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MOVIE OF THE MONTH: *TOY STORY 3*

Fifteen years ago, Pixar released a film that not only defined the way animated films are made nowadays, but also broke the boundaries of great storytelling. That film was *Toy Story*.

In 1999, the film's sequel was released and, to the surprise of many, it's quality was just as good, if not even better, than its predecessor.

Now, in 2010, the third and presumably final entry into the *Toy Story* trilogy finally arrives after many false starts and threats by Disney to make it an average direct-to-DVD-style movie.

Toy Story 3 features the return of such favourite characters as Woody, Buzz, Hamm, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, Rex, Slinky, Jessie, Bullseye, and even the little green aliens, in what promises to be their most exciting adventure ever!

The premise is quite simple: the toys' owner, Andy, has finally grown up and is about to head off for college. Obviously, this is something that the toys feared would happen, but things start to take a turn for the better when they're accidentally donated to Sunnyside, a day care for young children. There, they are seduced by a lifetime guarantee of being played with by children for the rest of their lives.



Toy Story 3 introduces new friends and obstacles for the gang

However, it soon transpires that things aren't how they seem, and the toys decide to break out and return to Andy before he departs. In addition to the old characters we have grown to love, there are new additions to the cast, including a lovable and possibly sinister teddy bear known as Lotso, a hedgehog in lederhosen called Mr. Pricklepants who takes himself seriously as an acting thespian, and Ken, the self-centred and neurotic side-doll to the more popular Barbie.

All the voice cast is back as well, including Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Pixar "lucky charm" John Ratzenburger et al, and new members include Michael

Keaton, Timothy Dalton, Whoopi Goldberg and Bonnie Hunt.

The film has already been released in the United States to overwhelmingly positive reviews, suggesting that it could even be a very big contender come next Oscar season (and with the expansion to 10 nominees in the Best Picture category, it's certainly in with a shot).

But how will it fare over here? We'll find out sooner or later, when *Toy Story 3* comes to cinemas in Disney Digital 3D and IMAX 3D on **July 23rd**.

News Round-Up

- A reboot of *The Crow* is moving forward, with a "major actor" being courted
- Chloe "Hit-Girl" Moretz is to play a teenage hitchhiker in *Hick*
- Rosie Huntington-Whiteley is confirmed as Megan Fox's replacement for *Transformers 3*
- *Sherlock Holmes 2* and *The Muppets* will be released in December 2011, the same month as *Mission: Impossible 4* and - god forbid - *Alvin and the Chipmunks 3D*
- Daniel Craig is rumoured for a role in David Fincher's English-language version of *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*
- David Tennant and Christopher Mintz-Plasse (aka McLovin) have signed on for the *Fright Night* remake
- Tony Gilroy will return to write the fourth Bourne film, *The Bourne Legacy*
- Tom Cruise will reprise his popular *Tropic Thunder* character Les Grossman for a feature film
- A live-action/animatronic version of *Wind in the Willows* is in the works
- Jennifer Garner and Nick Nolte will join Russell Brand and Helen Mirren in a remake of *Arthur*
- A biopic of Cleopatra is optioned - Angelina Jolie is a possibility to play her
- *Clash of the Titans* sequel is to start filming next year
- *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn* will be split into two films
- Sam Raimi is to direct Robert Downey Jr in *Wizard of Oz* prequel *Oz, The Great and Powerful* for Disney
- A prequel to John Carpenter's *The Thing* will be released next April
- Seth Rogen's *The Green Hornet* will be released on IMAX 3D
- Russell Crowe is in talks for a film version of *The Equaliser*

GET YOUR EARPLUGS READY: *THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE*

The second notable "threequel" this month is the latest installment in the insanely popular *Twilight* saga, *Eclipse*. The story of a normal human girl falling in love with a vampire and befriending a werewolf with the torso of a thousand men has captured the hearts of thousands of young teenage girls across the planet. Of course, this has meant that the three stars, Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner, have had to experience the Beatlemania of the modern age.

The good news is that in *Eclipse*, things finally come to a head with many storylines wrapped up.

For one, Bella (Stewart) must choose between her undying love for vampire boyfriend Edward (Pattinson - cue screaming from "Team Edward") and her friendship for wolf boy Jacob (Lautner - cue screaming from "Team Jacob").

In addition, the evil vampire Victoria (Bryce Dallas Howard) has been building an army of

vampires to destroy the Cullen family once and for all. So, in order to defeat them, they must team up with the clan of werewolves for an epic battle.

