



# The Princess Bride

Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Chris Sarandon, Christopher Guest, Fred Savage, Peter Falk, Mandy Patinkin, Wallace Shawn, and Andre the Giant. Cameos by Peter Cook and Billy Crystal.

Directed by Rob Reiner  
1987 98 minutes Colour PG

I am going to break my own rules this week, and review a film that is a scant nine years old. But I have a very good reason—this is one of my favourite movies. Rob Reiner has captured the magic of childhood fairy-

tales, and includes vast amounts of humour, making it a film for audiences of all ages.

The framework of the story is a visit by a grandfather (Falk) to his grandson (Savage) who is ill. He has brought a storybook to read to Savage's character, who is hesitant at first. From time to time, he interrupts the story. There is a girl, Buttercup (Wright) who falls in love with a farm boy named Westley (Elwes). Westley goes away to seek his fortunes, but enroute his ship is attacked by the Dread Pirate Roberts, who never leaves prisoners alive. The story

jumps ahead five years, and Buttercup is engaged to Prince Humperdinck, who has the right to choose his bride. However, she still loves Westley. One day she is out riding, when she encounters three men (Patinkin, Shawn, and Andre the Giant), who kidnap her, take her to their ship, and sail away. They have been hired to start a war with Guilder, and Shawn's plan is to kill Buttercup and leave her body on the border. But as they draw closer to Guilder, a mysterious ship starts pursuing them.

The pace only increases from here, with action, intrigue, torture, and ROUSES (Rodents Of Unusual Size). It's fun right up to the final minute.

Acting: Spectacular. With a cast of superb actors, almost everyone is great. The late Andre the Giant shows considerable acting talent, es-

pecially when one considers he was a professional wrestler. The minor characters are also fun. Wallace Shawn (more recently a teacher in Clueless, Grand Negus Zek on Deep Space Nine, and the voice of Rex in Toy Story) is a scream as the scheming Sicilian Vizzini, and Billy Crystal is a hoot as Miracle Max.

Memorable Scenes: Too many to count. The rhyming sequence with Andre and Patinkin is hilarious, as is the entire Miracle Max scene. The sword fight with Patinkin and Elwes is amazing, if a little unbelievable.

Best Lines: Examples include "Life is pain, Princess. Anyone who says differently is selling something," and "I'm on the brute squad" (Andre the Giant) to which Billy Crystal replies after looking at him "You are the brute squad." Probably

the best exchange takes place between Sarandon and Guest, and I'll warn you, the next few lines may spoil part of the plot, so you might want to skip to the next paragraph. Sarandon says "I have my kingdom to rule, my wedding to plan, my wife to murder, and Guilder to frame for it. I'm swamped." Guest replies "Get some rest. If you don't have your health, you don't have anything."

Bottom Line: This movie did not win any Oscars. Leonard Maltin only gives it two and a half stars. But it is great. It might not have been a critical masterpiece or a box office smash, but the film has a huge cult following, and for good reason.

Available: Sherwood Video, Blockbuster, That's Entertainment and Plaza Video all have copies.



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