

Underrated Disney movies

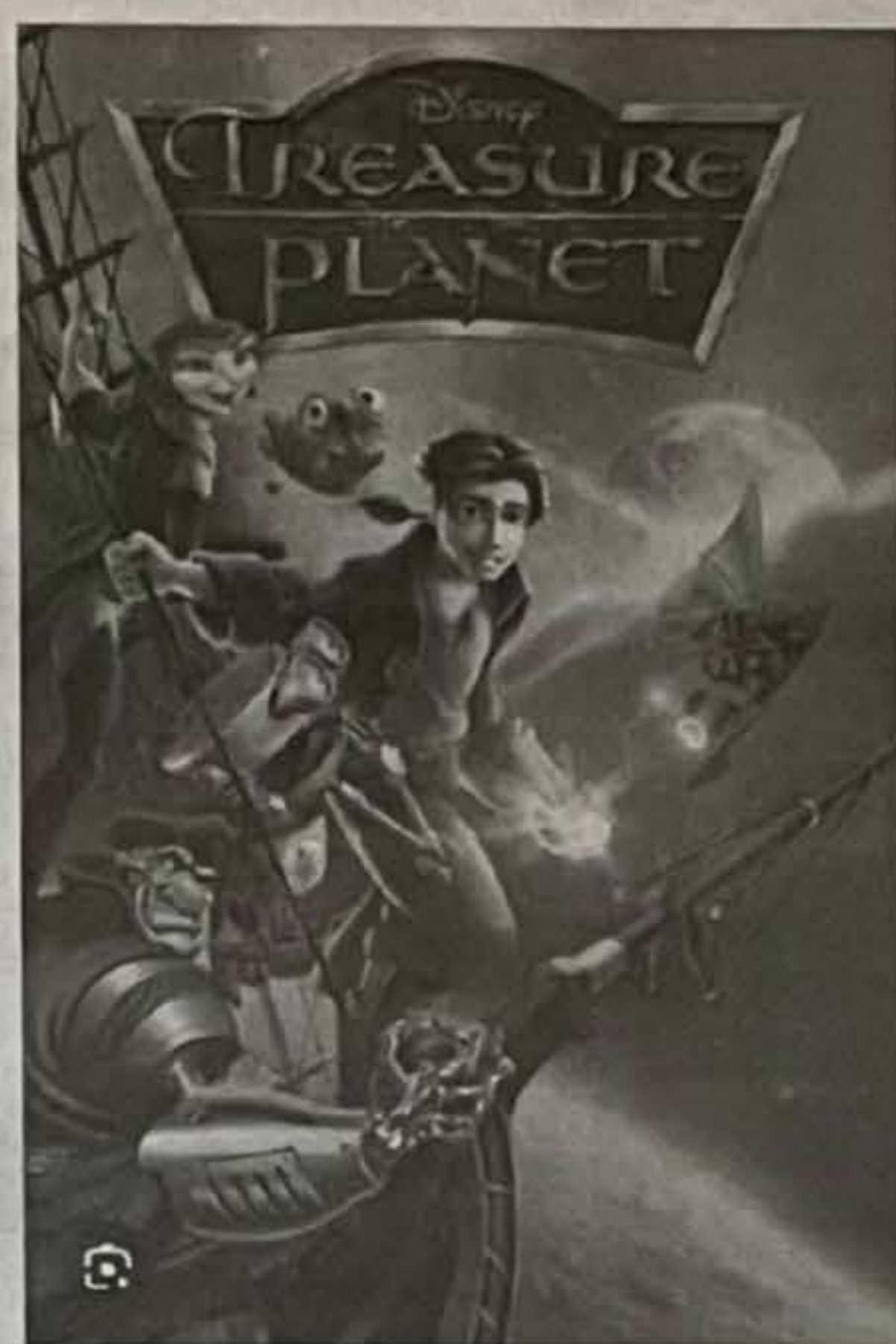
Childhood movies give a blast from the past

Cilas Moyers
Staff Reporter

Disney was a quintessential part of nearly everyone's childhood. If you ask anyone what their favorite Disney movie is, you'll probably be able to count on one hand who doesn't have an answer for you... Even if you sometimes have to Google what they're talking about. There are so many underrated Disney movies from our childhood and every time someone mentions one, they have to explain the entire plot and justify their reasoning for liking a movie made before 2005.

