

EVENTS

‘Zootopia’ and the limits of the Obama presidency

BY ALYSSA ROSENBERG
THE WASHINGTON POST

Nothing in the promotions for “Zootopia” suggested that Disney’s latest animated movie planned to tackle the policing and criminal justice issues that have become one of the most significant subjects in American politics. But since the sprightly movie about a bunny, Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin), who dreams of becoming a police officer, arrived in theaters on March 4, it’s made almost \$600 million internationally and sparked vigorous conversations, an impressive performance for an explicitly political movie.

“Zootopia” follows Judy as she gets her dream job in the big city and makes friends with Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman), a fox she pops for a scam and then turns into an informant. But when Judy and Nick discover that a number of predator animals have reverted to their hunting ways and are attacking mammals, Judy

ends up suggesting that they’re inherently violent, setting off a panic in Zootopia. The characters may be adorable animated animals, but the movie’s metaphor is refreshingly direct.

Which is not to say it’s perfect. **COMMENTARY** NPR, my friend Gene Demby parsed the ways in which “Zootopia” rather blithely accepts policing practices that have contributed to the current environment of mistrust in service of condemning pernicious attitudes. While there’s no question that eliminating bias is important, it’s easy to shift responsibility for that particular change to individuals and away from institutions. And asking people to overcome their fear and suspicions of others doesn’t require departments to give up sources of revenue, such as traffic tickets and fines:

“In Zootopia, we follow along as our hero, Hopps, hands out hundreds of tickets to overcome workplace dis-

crimination and prove that someone who looks like her can be a valuable member of the force. We’re meant to cheer along as she rolls up her sleeves and really leans into it.

“But this is not some neutral, benign practice in real life. As my colleague Joe Shapiro has reported, the festering tensions between police and residents that exploded in Ferguson rested upon a long history of aggressive, racially skewed ticketing and fines as a widely used mechanism for generating city revenue. And it has been pointed out that the practices of ticketing and stopping pedestrians and drivers for minor violations are often used by law enforcement as pretext for more expansive searches. ...

“In its zeal to show how a scrappy pint-sized hero subverts the system through sheer force of will, Zootopia misses the real-world implications of how she chooses to succeed in that mission. Ultimately, Hopps ends up doing exactly what any real-

world cop trying to rise in the ranks might do — she plays by the rules. As Tracie Keesee, a former captain in the Denver police force and one of the leaders of the Center for Policing Equity, told me, officers, regardless of race, are likely to become acculturated to the ethos and systems of their departments. Any cop invested in trying to change the system from within first has to move up the ladder and secure a position of power from which to do so — and the surest way to get there is by excelling at the game in its existing form.”

You should read the whole thing. But without distracting from Gene’s point at all, I wanted to pivot back to the big picture for a moment.

To me, one of the most interesting moments in “Zootopia” came near the end of the movie, when Mayor Lionheart (J.K. Simmons) acknowledges that while he’s glad the predators have been exonerated, he played his own role in the panic by

wrongfully imprisoning the animals who had been dosed with Night Howlers.

In a way, Lionheart’s dilemma mirrors that of President Barack Obama.

Both the fictional mayor of Zootopia and the president of the United States were able to convince voters that they could personally be trusted without necessarily dismantling the stereotypes that circumscribe the lives of other predators, or African-Americans. And though Lionheart and Obama were both elected, their legitimacy was still fragile. In “Zootopia,” Lionheart is temporarily ousted from office, and while Obama remains firmly ensconced in the White House, his opponents have persisted in questioning his citizenship and pursued endless investigations against his administration in search of scandal.

And if the very facts of Lionheart’s and Obama’s tenures are historical, both of them are constrained in what they can do in office. Lionheart ultimately doesn’t

have the political latitude to defend predators who regress and attack other mammals. While Obama’s Justice Department has tried to shake up troubled police departments across the country, it remains to be seen how effective these interventions will be. And in any case, substantial power will continue to reside with local departments and prosecutors.

At the end of “Zootopia,” Lionheart is reinstated, Nick is graduating from the police academy (and will presumably end up as Judy’s partner), and all sorts of animals have come together for a concert by pop superstar Gazelle (Shakira). It’s a nice moment of catharsis. But if “Zootopia” is only off-hand in its commentary about the Obama era, the administration itself is a reminder of just how brief those moments can be.

Alyssa Rosenberg blogs about pop culture for The Washington Post’s Opinions section.

