

#### Issue 3 - September 2010



Listen in every Saturday between 12:30 and 1pm to Jack's Movie Reviews on 107 Meridian FM!

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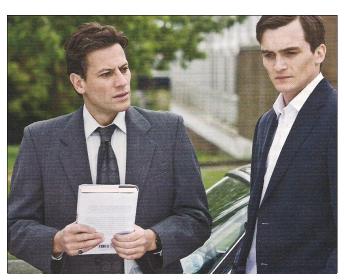
- Certified Copy awardwinning French drama with Juliette Binoche
- The Last Exorcism Eli
  Roth is back with a new
  supernatural horror
- Why Did I Get Married Too? - Janet Jackson stars in Tyler Perry's sequel
- Going The Distance Drew Barrymore and Justin Long try out a long-distance relationship
- Tamara Drewe Gemma Areteton attempts to sex up a quiet English village
- Just Wright Queen Latifah and Common are unlikely rom-sports-com leads
- Winter's Bone a young girl must find her fugitive father in order to save her family's home
- The Hole 3D Joe Dante reminds us why 3D is something to fear
- World's Greatest Dad -Robin Williams goes dark as a dad who exploits his son's death

# MOVIE OF THE MONTH: THE KID

- Earlier this year, British audiences finally got their chance to see the critically-acclaimed
- Precious, a film about a teenage girl who suffers a
- 4 handful of abuse but manages to find light and
- 5 happiness (it's not really a spoiler when it's labeled
- <sup>5</sup> as a feel-good movie).
- At long last, we now have a British equivalent well, a similar film at least in September's Movie of the Month, *The Kid*.

The film, based on the book by acclaimed writer Kevin Lewis, is directed by Nick Moran (of whom you may recognize if you've seen Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels and his directional debut, Telstar) and features a stunning ensemble cast including the likes of Rupert Friend (The Young Victoria), Ioan Gruffudd (Fantastic Four), Natascha McElhone (The Truman Show), Bernard Hill (Lord of the Rings) and Jodie Whittaker (St. Trinian's).

The Kid tells the story of Lewis' (Friend) harrowing upbringing, suffering endless abuse from his mother (McElhone), being bullied at school, having little success in finance and businesses, and eventually being caught up in the criminal world. Despite this, it was down to certain people, including a carer of a foster home (Bernard Hill), his teacher



Ioan Gruffudd and Rupert Friend star in the adaptation of Kevin Lewis' *The Kid* 

(Gruffudd) and his future wife Jackie (Whittaker), who helped him to make a better life for himself. Now, one of the reasons that this is September's Movie of the Month (be thankful it wasn't Jonah Hex!) is because I have ties with Lewis himself. This statement may seem a little brown-nosing but I have actually seen the film (twice now, in fact) and I genuinely thought that it was a very wellmade film, regardless of whether I knew the writer

In addition, my godfather Stephen May helped to finance the film and as a result is listed as executive producer in the credits.

Long story short, if you're looking for an inspirational story that will make you smile, cry, or even laugh at certain points, you can do no better than *The Kid*, which opens on **September 17th.** 

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#### News Round-Up

- Liam Neeson has ruled himself out of Steven Spielberg's long-delayed Abraham Lincoln project
- Director Jason Reitman reunites with Juno writer Diablo Cody for Young Adult, starring Charlize Theron
- A 3D "biopic" of Justin Bieber is being made for release next year
- Part 2 of Twilight: Breaking Dawn will be released in November 2012 (a whole year after Part 1)
- Stephen Sommers may return to direct a G.I. Joe sequel
- Tron Legacy director Joe Kosinski's Oblivion will be released by Disney
- Will Ferrell is to star in a Spanish-language comedy (um, what/qué?)
- Ving Rhames and Jeremy Renner join Tom Cruise in Mission: Impossible 4
- Tony Scott will direct the film of Mark Millar's comic book Nemesis
- A new animated, 3D version of *Tarzan* is in the pipeline
- Wanted director Timur Bekmambetov will direct Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Killer
- Reese Witherspoon is to portray Peggy Lee in a new biopic
- Todd Phillips is planning a biopic of John Belushi
- A live-action Bugs Bunny film is coming (dear God!)
- Karl Urban is the new Judge Dredd (and he'll keep his helmet ON this time!)
- More additions to the cast of X-Men: First Class: Jason Flemyng, Rose Byrne, January Jones and Oliver Platt
- Rooney Mara is confirmed as Lisbeth Salander in David Fincher's The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo
- Seth Rogen will voice a postgraduate ghost in the new DreamWorks Animation film Boo U

# ARRESTINGLY FUNNY: THE OTHER GUYS

There was a line muttered by Mark Wahlberg in Martin Scorsese's Oscar-winning *The Departed* after he had been asked "Who the hell are you?", to which he replied "I'm the guy who does his job. You must be the other guy".