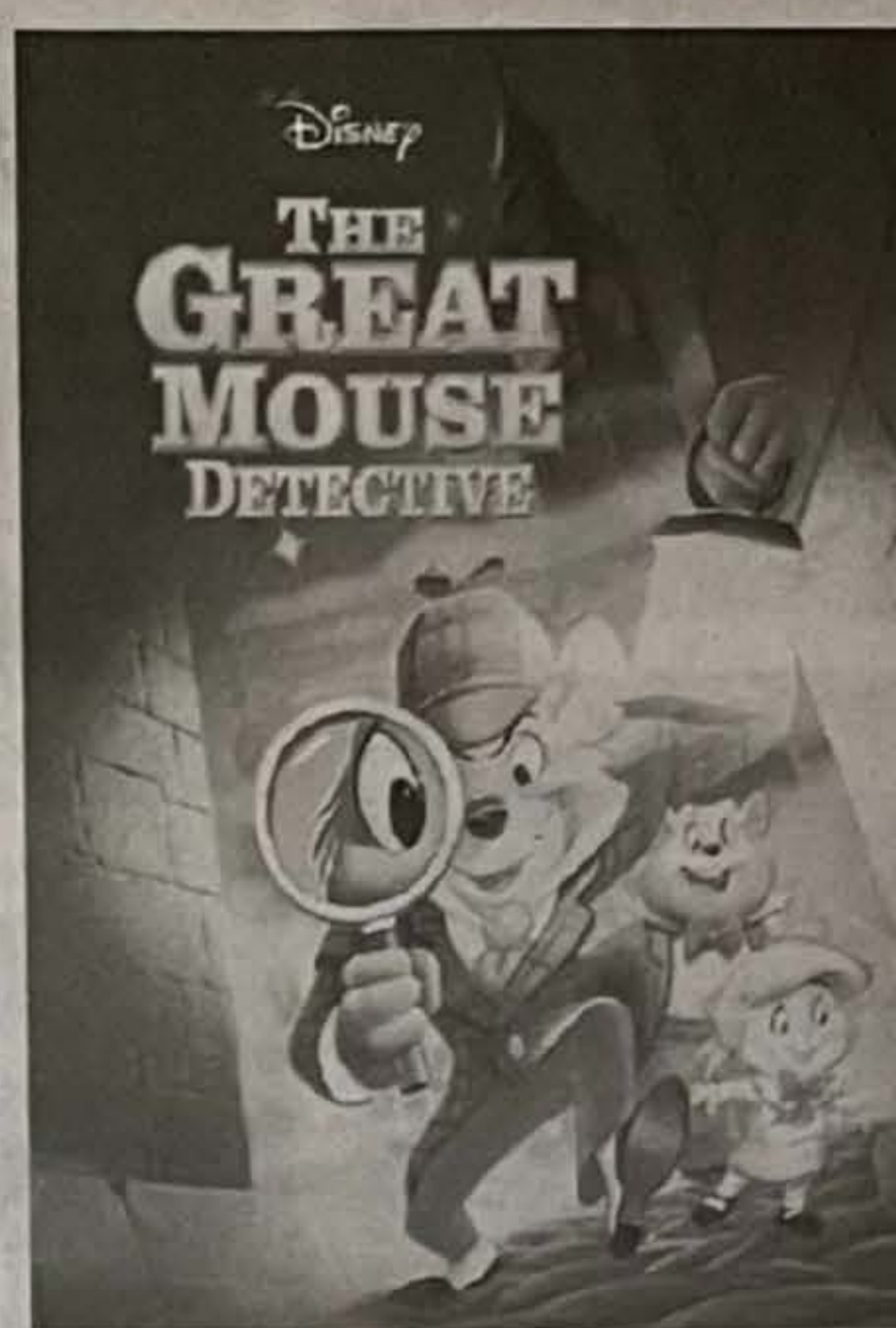
"Treasure Planet" is my all-time favorite movie. The animated movie came out in 2002, based on the 1883 book *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. Following the story of 15-year-old Jim Hawkins as he searches for the planet of gold and jewels from the bedtime story his mother used to tell him, *Treasure Planet*.

This movie has a well-developed cast of characters and a beautiful soundtrack written by James Newton Howard (who wrote the soundtracks for *Hunger Games* movies and the *Fantastic Beasts* duology). The animation style might be a little old school, an example of Disney's transitional period between the traditional and newer animations. Though when combined with the hilarious dialog, the heartwarming father-son relationship between Jim and a member of the crew, Silver, the



dynamic storyline, and the absolutely gorgeous theme for Jim "I'm Still Here" sung by founder and frontman of Goo Goo Dolls, it's hard to go wrong.