The film, directed by David Slade, also stars old favourites like Ashley Greene, Peter Facinelli, Kellan Lutz, Nikki Reed, Jackson Rathbone, Billy Burke, Anna Kendrick and Dakota Fanning, as well as new additions like Jodelle Ferland, Xavier Samuel and Jack Huston.

Will Victoria and her army succeed? Is this the day that the Cullens fall? More importantly, who will Bella end up choosing? Now, if you've read the books, you already know these answers. But for those who don't (or those who do but want to see the film anyway), the answers lie in *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse*, released on **July 9th**.

Oh, and remember to bring your earplugs - it's going to be INSANE!



Edward and Bella are getting closer in *Eclipse*

A HAPPY ENDING?: *SHREK FOREVER AFTER*

After two very enjoyable entries, the third *Shrek* film in 2007 somewhat floundered into cinemas without the same effect the other two had.

Luckily, the fourth film resurrects what was great about those films and turns it into a satisfying conclusion to the saga.

How do I know this? Well, I have actually seen it and I can tell you it doesn't disappoint.

The film starts off with Shrek living with his wife, Fiona, and their triplets, and with the constant visits from old friends Donkey and Puss in Boots. However, settling down has taken a toll on poor Shrek. Now viewed as a celebrity rather than a feared ogre, he decides that he misses the old life of scaring villagers. He then meets the cunning Rumpelstiltskin, who tricks our hero into signing a contract that allows him one day to freely scare humans.

However, he finds that this is now an alternative Far, Far Away, where Rumpelstiltskin is

now King, Donkey is reduced to cart-pulling, Puss is an overweight tabby and, worst of all, Fiona is leader of an ogre resistance and can't stand Shrek.

This scenario lets the audience watch Shrek and Fiona fall in love all over again, and it's just as nice as it was the first time around.

Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz and Antonio Banderas are all back, while *Mad Men*'s Jon Hamm, Craig Robinson (*Zack and Miri Make A Porno*) and animator Walt Dohrn as Rumpelstiltskin are all new members.

While the film is indeed better than *Shrek The Third*, there is no way that it can compete with the first two films, arguably the better half of the quadrilogy.

But don't take my word for it - see for yourself if it's good or not by seeing it in 3D or IMAX 3D on **July 2nd**.



Shrek gets more than he bargained for in the final chapter

OPERATION MINDSCREW: *INCEPTION*

Director Christopher Nolan has shown us through *Batman Begins* and especially *The Dark Knight* that he can entertain. Now, let's see how he does with adapting a more original idea to the screen.

Not a great deal is known about *Inception*, a film that promises to blow people's minds - it has mainly relied so far on an extensive viral campaign, much like they did on *The Dark Knight*. However, the cast is just superb, with the likes of Leonardo DiCaprio, Ken Watanabe, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ellen Page, Marion Cotillard, Tom Hardy, Cillian Murphy, Tom Berenger and Michael Caine all being a part of the film.

The film centers on a skilled thief named Cobb (DiCaprio) who has the ability to steal valuable secrets from the most unlikely human source - their subconscious. But sneaking into people's dreams and stealing their ideas has cost him everything he loves and has made him a wanted man. Now, he is being offered a chance to

redeem himself by pulling off a nearly impossible task - instead of stealing an idea, he and his team of specialists are to plant one (this is known as the titular "inception"). If they pull it off, it would be the perfect crime. But there is an enemy who appears to predict their every move, an enemy only Cobb could have seen coming.

Judging by the visual FX-heavy trailers, this looks to be the most inventive and original sci-fi film in years (*Avatar* doesn't count, because it's basically *Pocahontas* retold with giant Smurfs).

Hopefully, I'll be right when the film enters cinemas on **July 16th**.



Leonardo DiCaprio enters people's dreams in *Inception*

WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER: *THE A-TEAM*

Rehashes of old TV shows are old news, but none come as exciting as this film adaptation of one of the most treasured action shows of all time - of course, I'm, talking about *The A-Team*.

A new cast has been put in motion to play the iconic roles that make up the team: Liam Neeson is the new Hannibal, Bradley Cooper (*The Hangover*) turns ladies man as Faceman, Sharlto Copley (*District 9*) brings the crazy as Murdock and wrestler Quinton "Rampage" Jackson makes the circle complete as the group's most famous member, B.A. Baracus.

Other additions to the cast include Jessica Biel, Patrick Wilson, Jon Hamm and even Dirk Benedict and Dwight Schultz (the original Face and Murdock from the TV series).

