

'Jumanji' Is A Classic And Will Live On - Jack Black

By Sugandha Rawal

NEW DELHI: Jack Black saw "Jumanji" for the first time when he was offered a role in its sequel "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle", and 'flipped out' over the late Robin Williams' performance. The actor is thrilled to be a part of Williams' legacy, and says "Jumanji" deserves to live on. "I have to confess that I never saw the film. I watched the film when I got offered the role in this film. I was like 'oh geez, I better watch Jumanji'. I checked it out with my boys. And we all flipped out. It was so great. Robin was awesome. The movie just kicks butt, and I was excited to be part of that legacy," Black told IANS in an India exclusive interview.

The world of Chris Van Allsburg's book "Jumanji", narrating the story of a young Alan Parrish getting trapped in a board game, found its way to the silver screen in 1995. Robin Williams was its main lead.

From getting lost in the transit, tackling monkeys and battling other odds, the movie revolved around how Parrish gets stuck in the board game and comes back



as an adult, and how he has to finish the game with his friend to escape the fate he called upon himself by rolling the dice.

Come 2018, and the story will be back on the big screen with a modern twist. In "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle", a group of high school students gets lost in the jungle after laying their hands on a video game console

featuring a version of the game Jumanji. The makers might have glossed up the story with a digital touch, but the essence of the tale as well as the magical elements are intact. "People who love 'Jumanji' are going to be really pleased that we are able to take that story to another level, and... down to another generation of kids. Hopefully, this one is going

to resonate just as much as the first one did. I think it deserves to live on and I think it will," Black said in a recorded response from Barcelona.

The movie also stars Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan, Bobby Cannavale, Nick Jonas, Alex Wolff, Madison Iseman, Ser'Darius Blain and Morgan Turner. Sony Pictures En-

tertainment is releasing the film, helmed by Jake Kasdan, in India on December 29.

Talking about the sequel, Black, known for comedic roles, said: "Our 'Jumanji' is an action-adventure, comedy thriller ride, like the original, it is action packed.

"It is different because this time around, we go into the jungle. The original was never able to do that for whatever reason, they chose to leave that to the imagination. But this time, you get to see what Alan Parrish actually experienced, what he had to go through to survive as a child in the jungle."

Having entered Hollywood back in 1984, Black has made a place for himself with projects like "School of Rock", the "Kung Fu Panda" franchise, "Shallow Hal", "King Kong", "The Holiday", "Tropic Thunder" and "Gulliver's Travels".

At the moment, he is very excited about the "Jumanji" sequel. "The idea of a board game coming to life is just sort of a brilliant little conceit. It is a great way to this action adventure journey. I don't think that has run out."

Kirk Douglas Is 101!



LOS ANGELES: Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, who celebrated her father-in-law and veteran actor Kirk Douglas 101st birthday, has called him an inspirational person and a hero.

Kirk, father of actor-producer Michael Douglas, turned 101 on Saturday last week.

Zeta-Jones took to Instagram to wish her father-in-law by sharing a photograph of Kirk sitting on her lap, reports online.com.

"101 today! My darling Pappy on my knee. Happy birthday to

my wonderful, inspirational and loving father-in-law, Kirk. Love you with all my heart. Hero," Zeta-Jones wrote alongside the image.

Kirk made his film debut in 1946 with "The Strange Love of Martha Ivers". He later appeared in the 1960 film "Spartacus". He's been nominated for three Oscars for his work in "Champion", "The Bad and the Beautiful" and "Lust for Life". In 1996, he received an honorary Oscar for his years of work in films.

Taraji Is Happy Dating Hayden

LOS ANGELES: Actress Taraji P. Henson says she is "very very happy" to be in a romantic relationship with Kelvin Hayden.

In a special episode of ESSENCE's podcast "Yes, Girl!", the 47-year-old actress gushes about her love life, now that she's been dating the former National Football League star, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I'm very happy. Everything is coming together," she said.

The actress added: "I'm happy in my personal life. Finally it has happened to me!"

While she has confirmed her relationship status, Henson didn't reveal more about her personal life. "It was all over 'The Shade Room' anyway," Henson said.

"You know, I'm not the type to blast my personal business, but you know, I think that it's important for people to know that I'm happy. I'm very very happy. We've been together for two years. I don't blast my info like that but I'm very happy."

Anna Kendrick Said No To 'Tighter, Sexier Clothes' For Upcoming Film

LOS ANGELES: Actress Anna Kendrick says that she rejected the idea that she and her co-stars should wear tighter and sexier clothing in upcoming film "Pitch Perfect 3".

Kendrick, 32, reprises her role of Beca in the third installment of the hit musical franchise.

She feels she, Rebel Wilson, Brittany Snow and Hailee Steinfeld didn't have to look sexually appealing in the movie to attract audience to cinemas, reports dailymail.co.uk.

"It's funny -- whenever we do the wardrobe fittings I feel like we get notes from the top saying they should be tighter and sexier and show more skin," Kendrick told Harper's Bazaar magazine.

"And I'm like, that's not why people are coming to see the movie. They definitely aren't showing up because of our sex appeal," she added.



More Marvel Superheroes

LOS ANGELES: More superheroes films, including "X-Men" and "Fantastic Four", have been added in the Marvel Comic Universe (MCU), following Disney's acquisition of Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox.

Disney CEO Bob Iger has announced that the company has reached a deal with Fox, buying select assets of the latter for \$52.4 billion in stock, reports aceshowbiz.com.

He said: "We're also looking forward to expanding the Marvel Cinematic Universe to include 'X-Men', 'Fantastic Four' and 'Deadpool'."

The Disney-Fox deal is a huge move as Marvel can finally reclaim many of the characters it lost in the 1990s after it licensed

them out to prevent bankruptcy.

The respective characters from the "X-Men" and "Fantastic Four" universes will now join the MCU, which has already teamed "The Avengers" with "Guardians of the Galaxy", "Doctor Strange" and "Spider-Man".

Iger also spoke on the future of "Deadpool", the R-rated Marvel franchise at Fox.

"It ('Deadpool') clearly has been and will be Marvel branded. But we think there might be an opportunity for a Marvel-R brand for something like 'Deadpool'. As long as we let the audiences know what's coming, we think we can manage that fine," said Iger. In addition, Disney has announced a plan to launch two streaming services by 2019.

Aniston Doesn't Know How To Cook

LOS ANGELES: Actress Jennifer Aniston says she is great at making convenience food but wishes she was better at making meals. Aniston, who is married to Justin Theroux, talked about her cooking skills in an interview with Red magazine.

"I would love to really learn how to cook and prepare beautiful meals, I just don't have the time. (My trick is that) we call them cuppa eggs and they're these little poached eggs. I put them in a to-go cup. I'm really good at quick, on-the-go types of food," she said.

"I'm definitely strict about what goes into my body. I got rid



of Sweet 'N Low, Splenda...The thing that still needs to go is my Coffee-Mate creamer but that's my last guilty pleasure."

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