This masterpiece of a movie is so criminally underrated with many people never even hearing of it despite the movie not being much older than the senior class. Another



hidden gem in Disney's collection is "The Great Mouse Detective." This 1986 animated film, inspired by Sherlock Holmes, stands out for its unique storyline and characters. It's a must-watch for any die-hard Disney fan. The plot revolves around Olivia Flaversham, a young girl from London, who seeks the help of master detective, Basil of Baker Street, to

rescue her kidnapped father, a renowned toy maker, from a bat.

This movie has the classic Disney art style of older movies, a style described as story-book realism, which has been all but lost in more recent animated films. The style features more prominent lines within the character movement and a less stark design difference between the characters and the backgrounds. This is something many animation enthusiasts have lost fascination with as higher-quality, higher-contrast animation has entered the spotlight.

Much like *Treasure Planet*, this movie has one of the best soundtracks of the older Disney collection. The instrumental scores in the background add suspense and emotion to the narrative, and the movie fits the classic Disney standard of the villain song being the absolute best song in the entire movie. Could a song called "The World's Greatest Criminal Mastermind," sung in a jazz club, ever be a bad song?

These are just two of the much longer list of underrated movies that Disney has produced, many featuring very similar features as these two masterpieces of cinema. So as the summer rapidly approaches, maybe consider adding some of the older movies you've never heard of to your pre-college movie binge.

The amazing world of puppetry

One student's journey to his new loved profession

Kat Sitaras
Staff Reporter

The world of puppet art is a less er-known yet interesting place. Duncan Throlleison, senior, is one of the few puppeteers at Shorewood High School. Starting from terrible beginnings, Throlleison is now beginning to thrive with his puppeteering and is on track to go to the most prestigious puppet art school in the country... the University of Connecticut.

Throlleison's puppet art journey began in his backyard, which in reality was a junkyard. With no money or support from his family, Throlleison had to fend for himself and work hard to achieve his puppet art dreams. Even though Throlleison stated "I don't believe in recycling," he used metal, styrofoam, screws, and bolts from around his junkyard to create his puppets. Although the puppets wouldn't last long, he never gave up his passion and even performed shows for his mom and dad in his backyard, but alas the support from them was absent, "...none of them (my family) would watch.

I would cry 'Mom, Dad, please look at me.' They would say 'NUH-UH' and they'd look away." All hope was not lost, as Throlleison still had an audience, "The only

audience I ever had were the rats, and that was only when I started making the puppets out of food." While it was great that Throlleison had some type of support in his craft, the choice of making his puppets out of food was not the best one, as the rats would end up attacking the puppets, and by extension his hands.

With scarred-up hands and a scarred-up confidence, Throlleison decided it was time to take a break from hand puppetry and try a different type of puppetry, ventriloquism. During his time with ventriloquism, Throlleison discovered that ventriloquism



Throlleison with his favorite puppet, Flayed.

doesn't fulfill his passion in the same way hand puppetry does. "I prefer not to be seen when my puppets are presented before people. I believe that I have one soul and that soul is either in my body or in the body of the puppet, and therefore if we are both seen, we both only have half a soul."

With hand puppetry, Throlleison is never seen, making him feel truly connected with his puppet. Throlleison's biggest dream is

to one day be inside his own puppet creation, specifically inside a balloon puppet that is

most commonly seen at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades. He hopes to one day control the balloon puppet, or what he likes to call a sky puppet, from the inside and watch all the people on the street staring up in awe, or terror, at his creation.

Throlleison's journey to achieving his dreams will continue into college at the University of Connecticut, the only school in the country that offers puppet art (don't fact-check that). For Throlleison, having only one option to learn how to master the art of puppetry is an act of oppression. "Us puppeteers are a very oppressed group of people. I would say one of the most oppressed in the world, if not the most oppressed. Only one major university in the US provides my specific needs in regards to puppet art."

Although this oppression has made things challenging, Throlleison has been and will be supported by his fellow puppeteers, as they are everywhere. Your friends may be puppeteers, your family may be puppeteers...even you may be a puppeteer. "I've asked myself many times, am I a man... or am I a muppet? If I'm a man, I'm a muppet of a man."

