

'Saturday's Warrior' Remake Creates Excitement Among Utah Residents

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“Saturday’s Warrior is polarizing for people. They either love it or hate it,” said Anna Daines, who plays Pam Flinders in the upcoming remake of Saturday’s Warrior. Growing up, Daines was raised on the 1989 film adaptation of the stage musical Saturday’s Warrior, it being one of the only things she was allowed to watch on Sunday. “The eighties version is dated and has a nostalgic feature,” she laughed. “It’s horribly cheesy.”

Many in the LDS community remember the 1989 version as part of their childhood. “The other one, there were moments that would hit you and you would be like ‘Oh wow,’ but the rest of it was like ‘What is happening? This is awful dancing.’ Then there were other moments that would take you off guard. It was real and relatable,” said Hannah Gasinski, a student attending a Utah university. When she saw the trailer for the new version, she said that the scene that takes places in the pre-mortal life was portrayed just as she envisioned the pre-mortal life to be. She instantly felt a deeper, personal tie to the film. “I have such a connection to the original, and then just to see it made into this thing that I imagined was amazing.”

When Daines received her audition script, she remembered thinking that it was that it really well written. The writers of the remake, Michael Buster and Heather Ravarino, wanted this new version to apply to a broader audience, and not just to the Mormons who grew up with it. “A lot of the cheese factor has been toned down,” Anna chuckled. “What I’ve seen has been really powerful and moving.”

How will people react to the remake? “I think they’ll be pleasantly surprise in many ways,” Daines replied. Many Utah residents remember the first time they saw the 1989 Saturday’s Warrior. “There were parts of it that made me tear up. As far as the acting and the production, it could have been so much better,” said local Utah resident Cole Kinney. He showed interest in the new film and curiosity at the possibility of something improved. “They’ve come so far in really honestly competing in that genre, in movie making,” he said. “I’m not surprised if it will be amazing. I think it might make up for my disappointment from the first.”

With new songs, cameos by famous Mormons (Alex Boye and The Piano Guys), and a different setting, Saturday’s Warrior 2016 won’t just be a copycat remake. This time, the film is set in the 1970s. The psychedelic music style and the hippie philosophies really add to the experience.

Saturday’s Warrior is about the purpose of life, death, family, and love: a message everyone can relate to. Is there anything people need to know before this movie comes out? “I encourage everyone to see it, no matter their preconceived notions,” said Daines. “Let yourself be surprised because you’ll love it.”