The TV show followed the storyline of four Vietnam soldiers who are framed for a crime they didn't commit, escape from prison and set out to clear their name. The film, while retaining the same plot as the show, updates the action to the Iraqi war, which therefore gives the group more explosions and more modern and positively bonkers action scenes (including one, seen in the trailer, of the gang engaging in a dogfight in a falling tank).

By the looks of things, the film has managed to retain the spirit of the old TV show without ruining it too much.

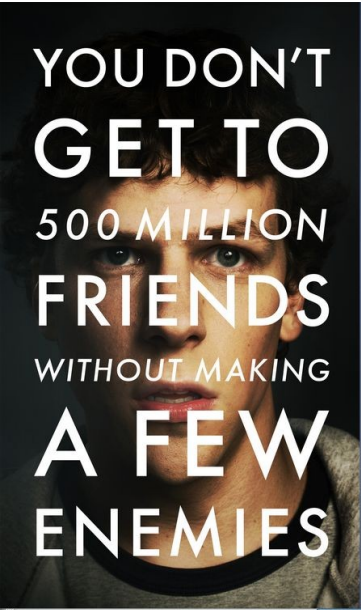
But well have to see if we like it or not when the film reaches cinemas on **30th July**.



The team run from an explosion in an all-new adventure

News Round-Up

- Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, David Thewlis and more have been lined up to star in Steven Spielberg's adaptation of *War Horse*
- Leonardo DiCaprio is confirmed for Clint Eastwood's J. Edgar Hoover biopic
- Michael Fassbender and Alice Eve are in negotiations to play Magneto and Emma Frost respectively in *X-Men: First Class*
- *Pirates of the Caribbean 4* starts filming
- There will be a *Toy Story* short in front of *Cars 2* next year
- Newcomer Kenny Wormald will play the lead in the remake of *Footloose*
- *The Lion King* is planned for a 3D re-release in 2011
- Daniel Radcliffe is attached to a remake of *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- John Lithgow, Freida Pinto and Andy Serkis will join James Franco in *Planet* prequel *Rise of the Apes*
- Neil Patrick Harris is confirmed for *Harold and Kumar 3*
- Peter Jackson is in negotiations to direct the *Hobbit* films, replacing Guillermo Del Toro
- Carey Mulligan and Jodie Foster are in talks for *Stoker*, written by *Prison Break* star Wentworth Miller
- Tim Burton will be involved in a stop-motion version of *The Addams Family*
- Kevin Spacey will join the cast of *Horrible Bosses*, playing Jason Bateman's boss whom he tries to kill
- *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* directors to helm *LEGO* movie (yes, really)
- *Vampire Academy* book series optioned to become films
- Jude Law, Christopher Lee and Ray Winstone join Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Asa Butterfield and Chloe Moretz in Martin Scorsese's *Hugo Cabret*



WILL SMITH JR. GETS JIGGY WITH IT: *THE KARATE KID*

After a strong film debut alongside his more famous father in *The Pursuit of Happyness*, Jaden Smith finally gets a starring role as the titular *Karate Kid*.

As you may have guessed by the title, the film is an update of the original *Karate Kid* films from the 1980s, except things are much different (aren't all remakes/reboots/updates etc?)

While the original film was set in America, this one is actually set in China, where young Dre Parker (Smith) and his mother (Taraji P. Henson) move to for a new life. Unfortunately, almost immediately, Dre is being bullied by other kids who pick on him and regularly beat him up. Luckily, it's a kindly maintenance man to his rescue, Mr. Han, who just happens to be a kung fu master - and is played by none other than the

legendary Jackie Chan.

Through Mr. Han, Dre learns incredible moves and the lesson that that karate isn't about punches and parries, it's apparently about maturity and calmness.

Already a surprise box office blockbuster in the US, the film has earned better-than-expected reviews and boasts incredible visual aspects as seen in the trailer.

But will it live up to the current hype when it reaches British shores? Let's hope it does, given that its release date of **30th July** is approaching fast.



Jaden Smith busts some moves in *The Karate Kid*



ADRIEN BRODY MOVIE #1: *PREDATORS*

Adrien Brody, who won an Oscar for *The Pianist*, is a lucky bastard because he gets two movies released in the same month, the first of which is the new take on an old popular franchise.

The *Predator* franchise started with a bang with the first two films, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny Glover, but started to fizzle out when said Predator went up against Alien.

However, producer Robert Rodriguez (director of *Spy Kids* and *Sin City*) is confident that this new take will restore the creature's popularity.

Starring alongside Brody are Topher Grace, Danny Trejo, Alice Braga, Oleg Taktarov, Mahershala Ali, and Laurence Fishburne.