Things to Do

ALNA — Wiscasset Railway Museum steam train rides and Easter egg hunts, noon-3 p.m. Saturday, March 26, Alna Center, 97 Cross Road. Train tickets \$5, free to under age 3. 882-4193 or wwrfry.org.

AUGUSTA — Free Maine Brain Injury Resource Fair by Brain Injury Association of America’s Maine Chapter, 1-4 p.m. Thursday, March 24, Le Club Calumet, 334 West River Road. Exhibitors to include brain injury programs, providers, advocacy and legal organizations, support groups, veterans’ organizations, recreational opportunities, the Maine Brain Injury Waiver and more. Register, www.biausa.org/maine. On-site registration available day of event.

AUGUSTA — Model Railroad show by Maine 3Railers, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 26, Augusta Elks Lodge, 397 Civic Center Drive/Route 27, just off Exit 112B on I-95. Sam, secarr1@comcast.net, 205-2742 or maine3railers.org.

BANGOR — “Haroutunian: Riffs of Maine,” paintings by Joseph Haroutunian, through May 31, Boyd Place, 21 Boyd St. Open daily 9 a.m.-7 p.m. through May 31. 963-6005, 941-2837 or info@littelfieldgallery.com.

BANGOR — Maine Gun Safety Coalition’s Northern Maine Chapter screening “Making A Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA,” 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, Bangor Public Library Lecture Hall. Free, donations accepted. Discussion after the film.

BANGOR — Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Amy Ellis Nutt of the Washington Post, “Being

Nicole,” 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 24, Bangor Public Library.

BANGOR — Artwalk, 4-8 p.m. Friday, March 25, downtown. Tour artists’ studios. Free. info@dbac.org.

BANGOR — Kidabaloo with Disney Channel celebrity Farkle, played by Corey Fogelmanis from “Girl Meets World,” 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Saturday, March 26, Cross Insurance Center. Live performances by Rick Charette, Playland Adventures bounce houses, face painting, costumed characters, kids karaoke, Easter activities including the Easter Bunny, games, prizes and more. z1073.com/events-bangor/playland-adventures-kidabaloo-2016/26-march-2016-cross-insurance-center-10/.

BANGOR — “The Last Five Years,” written and composed by Jason Robert Brown, starring Dominick Varney and Brianne Beck, 7 p.m. through March 27, Penobscot Theatre, Bangor Opera House, 131 Main St. Showtimes vary. 942-3333 or penobscottheatre.org.

BANGOR — Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Kathleen Kingsbury of the Boston Globe, “Service Not Included,” 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, Bangor Public Library.

BANGOR — Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Jim Sheeler of Case Western Reserve University, “Final Salute,” 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, Bangor Public Library.

BAR HARBOR — Award-winning nature photographer George Sanker discussing his work and showing his photos, 7 p.m. Friday, March 25, Jesup Memorial Library.

288-4245 or kchagnon@jesuplibrary.org.

BLUE HILL — “The Art of the Book” exhibit, during library hours through March, Howard Room glass cases, Blue Hill Public Library, 5 Parker Point Road. 374-5515.

BLUE HILL — Rainbow Warriors writing group for ages 12 to 18, 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Blue Hill Public Library. Open to artists, gamers, readers, movie enthusiasts, bakers, crafters, social justice warriors and more. Discussion, writing prompts, games. Libby, 374-5515.

BLUE HILL — Former education professors Bernadette and Vivodh Anand of Milbridge lead series of discussions of Tanehisi Coates’ book “Between the World and Me,” 6:30-8:15 p.m. Monday, March 28, Blue Hill Public Library. 374-5515.

CARMEL — Carmel Cats Club, fifth annual vendor and craft fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 26, Carmel Elementary School, 50 Plymouth Road. 852-4965 or jmaeraymond@roadrunner.com.

EASTPORT — Knights of Pythias Anchor Lodge 41, 6:30-7 p.m. Friday, March 25, Eastport Youth Center, Barren Road. 904-7663 or anchorlodgeno41@yahoo.com.

LINCOLN — Save-A-Life Task Force free talk on “Understanding Substantive Abuse and its Impact on Maine,” given by Marjorie Withers, co-director of Community Caring Collaborative in Machias, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, Gilmor’s Restaurant. S-A-L@river-coalition.org.

