



FernGully: The Last Rainforest, a new animated feature from a group of Australian filmmakers, makes a slightly interesting story out of protecting the environment. It takes place in the coastal rainforests of Australia, which are seen to be inhabited by little fairies like Crysta (voiced by Samantha Mathis), who looks like a Barbie doll, and Pips (Christian Slater), who looks like GI Joe. All is watched over by wise old Magi Lune (Grace Zabriskie), a fairy godmother type.

One day Crysta flutters up above the treetops and sees an ominous cloud of smoke on the horizon. It turns out that men are cutting down the forest and carting away the wood, and Crysta uses a spell to reduce one of the younger men, Zak (Jonathan Ward), to fairy size. He then falls in love with Crysta, and begins to understand why it is necessary to save the rainforest. The story is fleshed out with supporting characters, including a dizzy bat named Batty Koda (Robin Williams), who has been so badly confused by human laboratories that he flies into trees all the time. There is also the villainous Hexxus, a creature formed from the smoke of the fires of destruction,

which looks like an animated shadow and played by gleeful bad-guy Tim Curry.

FernGully is a film whose main idea seems to be that the most dangerous animal is mankind. The story involves the destruction of the rain forest by the slashers and burners and loggers, and its defense by the sprites and fairies of the forest. Whilst I agree that it is important to protect the rainforests, I felt like the film spent too long trying to convince the audience and may have ended up making the villain too scary for younger children to enjoy.

The animators did a lot of their sketches on location in the rain forest, and the visuals are very pleasing. The story tells a useful lesson, the jungle inhabitants are amusing, and although the movie is not a masterpiece it's pleasant to watch for its humour and sweetness. Though I don't think that I'll give it a second-viewing, I imagine that kids may like it enough to watch again and again.

- Roger Ebert



Watch the FernGully
trailer now!

Movie Review - FernGully: The Last Rainforest

Day 1 Activity

LO: I can comment on an author's choices.	What I think	My teacher thinks
<i>I can remember to:</i>		
read the questions carefully.	☐	
use words found in the text in your answers.	☐	
find the words in the word search.	☐	

Roger Ebert, the critic who reviewed the movie, has used **brackets**.

What has he used brackets for?

How else could he have given you that information?

Movie Review - FernGully: The Last Rainforest

Day 2 Activity

LO: I can infer an author's opinion.	What I think	My teacher thinks
<i>I can remember to:</i>		
reread the text.	☐	
choose the sentence starter that you agree with.	☐	
find words or phrases in the text that show an opinion.	☐	

Do you think that Roger Ebert enjoyed the movie?

Find at least **three** clues in the text that give you that impression.

Choose the sentence starter that fits with what you think.

I think that the writer enjoyed the movie because....

1, _____

2, _____

3, _____

I think that the writer did not enjoy the movie because....

1, _____

2, _____

3, _____

I think that the writer only liked parts of the movie because....

1, _____

2, _____

3, _____

Movie Review - FernGully: The Last Rainforest

Day 3 Activity

LO: I can comment on a text.	What I think	My teacher thinks
<i>I can remember to:</i>		
reread the text carefully.	☐	
watch the trailer for the movie.	☐	
share your own opinion.	☐	

Now that you've read the review, would you like to watch *FernGully: The Last Rainforest*?

Write a sentence to explain why you would or wouldn't like to watch the movie.
