Pan's Labyrinth

From the first five minutes of watching Pan’s Labyrinth I knew I was going to enjoy it. The opening sequence was so beautifully explained and represented I just fell in love. I could tell right away that there were many creative and extremely artistic people at work on this movie. In the cinematography alone I was captivated; the camera seemed to really love all the actors and especially the scenery throughout the area.

As far as the actors go I don’t think they could have picked a better Ofelia. She played her part so well that I got so into the movie I forget she was a fictional character. The Captain also did a great job. He played a perfectly creepy, arrogant military man and I was sufficiently freaked out by him. Every time he was in the shot I had the “oh crap” moment. Other than Ofelia I think my favorite character was Mercedes. I always like to root for those characters that are extremely brave and do what they can to help the good guys out even at great personal risk to themselves, and that’s basically exactly what Mercedes was all about.

Finally to the part that will pertain to Spanish! As I was watching I tried not to rely on the subtitles too much. I was trying to push myself and let the words wash over me just to see how much I could absorb. There were certain scenes where I felt I understood what everyone was saying not just by reading facial expression and body language, but also by the words themselves. But of course the majority of the time I had to skim the subtitles to figure out what was going on. There actually was one part in the movie where I caught something the Captain said that wasn’t in the subtitles! I was very proud of myself but I also felt like I must be missing out on more than I expected if the subtitles weren’t covering everything which was a bit of a disappointment. Other than the language aspect I was also enjoying a brief history lesson on the civil war in Spain. It was very interesting to see this new war (well new to *me*) I hadn’t heard very much about. I almost wish there was more information about it in the movie just so I had more of a reference point, but I guess that would have deviated from Ofelia’s quest too much.

Overall I think it’s obvious that I loved it. There were so many great things in it that it is sad I only have a page to show how much I liked it. Basically it comes down to if when I’m watching a movie in spanish and can convince my younger brother to sit down and watch the entire thing with me I think it is safe to say the movie was a success. (He is officially a fan as well!). To end, I think I will start looking up more of Guillermo del Toro’s movies since I enjoyed Pan’s Labyrinth so much.

¡El Fin!