LINCOLN — Free monthly public spaghetti supper, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 24, Lincoln Cen-

ter Baptist Church, 51 Fleming St. Homemade spaghetti sauce with meatballs, garlic bread and homemade desserts.

OLD TOWN — Free community supper, 6 p.m. Friday, March 25, St. James’ Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Center streets. Free and open to all.

ORONO — Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Amy Ellis Nutt of the Washington Post, “Being Nicole,” 3 p.m. Thursday, March 24, Wells Conference Center, University of Maine.

PALERMO — Semi-annual soup and pie social fundraiser, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 26, Palermo Community Library, 2789 Route 3. \$2.50 for bowl of homemade soup, \$2.50 for slice of pie, free to age 5

and under. Raffles also conducted. 993-6088, palermo@palermo.lib.me.us or palermo.lib.me.us.

PORTLAND — Spirits Alive at Eastern Cemetery Winter Lecture Series: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26, Wishcamper Center, Bedford Street, University of Southern Maine. Stephen C. O’Neill, associate director and curator of collections at the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and adjunct faculty in the history department at Suffolk University, discussing burial places, customs and practices of Plymouth Colony’s Pilgrims. Free. spiritsalive.org.

ROCKLAND — Trekapalooza Battle of the Bands, 7 p.m. Friday, March 25, Strand Theatre. Doors open, 6:30 p.m. \$10 in

advance, \$12 at the door. Chemical-free event for all ages. Benefits Trekkers. 594-5095 or trekkers.org.

THOMASTON — The DaPonte String Quartet with Suzanne Nance and Joshua Miller, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, Episcopal Church of St. John Baptist, corner of Main and Green streets. J.S. Bach’s “Peasants Cantata” and “Erbarme dich,” as well as Franz Josef Haydn’s “7 Last Words of Christ.” Tickets at daponte.org.

UNION — Among Friends acoustic music concert, 7 p.m. Friday, March 25, Vose Library, 392 Common Road. Admission by suggested donation of \$5. 785-4733.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

