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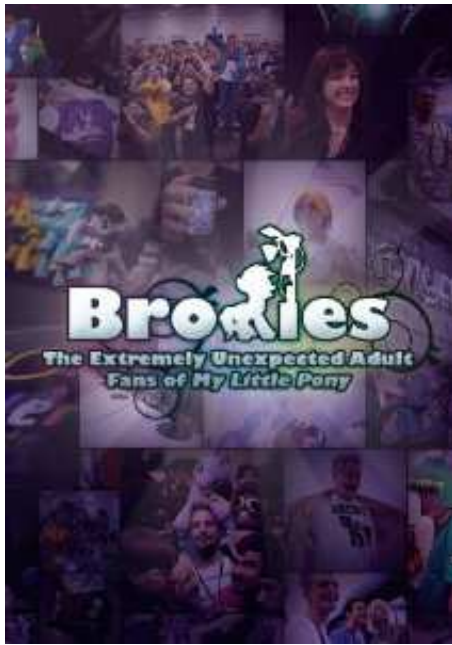
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Bronies: The Extremely Unexpected Adult Fans of My Little Pony DVD Review

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(<http://popculturepreview.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/bronies-dvd-cover-art.jpg>) With a 12 word title one would think that it gives a complete description of what the movie is about. With Bronies though, one additional word is missing- Male. Yeah the term Brony should clue you in but just for the uninitiated, there is a growing number of adult males who have become serious fans of



the My Little Pony Friendship is Magic cartoon. Go to any science fiction or pop culture convention and you will see them dressed as their favorite pony and talking all things MLP with other fans of the show. For someone not a part of that scene, the immediate reaction is typically that they are a.) homosexual b.) trying to find an “in” to talk up the female MLP fans or c.) a little OCD over a kid’s cartoon. As this documentary reveals, there are some that fall into each category but to say all is a broad generalization. The show also follows around some specific Bronies who are superfans for a myriad of other unique reasons. From a young adult with Asperger Syndrome who has a hard time in social situations to a promising musician who enjoys remixing the music from the series, there are a lot of hardcore fans out

there.

I’ve reviewed some of the MLP merchandise and video releases on this and other sites and as a fan of animation I appreciate the fluid robust artwork and talented voice actors but, aside from watching a few cartoons with my daughter on a lazy afternoon, I have never felt a need to go farther into the show. That said, I still found this documentary quite engaging, and not as a point and laugh type of show. There is a lot of con footage, some looks at large personal collections of merchandise and interviews with series creator Lauren Faust and voice actors including Tara Strong and John De Lancie. Add in some first rate cartoon segues and original music and this is a very professionally done documentary. As a fan of Pop Culture, I love learning more about different fanbases and collectors. That is one of the best parts of going to conventions, there is a literal melting pot of fandom and people are free to express their interests that they often suppress for the majority of their lives. For some it’s a love of a particular show like Doctor Who (guilty!), Star Trek or My Little Pony while for others its a particular video game, comic book, movie or anime.

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Ok, so I got a little sidetracked. The documentary focuses on individuals including a father who cannot comprehend or condone his tween son’s love of the show but reluctantly agrees to head to a convention with him, a young man with Asperger’s Syndrome who is travelling for the first time to a large gathering, a fan from a small southern town who faces hate crimes over his lifestyle and his MLP adorned car and a musician who has gained quite an online following for his MLP inspired music. It is quite similar to Morgan Spurlock’s Comic Con: A Fan’s Hope documentary. The paths of these very different individuals intertwine as they gather at various Bronycons and get to meet the

voices behind the characters and, perhaps even more satisfying, get to meet like minded fans that just want to talk about the same things. It is a well done effort and while it is definitely pro-pony, it doesn't feel like an agenda movie to lash out at everyone who doesn't quite get it.

To my knowledge, this is the first Kickstarter project I have had the opportunity to review and I must say, the production values are impressive! For me a good documentary should be engaging regardless of whether one is a fan of the subject or not. For me (still not a Brony), it was a fun look at another aspect of Pop Culture that I have often seen at conventions and wondered what spurred the fan base. For example, at Megacon 2013, Tara Strong had one of the most consistent autograph lines of any of the signers present. This documentary isn't just something for MLP fans but it is an interesting look into a fairly recent slice of culture. I recommend giving it a watch.

Recommended

Special Features:

- 2 Deleted Scenes

Bronies: The Extremely Unexpected Adult Fans of My Little Pony is available on Blu Ray and DVD now, courtesy of MVDvisual.

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