It can now be considered ironic that Wahlberg is now starring in a high-concept comedy with Will Ferrell titled - surprise, surprise - *The Other Guys*.

But this action-comedy, directed by *Anchorman* and *Step Brothers* helmer Adam McKay, is supported by a surprisingly-strong ensemble cast that includes the likes of Samuel L. Jackson, Dwayne Johnson, Michael Keaton, Steve Coogan and Eva Mendes.

The film tries to breathe new life into the getting-old genre of "buddy cop comedy" (after Cop Out earlier this year tried

to do so but failed miserably)
- it focuses on two detectives
(Ferrell and Wahlberg) who
are reduced to desk jobs at
the New York Police
Department while the super
cops (Jackson and Johnson)
go out and have a ball. But
when an opportunity rises for
these Other Guys to step up
like the hero cops they
idolize, things don't go quite
as planned.

Keaton plays the longsuffering police chief, Coogan is the film's chief villain, and Mendes is Ferrell's impossibly-fit wife. According to early reviews, this looks like another winner for the comedy duo of star Ferrell and director McKay. After this film comes out on **September 17th**, we'll be able to judge for ourselves.



Mark Wahlberg and Will Ferrell are the B-Team in *The Other Guys* 

# MEGAN FOX IS IN IT (THAT'S ABOUT IT): JONAH HEX

Megan Fox has not had the best time in her career recently. Earlier this year, she quit *Transformers 3*, her horrorcomedy *Jennifer's Body* belly flopped at the box office last November, and then she starred in *Jonah Hex*, quite possibly the biggest box office bomb in recent history.

To be fair to her, however, it wasn't all down to her for its failure, and it certainly wasn't down to the other members of the cast either, a surprisingly-impressive ensemble of Josh Brolin, John Malkovich, Michael Fassbender, Will Arnett and Michael Shannon.

Maybe it's the nonsensical plot that confused moviegoers: apparently based on the DC Comics character of the same name, the story is about a bounty hunter named Jonah Hex (Brolin) who is left permanently scarred by the dangerous terrorist Quentin Turnbell (Malkovich) but manages to cheat death and for some reason now harnesses the pow-

er to revive the dead. From then on, it's another 81 minutes (1 hour and 21 minutes, too short for this type of film) of solid nonsense and boredom.

Even more bizarre is the film's choice of director, Jimmy
Hayward, whose only other directing credit to date is - brace yourself - the animated *Horton Hears A Who*. So, going straight from a kid's film about a lovable, Jim Carrey-voice elephant to a rough, 15-certificate supernatural Western just doesn't seem right.

But for those who are actually interested in seeing this film (be honest - you just wanna see Fox in "action", don't you?), it's out on **September 3rd**. But I'm warning you, you may want to save your money for something else that's worthwhile - like a webcam?



Megan Fox goes all out in Jonah Hex

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# MAY CONTAIN NUTTERS: DINNER FOR SCHMUCKS

After years of playing the straight man in films for Paul Rudd, and after years of playing eccentric but lovable goofballs for Steve Carell, the two will collide and do the exact same thing they've been doing for their new film together.

Dinner For Schmucks, based loosely on the French comedy The Dinner Game, unites the Anchorman and The 40-Year-Old Virgin costars with director Jay Roach (Meet The Parents, Austin Powers) and an all-star supporting cast, including Zach Galifianakis (The Hangover), Jermaine Clement (Flight of the Conchords), Bruce Greenwood (Star Trek), Lucy Punch (Hot Fuzz), David Walliams (Little Britain) and ventriloquist comedian Jeff Durnham (best known for Achmed the Dead Terrorist). The plot goes something like

this: a guy named Tim (Rudd) who finds out that the best chance to get a promotion at work is to attend a "dinner for idiots", where employees bring with them a complete moron to a fancy dinner and the person with the biggest buffoon is handsomely rewarded. Tim refuses to take part, but later bumps into Barry (Carell), a guy who makes dioramas out of dead mice and is thus the perfect guest for the dinner. Hilarity, no doubt, ensues.

The *Dinner* will be served to British audiences on **September 3rd**, and here's hoping for a good laugh from this one before *Due Date* comes along in November.



