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Dinner and a Movie: 'Race to Witch Mountain' and UFOs in Pine Bush

Germain Lussier | Times Herald-Record

An unidentified flying object zooms from space, blasts through Earth's atmosphere and crash lands in the middle of nowhere.

This is the beginning of "Race to Witch Mountain," based on a 1975 Disney film of the same name. It also could be a scene straight from the Hudson Valley, but let's discuss the film first.

After the UFO crashes near Las Vegas, government officials are on the case. They quickly discern that the aliens who were flying look like teenage kids and recently got into the taxicab of former criminal Jack Bruno (Dwayne "Don't call me 'The Rock'" Johnson). Bruno quickly buys into the fact that these kids (AnnaSophia Robb and Alexander Ludwig) are, in fact, aliens who want to save the world and begins to help them. The problem is that not only does the trio have to outrun the government, but also there's the small matter of the cyborg alien bounty hunter.

Eventually, they recruit the help of an alien expert played by Carla Gugino, and the titular "Race to Witch Mountain" begins. That's the secret government stronghold where the ship is being held.

Along the way there's plenty of action, special effects and broad humor that's squarely aimed at kids. For that, the film is totally harmless. But parents will be left scratching their heads at the UFO-sized plot holes, adult incompetence and random connections. In terms of big-budget, live-action Disney movies, this isn't one of the best.

However, if your family is planning its own "Race to Witch Mountain" this week, you might want to race to the Hudson Valley's own UFO mecca, Pine Bush. Not only is the town a well-documented sighting hot spot, but also it has many fine restaurants. Listed above are just a few.

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, AnnaSophia Robb, Carla Gugino
Rated: PG for sequences of action and violence, frightening and dangerous situations, and some thematic elements

'Race to Witch Mountain'

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