Pirate Movie Reviews

Peter Pan
Directed by: Clyde Geronimi and Wilfred Jackson
Starring: Bobby Driscoll, Kathryn Beaumont, and Hans Conried
Genre: Adventure, Animated, Family, Fantasy, Musical
Released: 1953

Peter Pan is one of Walt Disney’s classic animated features. Wendy, John, and Michael Darling are visited by Peter Pan, who whisks them off to Neverland – second star to the right, and straight on ‘til morning. At Neverland, they meet the Lost Boys, Tinkerbell, Tiger Lily, and of course... Captain Hook. Can the Darlings band together with Peter and the Lost Boys to help defeat the Captain?

Hook
Directed by: Steven Spielberg
Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Robin Williams, Julia Roberts, Maggie Smith, Charlie Korsmo, Caroline Goodall, and Amber Scott
Genre: Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fantasy
Released: 1991

Hook is an adventurous re-telling of the classic Peter Pan story by J.M. Barrie. In this movie, Peter Pan has left Neverland and grown up – he is a lawyer, and married to Wendy’s granddaughter. However, when Captain Hook kidnaps Peter’s three children, he is forced to return to Neverland. Once there, Tinkerbell and the Lost Boys have to help Peter remember how to be the young and adventurous boy he once was, so that he can fight with Captain Hook and get his children back.
Muppet Treasure Island

Directed by: Brian Henson
Starring: Tim Curry, Kevin Bishop, Billy Connolly, Jennifer Saunders, and Frank Oz
Genre: Action, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Musical
Released: 1996

Muppet Treasure Island is based on the classic Treasure Island story by Robert Louis Stevenson. In this version, Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Gonzo, and all the other Muppets do battle with fierce pirates who want to find missing buried treasure. The movie has some fun songs, such as “Sailing for Adventure” and “Professional Pirate,” and a lot of silly gags and physical comedy to make the adventure an enjoyable one.

The Goonies

Director: Richard Donner
Starring: Sean Astin, Josh Brolin, Jeff Cohen and Corey Feldman
Genre: Adventure, Comedy, Family
Release Date: 7th June, 1985

A group of friends take on a local gang in a race to find One-Eyed Willy’s treasure. Mikey, Andy, Data, Stef, Mouth and Chunk are going to be evicted from their homes unless they can raise money to pay off the developers. The group finds One-Eyed Willy’s treasure map in an attic and set out to find the treasure. The entrance to the treasure cave is under an abandoned restaurant owned by the Fratelli family, a local gang. They must beat the Fratelli
family to the treasure and make their way through mazes, booby traps and plentiful quantities of skeletons. They are aided by Sloth a member of the Fratelli Family who switches sides. In the end they find the treasure and save their homes.

Fun, adventurous and suspenseful, Goonies will keep you on the edge of your seat in this thrilling modern day tale of pirates and treasure. A must see for all pirate enthusiast.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl

Director: Gore Verbinski
Starring: Johnny Depp, Geoffrey Rush, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley
Genre: Action, Adventure, Comedy, Fantasy
Release Date: 9th July, 2003

Set in the 18th century, Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl is a rollicking good flick filled with rum, cursed treasure, pirates, wooden eyes, Tortuga and the dreaded Isla de Muerta. Captain Jack Sparrow wants to retake his Black Pearl from his mutinous crew and his first mate now Captain Barbarossa. On the way, Sparrow teams up with Elizabeth Swann, daughter of the Governor and Will Turner. Captain Barbarossa and his crew have an alternative goal. They need to recover all the pieces from the cursed treasure to reverse the curse that was placed upon them. But they also need to spill the blood of young Will Turner to reverse the curse. The movie’s climax has pirates fighting British Marines and Jack Sparrow duelling with Captain Barbarossa. This is a good, fun pirate movie. It has some great comic scenes, great sword fighting moments and some danger thrown in.
Treasure Island

Director: Fraser Clarke Heston
Starring: Charlton Heston, Christian Bale, Oliver Reed and Christopher Lee
Genre: Adventure
Release Date: 22 January 1990

Jim Hawkins helps his mother run the Benbow Inn. One morning a Captain Billy Bones comes to stay. He's very paranoid about someone coming to get him and gives Jim a silver farthing a week to keep his eyes open for a blind man. Blind Pew, the blind man, comes to the Inn and gives Billy bones the Black Spot, the spot of death. Billy Bones has until 11.00 pm. Before that can happen, Billy Bones is killed in a fight with the pirates. Jim and his mother manage to escape with some of Billy Bones treasure and his map. The map of course leads them to Treasure Island. But before they get there, the crew under the command of Long John Silver mutiny and take over the ship. When they arrive at the island they can't find the treasure. Ben Gun, a fellow pirate of Silver's, was marooned on the Island years ago. He found the treasure and moved it to another hidden location. The pirates are overcome the treasure found and they all sail home. That is everyone except Silver. Silver faces the yard arm if he returns, so he slips off the ship grabs some gold and is never heard from again.

Pirates

Director: Roman Polanski
Starring: Walter Matthau and Cris Campion
Genre: Adventure Comedy
Release Date: 18th July, 1986

An interesting film directed by Roman Polanski. The movie opens with Captain Red on a raft in the ocean with his assistant frog. Red is so
hungry he's about to eat frog when their raft crosses the path of a Spanish galleon. They're taken aboard and after awhile, Red convinces the crew to mutiny. While he's at it, Captain Redkidnaps the niece of the governor of Maracaibo. Unfortunately or Red, this is the high point of his adventure. The ship is retaken the Governor's niece rescued and the movie ends as it began with Red about to eat Frog.

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Democracy Pirate Style

Damn you! You are a squeaking puppy, and so are all those who will submit to be governed by laws which rich men have made for their own security. For the cowardly whelps have not the courage otherwise to defend what they get by their knavery. But damn ye, altogether! Damn *them* for a pack of crafty rascals, and *you*, who serve them, for a parcel of hen-hearted numbskulls! They villify us, the scoundrels do, when there is only this difference: *they* rob the poor under the cover of law, forsooth, and *we* plunder the rich under the protection of our own courage; had ye not better make one of us, than sneak after the arses of those villains for employment? --Black Sam Bellamy, pirate captain

When you imagine a pirate ship you think of a tyrannical pirate captain in complete control of his ship and crew. The captain has power over life and death, where to sail and what ships to attack. Recent findings are transforming this image of pirate life. Pirate ships functioned much more democratically than we might think.

Pirate crews had a great deal of influence over where they sailed and what ships they attacked. They could even vote to depose or elect a new captain. Defoe remarked on the power of a pirate captain, "They only permit him to be captain, on condition that they may be captain over him."

While not a universal occurrence, many pirate crews created codes of conduct or articles to govern the management of the ship. These