

“My Little Pony - Friendship is Magic” provides life lessons and humor for viewers of all ages

By **Gabriel Alejandro Rodriguez Rádinson**

“My Little Pony – Friendship is Magic” may sound like a very childish and ‘girly’ show, but in actuality it has the elements of a series fit for all ages and genders. The show teaches about friendship, teamwork, self-discovery, and tenacity, though the series wraps this in an appealing animation style. Plus, a level of humor amusing to most.

The series stars a unicorn pony named Twilight Sparkle, magic student and apprentice to Princess Celestia, and her baby dragon assistant, Spike, who are sent to Ponyville to study the magic of friendship with her new friends.

Her friends include Pinkie Pie, an energetic pony who en-

joys parties; Applejack, an earth pony who works on an apple farm; Rarity, a pony who loves designing fashionable clothes and has a talent for finding gems; Rainbow Dash, a pony who helps control the weather



Photo courtesy of www.bsckids.com

Pony names include Twilight Sparkle.

in Ponyville; and shy, animal-loving Fluttershy.

Twilight meets the ponies on

her first day in Ponyville while setting up for the Summer Sun Celebration. Despite their differences, the six team up in the second half of the first episode to defeat Nightmare Moon, Princess Celestia’s dark younger sister, and quickly become friends.

Throughout the series, the six of them must find solutions to the problems that they have often caused themselves, and almost every episode ends with Twilight Sparkle writing a letter to Princess Celestia summarizing some life lesson learned in that episode.

Viewers of any age or gender can find something to enjoy in this series, whether it is the humor, the conflict, or the lessons learned. In short: this is a great show for almost anyone who likes cartoons.

New restaurant, The Lumber Yard, is expensive but delicious

By **Nora Turriago**

The secret is out. At long last, I have discovered where the middle-aged crowd flocks for a dining experience that includes jazz music, candles, and waiters who say phrases such as “pardon the intrusion.” This, my dears, is none other than The Lumber Yard. It’s a relatively new restaurant that transforms the chaotic traffic scene on Main Street into a getaway that any diner lusting for rich food and high prices.

Our waiter, a charming lad named Matthew who was working his second day as a Lumber Yard waiter, placed bread with a strange white dip on the table. The bread was succulent, although the buttery dip was unusual—salty, with the appearance of cream cheese. I ditched the dip and stuck with the bread, before turning my attention to a more important matter: the menu.

Ah, the menu. Full of dishes with unpronounceable ingredi-

ents I had never heard of (“pancetta lardons,” anyone?). This dining experience promised to increase my vocabulary and general knowledge of food.

Vegetarians and vegans beware: options for non-meat dishes are limited. My vegan mother called the place a “meat-lover’s paradise” and ordered the house salad, minus the stilton cheese and garlicky mashed potatoes. I, however, plunged right into this so-called paradise of meat, and ordered the burger.

My burger was accompanied by a pickle, french fries, slaw, and two essential condiments: mayo (“Boursin mayo” the menu had specified. “Ah yes,” my mother explained to a clueless me, “It’s a type of herb and garlic cheese. It’s French,”) and the house ketchup. Eagerly, I bit into the burger, and experienced a shiver of an inexplicable nature. So many flavors, blending majestically together, in the shape of a delicious—if

rather messy—burger.

I had never encountered such a burger. I ordered it with cheddar cheese, and instead of taking the predictable route and melting the cheese, the folks at



Photo courtesy of **Charlotte Courdet**

The Lumber Yard serves delicious and artsy-looking meals.

Lumber Yard had instead placed chunks of cheddar cheese next to the caramelized onions that rested on the burger. I added some of the mayo and quickly

Project X is thoroughly entertaining with juvenile humor

By **William Chen**

Project X is a name that everyone should know. The movie premiered in theaters on March 2, 2012. The plot revolves around Thomas, a high school senior who is turning 17, and his friends who are throwing him a birthday party to increase their popularity and make a name for themselves. But the party soon spirals out of control when word of the party spreads. The plot seems simple and generic, but it does not affect the entertainment value of the movie. From a crotch-punching midget to a cannabis intoxicated canine, this movie is sure to provide a few good laughs.

The plot seemed similar to the movie *Superbad*, which I thoroughly enjoyed, so I was excited to see this movie. Unfortunately, they checked identification, being that *Project X*

was rated R. Two of my friends were under 17, so they had to exchange their tickets for another movie; to this day I still find it hilarious. Some may call me a bad friend for ditching them, but I was determined to watch *Project X*. The audience consisted of mostly UMass students, and we sat in the middle row to watch 88 minutes of pure awesomeness. Even though the acting was mediocre, I enjoyed every second of it. The soundtrack was amazing and the party scene, which was half of the movie, was even better.

Many critics say that the movie is vulgar, offensive, or juvenile, etc. Those critics clearly do not appreciate teenage humor. I recommend this movie to anyone who loves to have fun. If your friends are underage, it is worth it to ditch them.

regretted it, as I am not a fan of uncomfortably salty mayonnaise. However, the burger was a complete success.

On the other hand, I am now convinced the Lumber Yard has

the burger.

My mother graciously offered up a taste of her meal for the sake of this review. Her house salad and mashed potatoes were amazing! The salad was dressed in just the right amount of balsamic vinegar. Without overpowering the salad, it gave just enough tartness to add some excitement to a simple dish.

As I write this a day later, I can still taste the warm smoothness of the mashed potatoes embracing not only my mouth, but also my soul.

When I finally put down my fork, I was a very satisfied, albeit rather bloated, customer. I have come to the conclusion that whatever one orders at the Lumber Yard, it is probably a meal not to be forgotten. With its distinctive atmosphere that exudes class, this restaurant is best saved for celebrating milestones or moments that require bold recognition.

a culinary obsession with salt, because that was all I could taste in the fries, which were also limp, lying sadly against that show-stopper of the meal,