

An ancient curse waits in the jungle



THE GOLDEN CITY

T4T PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS AN IVAN I. DEER FILM

STARRING BILL FERAL HILLARY STUFF HARRISON HONDA

Music Performed by FUN ORCHESTRA

Written & Directed by IVAN I. DEER

COMING SOON TO CINEMAS

4 teachers

White Knight Special Effects

THE GOLDEN CITY

1 Ivan I. Deer has been a busy film director. Two years ago his film, *Growing Wings*, won an Oscar for Best Film, and it looks like his latest effort, *The Golden City*, will not disappoint. Ivan spent over a year filming his latest feature in the Amazon Rainforest of eastern Peru, South America.

2 *The Golden City* is a modern fairytale about two children, Alyssa (played by Hillary Stuff) and Jack (Bill Feral) who join their explorer uncle for a holiday in the Amazon. One night the children wake to discover that a mysterious golden city has appeared in the middle of the rainforest. They set out the next morning to explore the city, only to discover that it has vanished. This is the beginning of a strange quest that will take Alyssa and Jack back into the past, exploring Incan legends and coming face to face with the evil Supay (played by Harrison Honda).

3 Ivan has created an amazing script for his film. Much of the success of the script can be attributed to Ivan's painstaking research into Incan mythology. For example, the main villain, Supay, is named after the Incan god of death, who used to snatch children and take them to the underworld. This adds appeal to the film, as Western audiences know little about the myths and legends of the Incan people.

Another good thing about the script is the

believable dialogue. When characters speak to each other, it sounds just like people talking in real life. Even Supay sounds authentic, despite being an over-the-top character.

4 *The Golden City* explores some important themes. One is the idea that sometimes children grow up too quickly, and that it's good to be allowed to enjoy childhood. At the beginning of the film, Alyssa and Jack are keen to be by themselves, but by the end they realise they still need the love and protection of their uncle and parents. The theme of honesty is also examined. Jack lies to Alyssa about a gift that Supay gives to him and this deception causes much pain and heartache and is the catalyst for much of the action and drama in the film.

5 Much of the film focuses upon Alyssa and Jack. This builds a really strong connection between the audience and the two main characters. Towards the end of the film, this works especially well, and we all feel just how lonely and scared the two children must be. One downside to this is the choice of actors. Hillary Stuff is very good as Alyssa, but sometimes Bill Feral is not convincing as Jack. This is not something you want to see in an actor who is on screen for most of the film.

6 *The Golden City* is way ahead of other films with its use of special effects. At one point, the

children meet a flying snake called Qwet. The computer technology used is so advanced that you can see each of Qwet's feathers move in a breeze. They look so real! The golden city itself was made using CGI, and it looks like the children are really walking through a magical world. In an interview last year, Ivan said that he wanted "children everywhere to believe, even for a moment, that it was possible to explore the fantastic". This is a beautiful idea and it is one that can definitely describe the experience of watching *The Golden City*.

- 7 One element of the film, which didn't work as well as it could, is the music that was often boring. Composed by the Fun Orchestra, the film score is really only three tracks played in slightly different ways. Sometimes this works,

such as during the dark theme that plays whenever Supay appears. This cements the fact that we see him as an evil character. But otherwise, it is annoying hearing the same few notes played again and again. Music is very important in creating the mood of a film, and this repetition doesn't work.

- 8 A nice surprise comes at the end of *The Golden City*, when you realise that it is two hours long. This film draws you in so much that you don't notice time passing. It is an excellent film for both children and adults, as there is something for everyone. The best thing is that it is a film where you get to experience a culture that is not explored much in cinema. Make sure you check out *The Golden City* when it's out in cinemas these summer holidays.

Questions

- 1 Who did the special effects for *The Golden City*?
 - a T4T Productions
 - b Fun Orchestra
 - c White Knight
- 2 What happened to the golden city in the morning?
 - a It disappeared.
 - b It appeared.
 - c The children entered it.
- 3 In Incan mythology, Supay is
 - a a flying snake.
 - b a golden city.
 - c the god of death.
- 4 How is the theme of honesty explored in *The Golden City*?
 - a through the relationship between the children and their uncle
 - b through the relationship between Jack and Alyssa
 - c through the relationship between Qwet and Supay
- 5 What isn't effective in *The Golden City*?
 - a the music
 - b the special effects
 - c the script
- 6 Children watching this film learn most about
 - a enjoying their childhood.
 - b Incan mythology.
 - c rainforests.

Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- 7 Disappeared from sight (2)
- 8 Credited to (3)
- 9 The opposite of fake or false (3)
- 10 The act of being dishonest (4)
- 11 Something that occurs over and over again (7)

Grammar

Change the **verb** in the following sentences from present to past tense.

E.g. 'He **wakes up**.' becomes 'He **woke up**.'

- 12 The two children explore the golden city.
- 13 The children grow up too quickly.
- 14 The film takes place between Alyssa and Jack.
- 15 We see Supay as an evil character.

Back To The Text...

- 16 The film *The Golden City* is filmed in Peru.
 - a true
 - b false
- 17 Ivan I. Deer spent considerable time researching the film.
 - a true
 - b false
- 18 *The Golden City* is due for release in April.
 - a true
 - b false

Cloze

The Lost City

Choose **five** of the following words to complete this cloze passage.

built attacked city stone
walls mountains during thousands

In 1911 the lost city of Machu Picchu was rediscovered in Peru. This amazing 19, high in the Andes Mountains, was 20 by the Inca people hundreds of years ago. This city was one of the final Inca strongholds 21 the Spanish conquests in the 1500s. These fantastic ruins are now visited by 22 of tourists each year. The walls of the palace and the houses, which are made of 23, still stand, while the roofs made of thatched straw are now gone.

Challenge Option

Writing: Write a play about the children meeting Qwet.

