

At the movies

Drew Barrymore, Hugh Grant make odd music in film.

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AP PHOTO
AnnaSophia Robb, left, and Josh Hutcherson star in "Bridge to Terabithia," a fantasy-adventure film from Disney.

'Terabithia' offers quaint, wholesome tale

Tear-jerker story does justice to children's creative imaginations

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There's something endearingly quaint about the images and ideas presented in "Bridge to Terabithia," the notion that the most troubling force in a kid's life could be the fear of a bully on the school bus and that frolicking in the woods could provide the perfect escape.

The special effects in this coming-of-age fantasy tale, though, are extremely high-tech yet feel distractingly literal and clunky. (They come from Weta Digital, the same company that designed the visuals for the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.)

Killer birds, giant squirrels and menacing trees come out of nowhere and dart about in this live-action feature debut from Hungarian animation artist Gabor Csupo, who helped create "The Simpsons."

It's what you don't see that's usually more compelling. If you're a fan of the genre (say, a fantasy geek, and that's meant in the warmest of ways), all this probably will seem totally fine, however.

Effortless performances from the two young stars ultimately make this movie worthwhile, regardless of the age of the kids watching.

Josh Hutcherson and AnnaSophia Robb star as Jess and Leslie, the outcasts of Katherine Paterson's novel who form a friendship based on loneliness and a shared love of imagination.

If this were reality, Jess and Leslie would probably be sneaking cigarettes in their tree house and complaining about how much life sucks. Instead, they challenge each other to foot races down long, dirt roads and swing on a rope across a stream to their favorite hiding spot and never once come close to kissing.

It's refreshingly sweet, and the two young stars are an easy fit for each other. Hutcherson is a subtle and suitably stoic preteen, but Robb ("Because of Winn-Dixie," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") is just radiant, with her bright eyes and confident style.

If you've never read the book, here's a bit of advice: Bring Kleenex. What starts out idyllic and wholesome can be heartbreaking by the end. That's all we'll say.

After all, some things are better left to the imagination.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Bridge to Terabithia'
Rating: PG for thematic elements including bullying, some peril and mild language
Stars: 2½ out of four



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Soup will be served in bowls decorated by Indiana residents during a fund-raiser for Habitat for Humanity. Soup and bread will be served from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday at the Johnson County fairgrounds in Franklin. Cost is \$15.

Souper troopers lend helping hands

Volunteers organize Habitat fund-raiser, decorate bowls

BY ANNETTE JONES
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Just as we recover from the exciting, rain-drenched Super Bowl, volunteers are preparing for the second annual Soup Bowl Sunday to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

The fund-raiser organized by the group's Johnson County chapter features soups from nearly a dozen Johnson County chefs served in hand-decorated bowls made by local residents.

The Soup Bowl event will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday in Scott Hall at the Johnson County Fairgrounds off U.S. 31 in Franklin.

Guests can choose from more than 600 bowls decorated by children and adults, some juried artists.

Crafters from the Indianapolis area, Bloomington and Richmond contributed bowls of all styles, types and colors.

The community flocked to pottery establishments in Greenwood and Franklin during the past few weeks to decorate bowls for the event.

As a member of the Leadership Johnson County class of 1997, Linda Norton of Franklin wanted to support the 2006 leadership class, which organized the first Soup Bowl. She and her family decorated a bowl.

"When we went, there were a lot of kids there, and I thought that was great that parents were teaching their children about



Josh Hatton, left, and Brittany Schaefer unpack bowls for Habitat for Humanity's Soup Bowl Sunday fund-raiser this weekend. They are Franklin College students who work part-time for Habitat through the AmeriCorps program.

community service," Norton said.

Kids and counselors from Camp Kickapoo at the Franklin Parks and Recreation Department donated about 77 soup bowls that they decorated last summer for this month's event.

"Every year we do a community service project," says Pam Gibson, special events and program director at the recreation center. "This is a valuable lesson for the kids to learn."

The soup bowls will be filled with 60 to 70 gallons of soup, says Doug Grant, president of the Habitat for Humanity board of directors.

Visitors' choice of soup from restaurants such as Bonefish Grill and Stone Creek Dining Co. in the Center Grove area and Richard's Casual Fine Dining and Aunt Judy's Country

Kitchen in Franklin will be served in a sanitized bowl they have chosen, along with bread and water.

Volunteers will wash the bowls after guests have eaten so they can take them home.

In addition, there will be a silent auction and information about Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity built two houses in Johnson County last year and plans to build two more this year.

"Eventually, we plan to build up to five houses a year," Grant says.

The goal is to have up to four different standard floor plans to make the project more efficient, Grant said.

Families who receive a Habitat home are required to put in 300 to 500 hours of work on their home or another Habitat home. They also pay a monthly mortgage on the home that helps fund future projects, he said.