Steve Carell and Paul Rudd are cordially invited to the Dinner for Schmucks

#### News Round-Up

- In the wake of David Fincher's Facebook movie comes a film about the origins of Google
- Carla Gugino is a MILF (Mothers I'd Like to Fight, that is)
  - Jim Carrey is to star in the adaptation of the kid's classic *Mr. Popper's Penguins*
  - Hayao Miyazaki is developing a sequel to *Porco Rosso*
- Angelina Jolie will direct, produce and write (but probably not star in) a love story set during the 1992-95 Bosnian war
- Tom Hanks and Sandra
   Bullock are Extremely Loud
   and Incredibly Close in the
   new adaptation
- Dimension Films has announced a *Piranha 3D* sequel
- Jessica Alba will play a retired spy in Spy Kids 4
- A film (or a bunch of short films) based on the popular iPhone game Angry Birds is in the works
  - Dustin Hoffman has been added to *Little Fockers* after a few weeks of reshoots
  - Katie "Mrs. Cruise" Holmes will play Adam Sandler's wife in vanity project new comedy Jack and Jill
    - The writers of Kung Fu Panda will pen the sequel to The Karate Kid
  - John Cusack will play gothic writer Edgar Allen Poe in thriller *The Raven*
  - Sylvester Stallone wants Bruce Willis as the main villain in *The Expendables 2*
  - Toy Story 3 passes \$1 billion worldwide, making it the biggest animated film ever
  - Ex-Doctor Who Sylvester McCoy is in talks for a role in The Hobbit (but not as Bilbo)
  - Bradley Cooper and Ryan Reynolds will team up for a new buddy-cop/actioncomedy with a fatherly twist
- Jonathan Liebesman is confirmed to direct Clash of the Titans 2

### SEX&DRUGS&ROCK&ROLL: THE RUNAWAYS

Having already shared the screen in *Eclipse* last July, Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning are teamed up again for the biopic of the famed rock-band The Runaways.

The band got together in the 1970s and was significant in music history as it was an all-girls band, one of the first of its kind.

This film, however, focuses more on the two most famous members of the group: guitarist Joan Jett (Stewart), who went on to record such hits like "I Love Rock n Roll" and "Bad Reputation", and lead singer Cherie Currie (Fanning), a 15-year-old who gets caught up in the sex and drugfuelled glamour of rock-star status.

The rest of the cast is made up of young talent, as well as

two Oscar-nominated veterans: Stella Maeves, Scout Taylor-Compton, Alia Shawkat, Tatum O'Neil (Oscar winner for *Paper Moon*) and Michael Shannon (Oscar-nominated for *Revolutionary Road*), who plays the band's abusive, insane manager.

However, the film has sparked attention for a kissing scene between the 20-year-old Stewart and the 16-year-old Fanning.

No doubt it'll draw a lot of focus when it's released over here on **September 10th** (unlike in the US where, despite good reviews and the presence of two popular *Twilight* actors, it crashed and burned at the box office mainly due to the poor promotional marketing)



Dakota Fanning and Kristen Stewart rock out in *The Runaways* 

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Maybe kids will bring them closer?



#### It's based on a video game, the visual effects look piss poor, and the reviews for each installment have been anything but noteworthy. Which bears the question:

why the hell doesn't the Resident Evil film series just die already? Apparently, it's all down to

box office grosses - people just want to see Milla Jovovich fight off zombies in an apocalyptic wasteland. So, here we are with the fourth installment in the series, and keeping with the tradition of growinglydepressing subtitles (after Resident Evil: Apocalypse and Resident Evil: Extinction), we now have Resident Evil: Afterlife.

Jovovich, who has been in the franchise since Day 1, is back as heroine Alice, and is joined by Ali Larter (TV's Heroes), her co-star in the previous installment, among

The storyline? In the continuing saga of human vs. zombie, Alice and her friends continue to search for survivors, but they are soon led to a zombie-overrun Los Angeles, where they are about to fall into a deadly trap.

It also appears that the series is resorting to 3D to boost ticket sales, as it was filmed using the same technology as Avatar. But then again, not every 3D film thus far has guaranteed box office success (Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore, anyone?).

Either way, it looks like the series will continue after this release on September 10th.



Alice is back for more zombie-killing in Resident Evil: Afterlife



# ROBERT DOWNEY JR. ZACH GALIFIANAKIS YOUR COMFORT ZONE **NOVEMBER 5**

#### **EUROPEAN ROMANCE FTW:** EAT, PRAY, LOVE

Ever since last year's Duplicity (which earned her a surprise Golden Globe nomination), the most we've seen of Julia Roberts this year was a small part in ensemble rom-com Valentine's Day.

At long last, she's back to leading-lady status in the new globe-trotting rom-com Eat, Pray, Love.