Wednesday prime time											
MOVIES											
	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM		
BROADCAST	2 NBC 207 Inside Ed.	Heartbeat (N) (HD) [R]	Law & Order: SVU	Chicago P.D. (N) (HD) [R]	News						
	4 CBC Dragons' Den (N)	X Company (N)	The National (N)	CBC	Coronation	Rick Mercer					
	5 CBS Big Bang	Broke Girl	Survivor (N) (HD) [R]	Criminal Minds (N) [R]	Criminal Minds	News					
	52 CW Family Guy	Arrow (N) (HD) [R]	Supernatural (N) [R]	News	Seinfeld [R]	Cougar					
	6 NBC 207 Inside Ed.	Heartbeat (N) (HD) [R]	Law & Order: SVU	Chicago P.D. (N) (HD) [R]	News						
	7 ABC Wheel	Jeopardy! [R]	The Middle	Goldbergs	Mod Fam	blackish [R]	Nashville (N) (HD) [R]	News			
	WAGM FOX The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Rosewood (N) (HD) [R]	Hell's Kitchen (N) [R]	News	Big Bang	Big Bang				
	8 ABC Wheel	Jeopardy! [R]	The Middle	Goldbergs	Mod Fam	blackish [R]	Nashville (N) (HD) [R]	News			
	MPBN PBS PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)	Nature (HD) [R]	NOVA (HD) [R]	Secrets of the Dead [R]	C. Rose						
	9 IND Criminal Minds	Arrow (N) (HD) [R]	Criminal Minds (N) [R]	News-Lisa	CTV News	Daily Show					
KIDS	13 CBS Ent. Tonight	The Insider	Survivor (N) (HD) [R]	Criminal Minds (N) [R]	Criminal Minds	News					
	22 FOX Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Rosewood (N) (HD) [R]	Hell's Kitchen (N) [R]	FOX 22 News at 10 (N)	The Closer [R]					
	33 IND M*A*S*H [R]	M*A*S*H [R]	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Happy Days	Laverne	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett		
	38 IND Big Bang	Big Bang	The Closer (HD) [R]	The Closer (HD) [R]	The Closer (HD) [R]	WBZ News (N) (HD)	Seinfeld [R]				
LEARN	HIST American Pickers [R]	American Pickers [R]	American Pickers [R]	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Join or Die					
	DISC Bering Sea Gold [R]	Bering Sea Gold: Dredged	Bering Sea Gold (N) [R]	My 600-Lb. Life (N) [R]	My 600-Lb. Life (N) [R]	My 600-Lb.					
	TLC My 600-Lb. Life [R]	My 600-Lb.	My 600-Lb. Life (N) [R]	Donnie	Donnie	Wahlburg					
	A&E Wahlburg	Wahlburg	Wahlbrgs	Wahlbrgs	Wahlburg	Wahlburg	Donnie	Donnie	Wahlburg		
SPORTS	ANPL North Woods Law [R]	Alaska: The Last Frontier	Alaska: The Last Frontier	Alaska: The Last Frontier	Alaska: The Last Frontier	Rugged					
	CSNE Celtics Pre.	NBA Basketball	Toronto Raptors at Boston Celtics. (L)	Celtics	Celtics	SportsNet	Sports				
	ESPN NBA Countdown (N) (L)	NBA Basketball	New York Knicks at Chicago Bulls. (N) (L)	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	SportCtr					
	ESPN2 College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball					
NEWS	NBCSP NHL Live (N) (L)	NHL Hockey	Boston Bruins at New York Rangers. (L)	(L45) NHL Overtime (N)	(L45) NHL Overtime (N)	Sports	Sports				
	NESN Spotlight	Spotlight	Ring of Honor (N) [R]	Sports	Sports	Sports					
	CNBC Billion Dollar Buyer	Shark Tank [R]	Shark Tank [R]	Shark Tank [R]	Shark Tank [R]	Billion Buyer					
	CNN Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 [R]	Anderson Cooper 360 [R]	CNN Tonight	Cooper 360	Cooper 360					
PREMIUM	FNC Greta Van Susteren	The O'Reilly Factor (N)	The Kelly Factor (N)	Hannity (N)	O'Reilly	O'Reilly					
	MSNBC Hardball Chris Matthews	All In With Chris Hayes	Rachel Maddow Show	The Last Word	All In With	All In With					
	AMC (6:00) Above the Law (R)	*** Enemy of the State (1998, Suspense) (ESP) Will Smith, Gene Hackman. (R)	The Fugitive								
	BRV Below Deck [R]	Below Deck [R]	Below Deck [R]	Below Deck	Happens	Housewives					
VARIETY	CMT Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	*** Gridiron Gang (2006, Drama) The Rock, Xzibit. (PG-13)							
	COM Futurama [R]	Futurama [R]	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	Broad City [R]	Broad City [R]	Daily Show		
	E! News (N) [R]	*** Miss Congeniality (2000) Sandra Bullock.	L.A. Clippers Dance	L.A. Clippers Dance	L.A. Clippers Dance	E! News [R]					
	FOOD Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Restaurant: Impossible [R]	Restaurant: Impossible [R]	Diners		
PREMIUM	FX *** The Avengers (2012, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans. (PG-13)						The Americans (N) [R]	The Americans (N) [R]	Americans		
	GAC Homes	Homes	Homes	Homes	Homes	Homes	RV 2015	RV 2015	RV 2014 [R]		
	HALL Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	The Middle	The Middle [R]	The Middle	The Middle	Golden Girls		
	HGTV Property Brothers [R]	Property Brothers [R]	Property Brothers [R]	Property Brothers [R]	Property Brothers [R]	Property Brothers [R]	Property	Property	Property		
PREMIUM	LIFE Little Women: LA [R]	Little Women: Atlanta (N)	Little Women: LA (N) [R]	Terra	Terra	Terra					
	MTV Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show	Catfish: The TV Show	Suspect	Suspect	Suspect		
	OXY Preachers of Atlanta [R]	Preachers of Atlanta [R]	Preachers of Atlanta [R]	Preachers of Atlanta [R]	Preachers of Atlanta [R]	Preachers of Atlanta [R]					
	SPIKE (5:00) ** Blade (1998)	** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009, Action)	Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox. (PG-13)	The Internet	The Internet	Face Off [R]					
PREMIUM	SYFY Superman: The Movie (PG)	Face Off [R]	Face Off (N) [R]	The Internet	The Internet	Face Off [R]					
	TBN Passion	Potters	John Gray	Turning	Prince	S. Furtick	Living Proof	Blessed Life	John Gray		
	TBS Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan (N) [R]		
	TCM (5:15) High and Low (NR)	Batman	Batman	Batman	Batman	Batman	Superman	Atom Man	Atom Man		
PREMIUM	TMCM *** The Aviator (2004, Biography) (ESP) Leonardo DiCaprio. (PG-13)						*** Traffic (2000) Michael Douglas.				
	TNT Castle (ESP) [R]	*** Batman Begins (2005, Action) Christian Bale, Michael Caine. (PG-13)	Castle [R]								
	TRAVEL Expedition Unknown [R]	Expedition Unknown [R]	Expedition Unknown (N) [R]	Expedition Unknown [R]	Expedition Unknown [R]	Expedition Unknown [R]					
	TRU Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Billy-Street		
PREMIUM	TVL Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Younger [R]	Raymond	King		
	USA Mod Fam	Mod Fam	** Couples Retreat (2009, Comedy) Vince Vaughn. (PG-13)	The Devil Wears Prada							
	VH1 Family Therapy	Family Therapy	Love & Hip Hop	Family Therapy	Family Therapy	Family Therapy	Stevie J	Stevie J	Stevie J		
	WGN-A ** The Bodyguard (1992, Drama) Kevin Costner, Whitney Houston. (R)						Underground (N) [R]	Underground (N) [R]	Underg.		
PREMIUM	ENC (6:05) *** Total Recall (1990) (ESP) (R)	** Ghost Rider (2007) Nicolas Cage. A motorcycle stuntman is a supernatural agent of vengeance.					(9:55) *** Superbad (2007, Comedy) (ESP) Jonah Hill, Michael Cera. (R)				
	HBO (5:00) *** Unbroken	** Magic Mike XXL (2015) (ESP) Channing Tatum. For-mer stripper Mike Lane comes out of retirement. (R)	(ESP) [R]	Vinyl	Devon seeks refuge with old friends. (ESP) [R]	Devon seeks refuge with old friends. (ESP) [R]	*** Spy (2015) [R]				
	MAX (6:20) *** Insidious: Chapter 3 (2015) (PG-13)	** Demolition Man (1993) Sylvester Stallone. A frozen cop is thawed out to capture an old nemesis. (R)					** The Maze Runner (2014, Science Fiction) (ESP) Dylan O'Brien. (PG-13)				
	SHOW (6:35) Becoming Bulletproof (2014) (NR)	*** Up in the Air (2009) (ESP) George Clooney. A frequent flyer reaches a life-and-career crossroads. (R)					*** Big Eyes (2014, Drama) (ESP) Amy Adams, Christoph Waltz. (PG-13)				
PREMIUM	STARZ (6:35) *** Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015, Action) (ESP) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth. (PG-13)	Black Sails (ESP) [R]					** Entrapment (1999, Action) (ESP) Sean Connery, Ving Rhames. (PG-13)				