Just before Christmas, the selection committee identified the first three families who will purchase the newest Habitat homes.

Soup Bowl Sunday allows the community to help fund those houses and enjoy fellowship.

"There is something special about coming together with your neighbors," Grant said.

IF YOU GO

Soup Bowl Sunday

What: Fund-raiser for Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County. Soup will be served in bowls hand-decorated by volunteers.

When: 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday
Where: Scott Hall at the Johnson County fairgrounds, one block north of Jefferson Street (State Road 44) off U.S. 31 in Franklin

Admission: \$15 for a bowl of soup, bread and a bowl you can keep

Tickets: Available at Heartland Community Bank branches and Habitat for Humanity office, 98 S. Edwards St., Franklin, and at the door until bowls are gone

Despite Grammy haul, Chicks still on the outs with country radio

Award-winning trio celebrates outlaw status

BY KRISTIN M. HALL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

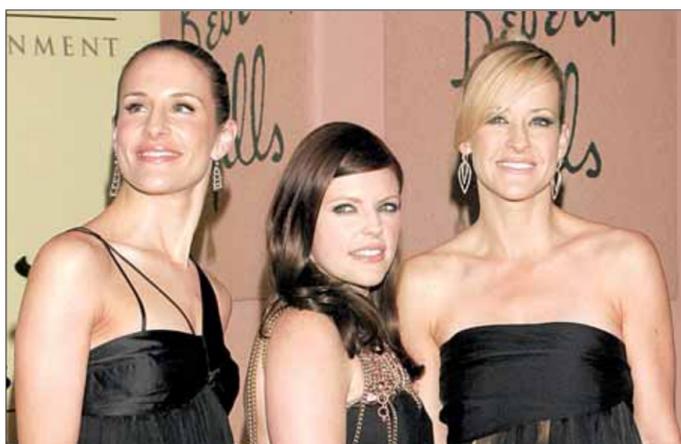
Country radio still isn't ready to make nice with the Dixie Chicks.

With a haul of Grammys on Sunday, the Texas trio topped their comeback from their 2003 Bush-bashing comment that turned them from superstars to pariahs, but Music Row isn't welcoming them back into the country-music fold.

"Most country stations aren't playing the Chicks, and they aren't going to start now," said Jim Jacobs, owner of WTDR-FM, a country radio station in Talladega, Ala.

The awards might have the opposite effect, sparking another radio backlash against the group. Country broadcasters said Monday that the group's five Grammys show how out of touch the Recording Academy is from the average country fan.

"I think (the listeners) are outraged," said Tony Lama, program director for



AP PHOTO
The Dixie Chicks, from left, Emily Robison, Natalie Maines and Martie Maguire, arrive for the Sony BMG post-Grammy party on Sunday. The group won five Grammy Awards.

KXNP in North Platte, Neb. "This is rural, conservative America. They are just disgusted."

Country stations quit playing the Chicks in 2003 after singer Natalie Maines told a London audience: "Just so

you know, we're ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas."

Almost overnight, Maines became a lightning rod in the debate over the Iraq war, with conservatives blasting her for criticizing the president.

The Chicks sang about the controversy in their single, "Not Ready to Make Nice," which won Grammys as record and song of the year. Their album, *Taking the Long Way*, won album of the year.

"I'm not ready to make nice. I'm not ready to back down," Maines sang. "I'm still mad as hell, and I don't have time to go round and round and round."

Country radio may not be ready to embrace them again, but the Grammy runaway suggests that a significant portion of the rest of the country has come around to their way of thinking. The president's approval ratings are down, and his party was ousted in the midterm elections.

"I'm slowly getting my faith back in mankind," Maines said Sunday.

But the rift with country-music radio seems impossibly wide. The Chicks have said they never felt at home on Music Row, even when they were a top-selling country act.

"If you're trying to offer an olive branch to country radio, that's not the way to do it," said Ken Tucker, Billboard country music correspondent. "The Chicks are celebrating being the outlaws."

The Grammy for best country album

almost never goes to a mainstream Nashville act.

Bluegrass siren Alison Krauss and Union Station won the award last year for *Lonely Runs Both Ways*, and Loretta Lynn won in 2005 for *Van Lear Rose*. Neither got airplay on country radio.

The last time a country album won album of the year was 2002, for the movie soundtrack to *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* — a collection of old-time country that didn't fit the Nashville formula.

Johnny Cash won best country album in 1998 and then made headlines when his record company took out an ad showing a much younger Cash flipping his middle finger and thanking "the country music establishment in Nashville."

Wes McShay, program director of KRMD-FM, in Bossier City, La., said country fans understand that the big stars don't win Grammy awards.

"If you're talking about who's selling out 15,000-seat auditoriums, those acts are not awarded at the Grammys year after year," McShay said.

Consider the Country Music

(SEE CHICKS, PAGE C3)