Directed by Nimród Antal, the film follows a mercenary

named Royce (Brody), who is abducted by alien creatures known as Predators and then released onto an alien planet, along with several other humans. The one thing they have in common is that all of them, with the sole exception of a disgraced doctor, are all cold-blooded killers. The humans discover what the Predators want with them, and they are forced to fight to avoid being prey.

Exciting stuff, indeed. But just how exciting will the end result actually be? The film is out on **9th July**, so we can judge that for ourselves.



Adrien Brody has to fight to survive in *Predators*



ADRIEN BRODY MOVIE #2: *SPLICE*

The second Adrien Brody film of the month is *Splice*, a new horror film that promises to shock horror fans and appall followers of the laws of physics.

The film, which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year, was released in America last month to positive reviews but was virtually stillborn at the box office.

The film, which also stars Sarah Polley, centers on two genetic engineers (Brody and Polley) who achieve superstar recognition when they manage to successfully splice together the DNA of different animals, creating incredible new hybrid animals (at one point, they must have spliced the DNA of a monkey with a hippopotamus, because now we've ended up with Wayne Rooney).

However, one day, they

decide to secretly blend human DNA with animal DNA to see what the consequences are (oh, damn - I used my Wayne Rooney joke already!)

The experiment seems to work at first, but sooner or later the experiment develops into a deadly, winged humanoid monster, and the people who created her are forced to come to terms with their decision to defy God.

Splice will be released in cinemas on **23rd July**, and it begs the question - why aren't there enough Wayne Rooney/monkey jokes to go around related to this?



Experimentation has gone too far in *Splice* (and no, that's not Gail Porter - shame on you for even thinking that!)



SPACE-FILLING ARTICLE FTW: *THE REBOUND*

The last in the list of noteworthy films out this month I personally don't really find that interesting, and the fact that its release date has been moved several times beforehand and was released internationally before even making it to America makes me even more suspicious that this film is a dud.

Nonetheless, there was one article left and I took the opportunity to fill space. So, let's talk *The Rebound*...

The film, starring Catherine Zeta-Jones (Oscar-winner for *Chicago*) and Justin Bartha (*The Hangover*), is about a housewife and mother (Zeta-Jones) who

discovers that her husband is cheating on her. After a quick divorce, she moves with her children to New York and begins a friendship with a young student who starts to babysit her kids. This being a romantic-comedy, it's not long before romantic tensions between the two emerge and they begin a relationship, despite the obvious age gap.

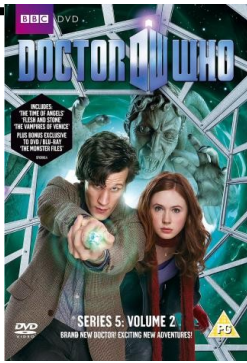
Did that do anything for you? No? Then maybe this isn't for you.

But for the minority that is remotely interested, the film is out on **July 23rd**. Probably.



Love knows no age limit in *The Rebound*





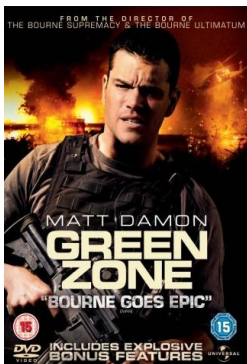
Doctor Who: Series 5 - Volume 2

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 05/07/10



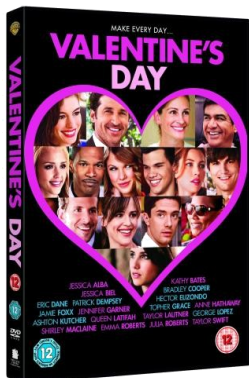
Percy Jackson and the Olympians

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 05/07/10



Green Zone

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 12/07/10



Valentine's Day

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 12/07/10

MONTHLY RECAP: WHAT HAPPENED IN JUNE?

For a summer month, it was surprisingly quiet on the film side, mainly due to the attention being focused on the World Cup.

The month started off with the releases of Noel Clarke's crime saga *4.3.2.1*, starring Noel Clarke, Emma Roberts, Tamsin Egerton, Ophelia Lovibond, Michelle Ryan and Kevin Smith; the American remake of *Death at a Funeral*, with Chris Rock, Martin Lawrence and Zoe Saldana; and the controversial *The Killer Inside Me* with Casey Affleck, Kate Hudson and Jessica Alba.

The next week saw the releases of the romantic comedy *Letters to Juliet*, starring Amanda Seyfried and Vanessa Redgrave; and *Greenberg*, a dramedy starring Ben Stiller and Rhys Ifans. Then emerging was the Katherine Heigl and Ashton Kutcher film *Killers*; and the spoof film *MacGruber*.

