

“A Wrinkle in Time”

By Helen Lutz

Stories that embrace science fiction and fantasy are among my favorites. In college I once wrote a short story about Jesus being a time traveler. My professor loved and kept the story – it happened a lot back then (no computer files, just typewriters). Director Ava DuVernay brings Madeleine L'Engle's 1962 “A Wrinkle in Time” to theaters everywhere with creativity and encouraging all of us to “find the light within ourselves.”



Meg Murry (Storm Reid) is a young high school girl. The daughter of brilliant scientist parents, Meg, too is gifted, but miserable. Her mother and father have been studying the concept of tesseract which is the theory of finding just the right radio frequency which causes a wrinkle in time enabling one to travel throughout the universe. Unfortunately for Meg and her family, her father just vanishes one day. Meg is teased at school that her father (Chris Pine) was a wacko who abandoned his family and that he didn't like her – Mean Girls.

Meg's adopted younger brother, Charles Wallace (Deric McCabe) fits right into the Murry family as he is also gifted. It isn't odd to him at all when on a dark and stormy night a new friend, Mrs. Whatsit (Reese Witherspoon), appears in the family living room. Charles Wallace introduces his friend to Meg who doesn't know quite what to make of the mischievous fairy godmother type person readily dressed for a Halloween ball. Mrs. Whatsit assures Meg that her father is alive, but lost somewhere in the universe and in need of her assistance.

Meg's classmate Calvin (Levi Miller) befriends Meg and meets Mrs. Whatsit on her return visit. She encourages them to tesseract with her to talk with her friend Mrs. Who (Mindy Kaling) who might be able to shed even more light on the missing father. Charles Wallace and Calvin eagerly join her; Meg is suspicious but joins the group. Mrs. Who is totally delightful as her conversations are made entirely up by using famous quotations of others.

The group finally meets Mrs. Which (Oprah Winfrey), who obviously with her 20 feet tall appearance is the leader of the Mrs. W's, who tells the kids that their father is alive, but they must take immediate action to rescue him. An ominous 'IT', evil energy, is busily overtaking the universe, holding their father captive, and must be overcome before the universe is lost; but is Meg strong enough to conquer 'IT' especially after Charles Wallace succumbs to its power? How can she save her father?

“A Wrinkle in Time” takes us on a beautiful ride through the universe with characters we enjoy. Storm Reid and Deric McCabe create characters that are truly in search of finding their missing father. The Mrs. W's are creative, fun and wise showing a mind broadening view of a magnificent universe. As always, love and perfection don't exist without evil and we learn that we must look inside ourselves letting light and love shine through in order to overcome darkness. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “A Wrinkle in Time” TWO 1/2 HARTS. Having never read the book, I bet it fills in some of the holes left in the movie script.