

Film Review: ‘Penguins of Madagascar’ is Definitely No Turkey

Submitted by [PatrickMcD](#) [1] on November 27, 2014 - 8:11am

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CHICAGO – The only thing rarer than a spinoff that soars over its inspiration is a DreamWorks Animation production without “Dragon” in the title, and one that’s actually worth watching. Improbably, “Penguins Of Madagascar” is both.



Rating: **4.0/5.0**

To be honest, I’ve felt the “Madagascar” series to be typical of DreamWorks decidedly second-tier status in the field of animation. They lacked the imagination of Pixar’s best efforts, and settled for the usual collection of celebrity voices and overly hyperactive animation, topped off with a generic frenetic dance sequence that fades from memory before the beat even stops. While “Penguins” doesn’t exactly set itself apart per se, it does freshen up the formula and shows why it became popular in the first place.

This film sends the quartet of Skipper, Kowalski, Private, and Rico into their own secret agent spy adventure beginning with an inventive heist at Fort Knox. They wind up going head to head with an evil octopus – voiced by John Malkovich – bent on revenge after the Penguins arrived at his zoo and stole the adoring public’s affection.

“Penguins of Madagascar” is now playing everywhere. Featuring the voices of John Malkovich, Benedict Cumberbatch, Chris Miller, Tom McGrath, Christopher Knights, Conrad Vernon, Werner Herzog, Andy Richter and Ken Jeong. Screenplay by John Aboud, Michael Colton, Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath and Brandon Sawyer. Directed by Eric Darnell and Simon J. Smith Rated “PG”



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Group Portrait of the Heroes in 'Penguins of Madagascar'

Photo credit: 20th Century Fox



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