE: 'Deadliest' Catch Trio Overboard](#)

['Deadliest Catch' stars quit Discovery show](#)

[Jeff Bewkes: Beware of Apple, Amazon deals](#)

[More Top Stories »](#)

Photos

Opens: Friday, Sept. 17 (Lionsgate)
 Production: A Lionsgate and Crest Animation presentation
 Cast: Justin Long, Hayden Panettiere, Dennis Hopper, Danny Glover, Christina Ricci, Larry Miller, Eric Price, Vicki Lewis, Chris Carmack, Kevin Sussman, Brian Donovan
 Directors: Anthony Bell, Ben Gluck
 Screenwriters: Christopher Denk, Steve Moore
 Based on a story by: Steve Moore
 Producers: Richard Rich, Ken Katsumoto, Steve Moore
 Executive producers: Noah Fogelson, Max Madhavan, Michael Paseornek
 Art director: Donald A. Towns
 Music: Chris Bacon
 Editor: Joseph L. Campana
 Rated PG, 88 minutes

[Save](#) [Print](#) [Email](#) [Reprints](#)

1 of 1 Pages

1

Post a Comment

Asterisk (*) is a required field.

* Username:

Rate This Article: (1=Bad, 5=Perfect)

*Comment:

[Photo Galleries »](#)

Latest Reviews

- [Brief Encounter -- Theater Review](#)
- [Gesher -- Film Review](#)
- [Principles of Life -- Film Review](#)
- [The Mosque -- Film Review](#)
- [In a Better World -- Film Review](#)
- [The Christening -- Film Review](#)
- [Black Bread -- Film Review](#)
- [Lucia -- Film Review](#)
- [The Freebie -- Film Review](#)
- [Les Miserables: 25th Anniversary -- Theater Review](#)

[More Latest Reviews »](#)

Substantial Savings. 700+ Trusted Brands



Cabinets Flooring Furniture
 Lighting Appliances Electronics

DirectBuy **FREE Visitor's Pass >**

The Home Improvement & Technology Club



Imagine Your Dream Kitchen at Direct Insider Prices.

Cabinets Flooring Furniture
 Lighting Appliances Electronics

Get Your FREE Visitor's Pass

Follow us on **twitter**

Find us on **facebook**

Watch us on **You Tube**



Hollywood Reporter Home | Film News and Reviews | Entertainment and Technology News | Digital Media and Widgets | Box Office Finance | Music and Entertainment News | World Film News | Subscriptions | Editions | Newsletter | Movie and Entertainment Video | Celebrity and Movie News | About Us | Advertising Opportunities | FAQ | Sitemap | Entertainment News RSS [RSS](#)
 © 2010 The Hollywood Reporter. All rights reserved. Terms of Use | Privacy Policy

BACK STAGE

Billboard.com

ADWEEK

BRANDWEEK

MEDIAWEEK



Discover sweet daily deals in your city
 Up to 90% off top food, spas, and fun

Share Page Like

Chat with your friends