

Henry Selick's 'Coraline' an Early Contender For Best Animated Film of 2009

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on February 6, 2009 - 3:59pm

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CHICAGO – [Henry Selick](#) [6], the visionary director of “[The Nightmare Before Christmas](#) [14]” and “James and the Giant Peach” has masterfully directed a mesmerizing journey into the world of imagination called “[Coraline](#) [3]”.



Rating: **4.0/5.0**

Based on the beloved book by [Neil Gaiman](#) [15], “Coraline” is a nearly perfect stop-motion animated adventure featuring excellent voice work by [Teri Hatcher](#) [13], [Dakota Fanning](#) [4], John Hodgman, [Ian McShane](#) [8], Jennifer Saunders, Dawn French, and Keith David.



[Read Brian Tallerico's full review of "Coraline" in our reviews section.](#) [16]

Last year was an incredible one for animation with moving masterpieces like “[WALL-E](#) [17]” and “[Waltz With Bashir](#) [18]” and crowd-pleasers like “[Kung Fu Panda](#) [19]” and “[Bolt](#) [20],” so it's hard to say that “Coraline” would have been the best animated film of 2008, but it's also easy to believe that we won't see one better in 2009. It's that good.

What immediately distinguishes “Coraline” is the creative team's understanding that it is okay to honestly scare a young audience. Some of the best children's fiction from “The Wizard of Oz” to Roald Dahl features genuine fear, something that modern filmmakers often forget. Selick and Gaiman are unafraid to send a shiver down the spine of their audience, children and parents alike.



[Continuing reading for Brian Tallerico's full "Coraline" review.](#) [16]

'Coraline' features voice work by Dakota Fanning, Dawn French, Ian McShane, Jennifer Saunders, John Hodgman, and Teri Hatcher. 'Coraline,' which was written and directed by Henry Selick, opens on February 6th, 2009 and is rated PG.



Coraline (voiced by Dakota Fanning) gets a surprise in the stop-motion animated 3-D adventure Coraline, from LAIKA Entertainment for release by Focus Features.

Photo credit: Focus/LAIKA

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