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## **The Adventures of Robin Hood**

### **Introduction**

'*The Adventures of Robin Hood*' is an American swashbuckler Technicolor movie released in the year of 1938, directed by William Keighley and Michael Curtiz. The movie is one of its kind and received a highly positive response from the critics. There are 3 Academy rewards associated with the movie and it is remembered for its cinematic pageantry. The roles portrayed by the actors led the film to success and made it one of the highest grossing film of the year 1938. There are certain scenes in the movie which represents the world-class talent of the actors. This essay is focused on analyzing certain aspects of the film and exploring significant features which led to the film's success.

### **Discussion**

The movie received excellent reviews from the critics and was successful in becoming one of the most iconic pictures ever made. Throughout the journey of the movie, the audience tends to be consumed with a delighted sense of pure joy. The presence of both the elements, adventure and sense of romance focuses on providing the audience with a captivating experience (Rudy Behlmer, 121). It skillfully explains the story of Robin and his followers, who attempted to save England from treachery during the absence of captured-ransomed and crusading King Richard. It further explores the romance with colorful pageantry and nostalgic chivalry. The character of Robin Hood is expertly portrayed by '*Errol Flynn*' who outshined as the legendary character and created a name in the film industry through the excellent delivery of dialogues. The use of Technicolor process in the movie is remarkable. The cinematographers, *Tony Gaudio* and *Sol Polito* utilized the three-strip original Technicolor process, which focused on including extra lighting and cumbersome cameras. They attempted to produce color richness, which the movies of that time were unable to compete (Eggert, 1).

In the movie, King Richard is revealed to be a captive and his kingdom is under the supervision of Prince John, who informs Saxons that he is focusing on increasing taxes in order to raise the King's ransom. In the meantime, John makes sufficient use of taxes for increasing Norman power and succeed in taking over the throne. Robin learns about the intentions of John and aims to defeat and expose the power-hungry aspirations and corruption of the throne's enemies. The character of John is played by *Claude Rains*, who is well-known for his acting skills in several genres. His negative role in the movie is mesmerizing and received applause from the critics. One cannot neglect his sublime acting skills which are sufficient for capturing the minds of the audience. Errol Flynn, as Robin, possesses certain qualities including, handsome smile, unmatched confidence and a surplus of charm. The character has significant concern for the poor and focuses on diminishing the unjust taxation system. One of the elements observed in the movie is the concept of stealing from the rich and giving it to the poor. The character of Will Scarlett helps Robin to restore the freedom. Along with a powerful group, Robin seeks to achieve justice and help the needy. The dialogue delivery of the characters makes it one of the most exciting movies to watch.

The element of romance in the movie makes it fascinating and grasp the attention of the audience. The character of Marian is portrayed by *Olivia de Havilland*, who is remembered for

her performance in this movie. Being in love with Robin, she assists him to achieve his goal. Her eye-catching performance further assisted the movie to be one of its kind. Her expressions caught the attention of the critics and she did justice to the character. There are tender romantic scenes of Robin and Marian in the movie, which made their pair popular among the audience. Robin becomes successful in winning the heart of Marian by showing off his arching skills. Daring is one of the crucial qualities of Robin Hood. He is shown as a brave and bold hero who cannot resist the injustice to the poor. It can be said that without *Errol Flynn*, the movie could not have achieved the purpose. One of the critics said "*They just don't make movies with this level of tonal saturation anymore*". This compliment clearly indicates the use of cinematography and the aspect of Technicolor process. One should pay attention to the greens, greys, gold and reds of the costumes designed by *Milo Anderson*. Further, the interiors of the castle shown in the movie add to its noteworthy picturization.

Due to the exceptional use of the only Technicolor process, the movie could not have been a phenomenon, without the extraordinary performance of the major characters. The supporting stars, including Basil Rathbone, as Guy of Gisbourne and Eugene Pallette as Friar Truck showed off their fine skills to make this movie a remarkable one. In the climax, Gisbourne and Robin get engaged in a swordfight, eventually led to Gisbourne's death. Robin gets successful in protecting the throne and marries Marian as per the command of King Richard (Filmsite Movie Review, 1). The action scenes in the movie seem to be attention-grabbing and captivating. The popularity of the character Robin Hood increased after the film, numerous individuals attempted to adopt the style of '*Errol Flynn*' due to his excellent performance. The producer of the movie, *Henry Blanke* and *Hal B. Wallis* took the kind of a risk to cast the major characters, however, this risk opened a door of opportunities as they gave several hits after this movie. Due to the popularity of the film, the name of Errol Flynn became linked intricately with Robin Hood. The audience became influenced by his character and there were several advertisements which involved the character of Robin Hood. One of the most exciting scenes which one can witness is related to fight between the hero and arch enemy.

## **Conclusion**

The movie was deemed aesthetically, historically or culturally significant by the United States. Overall, the picturization of the movie is remarkable in a sense that it became successful in communicating the message to the audience. Based on the analysis, it is concluded that all the characters of the movie played a significant part in ensuring the success of the film. The character of Robin Hood can be considered the most beneficial in satisfying the needs of the audience and the critics. The movie is a complete package of excellent entertainment. It is enriched with elements of both romance and action to deliver what the audience wants to see. It is a highly recommended movie which people from different ages can watch. In short, it is a high-class entertainment with incomparable direction.

## Work Cited

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