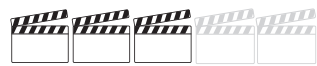


**MOVIE REVIEW**

# 'The Boxtrolls'

By Derek Zemrak



Eleven-year-old Eggs (voiced by Isaac Hempstead Wright) swings into trouble when he tries to rescue a Boxtroll friend in Laika and Focus Features' family event movie "The Boxtrolls." Image provided

"The Boxtrolls" comes from the small yet very impressive animation studio, Laika Entertainment based in Hillsboro, Ore. Laika is not a household name like Pixar or Disney but they have produced some of the most imaginative, original, creative and inventive animated films in recent years, including the two Oscar-nominated films "Coraline" in 2009 and "ParaNorman" in 2012. "Coraline" was beaten by "UP" and "ParaNorman" lost to "Brave," which was a disappointment.

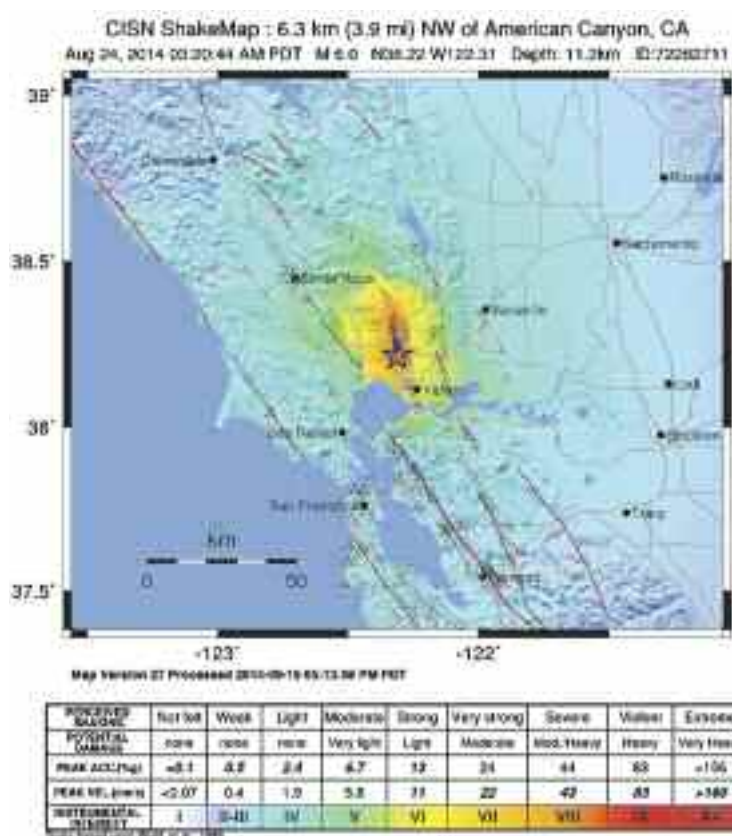
Now comes "The Boxtrolls," a less dark film than Laika's previous movies. The story is about an orphan boy, Eggs, who is raised underground in the town of Cheesebridge by a group of trash collecting cave dwellers – the Boxtrolls. Isaac Hempstead Wright, Eggs voice, is the talented young 15-year-old from "Game

of Thrones," and he must save his family, the Boxtrolls from the evil exterminator Archibald Snatcher (Sir Ben Kingsley "Schindler's List"). Eggs is assisted by the local wealthy girl Winnie (Elle Fanning, "Maleficent").

"The Boxtrolls" is based on the 544-page illustrated novel, "Here Be Monsters!" by author Alan Snow. It is not as solid a film as "Coraline," but I do see another Oscar nomination this year. Who knows – the third time may be a charm. As with Laika's previous films, it is the stunning visuals that makes "The Boxtrolls" stand out from other animated movies and the leader of stop-motion animation. Kudos to the small studio in Oregon! "The Boxtrolls" is rated PG and has a total running time (TRT) of 97 minutes, which may drag at times for the little ones but it is well worth the price of admission.

## Napa Quake Lessons Inform ShakeOut

By Cathy Dausman



ShakeMap Courtesy of Northern California Seismic System, UC Berkeley and USGS Menlo Park

A 6.0 magnitude earthquake disrupted much of Napa and American Canyon Aug. 24 when it released its shockwaves along the previously unknown West Napa Fault. The early morning earthquake, the largest to strike northern California since the 6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake 25 years ago, barely registered to the mostly sleeping Lamorinda population. Yet as residents saw the images of broken glass, fallen brick, ruptured gas and water lines, homes toppled from foundations or on fire, and school closures due to damaged structures, was there a rush to prepare for the next one? What, if anything, did anyone in Lamorinda learn from that near-miss?

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Stephen Healy warned that emergency services may be overwhelmed after a large quake and unable to respond quickly to all the demands. He suggested residents store food, water, flashlights and batteries, and insure their home is properly bolted to its foundation and any masonry is structurally reinforced. Healy suggests joining Lamorinda's Community Emergency Response Team and consider purchasing an earthquake insurance policy.

"The extensive shaking and cracking can demolish entire buildings, destroy homes and possessions, crush cars, close businesses, and interrupt water and power supplies. Unfortunately, none of this damage is covered by a standard homeowners policy," said Farmers Insurance agent and Lamorinda

Weekly photographer Gint Fedaras.

Supplemental earthquake insurance is offered through the California Earthquake Authority (www.earthquakeauthority.com). The CEA website explains it does not restrict buying or selling their insurance products after an earthquake, but CEA participating insurers may restrict writing of their residential property insurance policies.

The Napa quake was "a good opportunity to talk about what we will be doing when the big one hits," said Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen. When the shaking stopped, Christensen sent his officers into neighborhoods to perform "windshield survey" damage assessments. Because his police force has "limited first responder resources," he said he would have tapped neighborhood volunteers for help.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein, who experienced the Loma Prieta earthquake from inside Orinda Safeway, explained how things would have been different if the earthquake was centered in Lamorinda and struck at 9 a.m. instead. "Kids would have been at school and separated from their parents, the commute would have been in full swing, passengers stranded on BART would be seeking help, people at work and shopping in stores could have added dramatically to the injured."

Residents can learn about earthquake preparedness by participating in this year's Great California Shake-

Out (<http://www.shakeout.org/california/>) at 10:16 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16. The ShakeOut drills, which began in 2008, are a way for people in homes, schools and organizations to practice what to do during an earthquake.

Rein said they'll have a chance to exercise the Emergency Operations Centers – a central coordination and control facility – during the ShakeOut, hopefully using lessons learned from Napa to build their capabilities. Duncan Seibert, program director for Lamorinda CERT plans to use Napa post-quake photos to illustrate and promote an upcoming emergency preparedness class in January. "Anyone who has seen the aftermath of an earthquake," said Healy, "understands the devastation one can cause."

For information about the Great California ShakeOut, visit <http://www.shakeout.org/california/>. For information about Lamorinda CERT, visit [www.lamorindacert.org](http://www.lamorindacert.org).

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For more information about earthquake preparedness, read these stories in the Lamorinda Weekly archives:

<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0517/Not-Shaken-During-Quake-Drill.html>

<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0602/Seismic-Retrofitting-Lamorinda-Homes.html>