Finally, Russell Brand returned as rocker Aldous Snow in *Get Him To The Greek*; Woody Allen's *Whatever Works*



Jonah Hill and Russell Brand in *Get Him To The Greek*

came out; and Kristen Bell got a lot of lovers coming her way in *When In Rome*.

Also this month, on 9th June, I went up to London for the UK premiere of *Killers*. While Ashton Kutcher was unable to attend, it was up to Katherine Heigl to wow the crowds. You may have already seen the pictures on my Facebook, but still, it's worth mentioning don't you think? Anyway, I managed to not only get an autograph from her, I got a nice two-head picture with her as well. A good day indeed.

In addition, on 23rd June, I went up to the wondrous city of Edinburgh, to check out the current film festival. Long story short, mainly cos I

don't want to bore you too much, it was fab and a great experience for what I want to do when I'm older.

In conclusion, June was quite dull, but now the summer season has finally kicked in, we should be on the way to better quality films that will hopefully add to next month's more exciting recap.

COMING SOON: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST?

August is just as action-packed as July, if not more so, with more releases than you can shake a stick at.

First week, Friday 6th, we have the Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz-starrer *Knight and Day*; after *StreetDance 3D*, America unleashes its own 3D dance film with *Step Up 3D*; and a sequel that absolutely no-one wanted also arrives - *Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore*.

Next, on unlucky Friday 13th, is *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* with Nicholas Cage and Jay Baruchel in an "adaptation" of the famous *Fantasia* segment with Mickey Mouse; and *The Last Airbender*, which is directed by M. Night Shyamalan and is an adaptation of the famous manga cartoon series *Avatar* (no prizes for guessing why a title change was necessary). Then, on August 20th, things go mental with the arrival of two action films: *Salt*, with Angelina Jolie; and the almighty *The Expendables*, starring (deep breath) Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li, Dolph Lundgren, Eric Roberts, Randy Couture, Steve Austen, Terry Crews, Mickey Rourke, Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Finally, August 27th is



Sylvester Stallone is back in action in *The Expendables*

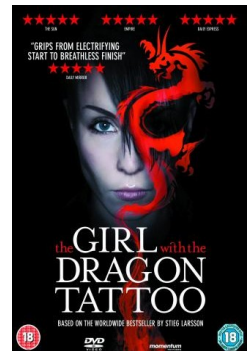
chockablock with films, ranging from *Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World*, Edgar Wright's comic-book adaptation featuring Michael Cera and Mary Elizabeth Winstead; *The Runaways*, the biopic of the famed all-girls rock band with Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning; *Grown Ups*, with a comedy cast to match the likes of *The Expendables* (Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Kevin James, Rob Schneider, David

Spade); and *The Girl Who Played With Fire*, the second of three Swedish-language adaptations of the famed *Millennium* book series, which started with *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*. With all these coming out next month, I say bring it on!



[Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang](#)

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 19/07/10



[The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo](#)

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 19/07/10



[Clash of the Titans](#)

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 26/07/10



[Remember Me](#)

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 26/07/10

UK Film Release Dates

JULY

2ND

- Shrek Forever After
- Skeletons
- Lymelife
- Heartbreaker

9TH

- The Twilight Saga: Eclipse
- Predators
- London River

16TH

- Inception

23RD

- Toy Story 3
- Splice
- The Rebound

30TH

- The A-Team
- The Karate Kid
- Gainsbourg

AUGUST

6TH

- Knight and Day
- Step Up 3D
- Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore
- The Wildest Dream

13TH

- The Sorcerer's Apprentice
- The Last Airbender
- The Secrets In Their Eyes

20TH

- The Expendables
- Salt
- Piranha 3D
- Marmaduke
- The Illusionist

27TH

- Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World
- The Runaways
- Grown Ups
- The Girl Who Played With Fire
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- The Maid
- Going The Distance
- Dog Pound

All release dates are correct as of time of press.

SEPTEMBER

3RD

- Jonah Hex
- Dinner For Schmucks
- Why Did I Get Married Too?
- The Last Exorcism
- The Switch
- Cherry Tree Lane
- Certified Copy
- 22 Bullets
- World's Greatest Dad

10TH

- The Adjustment Bureau
- Resident Evil: Afterlife
- Tamara Drewe

17TH

- The Kid
- The Other Guys
- Release
- The Horde
- Winter's Bone
- Just Wright

24TH

- The Rum Diary
- Eat, Pray, Love
- Cyrus
- The Hole 3D

Next Issue: August 2010