‘Doctor Who’ heading to Amazon Prime under exclusive BBC pact

BY TODD SPANGLER
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — “Doctor Who” is headed back to Amazon, with the e-commerce giant announcing a multiyear pact with BBC Worldwide North America that makes Amazon Prime Video the exclusive U.S. subscription streaming home for the modern version of the sci-fi series.

The first eight seasons of “Doctor Who,” along with all holiday special episodes, will be available starting March 27, to Amazon Prime customers at no additional charge.

Both Netflix and Hulu Plus had previously offered “Doctor Who” classic and current full seasons, before their rights to

the series expired Feb. 1. On Amazon Prime in the U.S., season nine as well as Christmas special “The Husbands of River Song” will be available some time this fall. BBC America will premiere a “Doctor Who” Christmas special later this year, with season 10 on tap for 2017.

The current iteration of “Doctor Who” began broadcasting on BBC America in 2005.

In the popular series, the Doctor travels through time and space in his ship, the Tardis (“Time and Relative Dimensions in Space”), with numerous allies in an effort to save the world from a variety of foes. Actors who have played the titular role in recent seasons have included

Christopher Eccleston (“Thor: The Dark World”), David Tennant (“Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire”), Matt Smith (“Terminator Genisys”) and Peter Capaldi (“World War Z”).

The current “Doctor Who” series, a BBC production, is created by Sydney Newman (“The Avengers”), and executive produced by Russell T. Davies (“Torchwood”), Julie Gardner (“Torchwood”), Steven Moffat (“Sherlock”), Phil Collinson (“Coronation Street”), Piers Wenger (“How I Live Now”), Beth Willis (“Doctor Who Confidential”), Brian Minchin (“Wizards vs. Aliens”), Caroline Skinner (“Our Girl”) and Mal Young (“Desperate Scousewives”).