

MOVIE news & notes

Whether By Dance, March Or Dive, Educational Films Can Be Fun For All

(NAPSA)—When it comes to moviegoing, more and more families are seeking alternative entertainment experiences that contain a healthy dose of good old-fashioned family fun—and have educational value.

A terrific example is the recent roster of feature films with educational elements—no longer banished to the classroom or small art-house theater. This is exemplified by a trio of spring DVD releases that are not only informative and fun, but also critically acclaimed. From dancing, singing and marching penguins to jaw-dropping ocean life, these films prove that a learning experience can be wildly entertaining.

Warner Bros.' animated smash hit "Happy Feet" taps onto DVD, while the similarly penguin-filled and aptly named documentary "March of the Penguins" releases on Blu-ray and HD-DVD. Rounding out these "wild" releases is "IMAX Deep Sea," the visually stunning underwater documentary that has wowed the crowds at IMAX theaters since early 2006. All three films are notable for their success of capturing the essence of the three "E's": education, environment and entertainment.



Recent educational films have shown they're not just for the classroom anymore.

"Happy Feet" and "March of the Penguins" both focus on the lives of emperor penguins, albeit in a very different manner. While the animated "Happy Feet" follows young Mumble (Elijah Wood), a tap-dancing penguin looking for acceptance in a community of singing peers, "March of the Penguins" is a captivating documentary that follows penguins through migration, mating and the perils of survival. "Happy Feet" presents a significant environmental message and demonstrates the importance of wildlife preservation, while "March" gives

an impossibly intimate look into the annual struggle of an Antarctic penguin community.

A similarly fascinating look at the wonders of nature, "IMAX Deep Sea" combs the ocean floor, revealing an amazing array of little-known sea life that is mesmerizing from start to finish. Worried about watching this IMAX-released film in the comfort of your own home? Don't be: The enchanting aquatic visuals are captivating on any-size screen and the DVD's deleted scenes treat the viewers to previously unseen extras.

How can you characterize films that are educational, environmentally conscious and captivating for all ages? How about Oscar worthy? In 2006, "March of the Penguins" took home the golden statue for Best Documentary Feature, while "Happy Feet" won for Best Animated Feature during the 2007 Academy Awards. "IMAX Deep Sea" has also garnered wide praise as a highly superior IMAX experience from acclaimed aquatic documentarian Howard Hall. It's clear that a "thumbs up" from Hollywood puts these edu-taining films in a class by themselves.