Literary fans, you may have guessed correctly that it is indeed an adaptation of Elizabeth Gilbert's bestselling

You may not have guessed, however, that the film appears to be faithful to the source material, right down to even naming the main character after the author. Joining Roberts in the ensemble drama, as directed by Glee co-creator Ryan Murphy, are Javier Bardem

(No Country for Old Men), Billy Crudup (Watchmen), Oscar-nominees Richard Jenkins (The Visitor) and Viola Davis (Doubt) and James Franco (Pineapple Express).

For those unfamiliar with the source material, the plot focuses on Gilbert (Roberts). a housewife who realizes that she is unhappy with her married life and after a quick divorce, she sets out to Italy, India and Indonesia to find herself, and unexpected culture clashes and romances.

For men, it sounds like an episode of Sex and the City mixed with a Michael Palin documentary. But for women, it's a tale of travel, love and fine dining that cannot be missed on its arrival date of September 24th.



Julia Roberts is back in romcom mode in Eat, Pray, Love

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# BE GRATEFUL IT DOESN'T FEATURE MILEY: CYRUS

We've all seen love triangles - but how about one between a man and the woman's grown son?

Bizarre as that sounds, it's the premise for the new comedy *Cyrus*.

And don't worry, the son's not looking to score with his own mum (ew!) - it's more a case of separation anxiety for the young'un.

Allow me to elaborate: John C. Reilly (*Talladega Nights*) is a man named, erm, John, who divorced from his wife (Catherine Keener) seven years ago, and has been unlucky with love ever since.

One night, at a party, he meets a woman named Molly (Marisa Tomei), who seems to be his soul mate. John believes that he has finally found the perfect person once again... until she reveals that she has a grown son, named Cyrus (Jonah Hill).

Cyrus is a real momma's boy as well: he's in his late 20s but has refused to move out, and is a constant annoyance to John and his relationship with Molly.

Now, John has to find a way to make this romance work with the addition of the intentional and unintentional interference from Cyrus.

There's your love triangle for you. But how will it all work out? Can Cyrus be put in the same league as Damien from *The Omen* as "children from Hell"?

Answers will be revealed to audiences on **September 10th**.

Plus, you gotta love the tagline you may see on some posters: "Seriously, don't f\*\*k his mom". (the poster is censored, of course)



It's (potential) father vs. son in *Cyrus* 





# BEN AFFLECK IS THE TALK OF: THE TOWN

Who'd have thought it: Ben Affleck, Oscar-winning co-writer of Good Will Hunting who then went on to star in a load of crappy movies (\*cough\* Gigli \*cough\*), would turn out to have talent as a director?

His 2007 effort, Gone Baby Gone, was critically acclaimed and went on to get an Oscar nomination (for supporting actress Amy Ryan).

Now, he's looking to repeat the success with crime thriller *The Town*.

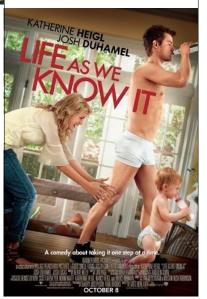
He has cast himself in the lead (pulling a Ben Stiller, are you Affleck?) alongside an ensemble of fine actors including Jeremy Renner (The Hurt Locker), Rebecca Hall (Frost/Nixon), Jon Hamm (Mad Men), Blake Lively (the upcoming Green Lantern) and Chris Cooper

(American Beauty).

Affleck plays a professional bank robber who, with a team of specialists, always get their target and nothing else. One day, they rob a bank and take a bank manager (Hall) hostage. After they let her go unharmed, she meets a nice and charming man named Doug, not realizing that he is the same person who had terrorized her just days ago. Hopefully, Affleck can recapture the audience's trust as a director with this neat little crime film. On September 24th, most are hoping that he can.



Ben Affleck and Jeremy Renner are up to no good in *The Town* 



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# RICH-ASS Brilliant. Thrilling. Deliffously cuterfailing. The state of the state of

<ick-Ass</p>

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 06/09/10



The Last Song

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 06/09/10



Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 13/09/10



Date Night

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 13/09/10

# MONTHLY RECAP: WHAT HAPPENED IN AUGUST?

come to an end, in this case it's the end of the summer and the highprofile releases of various big films. First up, on August 6th, we saw the releases of the Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz-starring action comedy Knight and Day; we got the sequel which absolutely no-one wanted in Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore; and the world of dance films (well. American ones anyway) went an extra dimension in Step Up 3D.

Well, all things had to

The following week, on the 13th, we got two big kid's films, although one of them got an absolute critic savaging: that film was M. Night Shyamalan's The Last Airbender (maybe next time, M. Night, try making a GOOD film), though the other, Nicholas Cage's The Sorcerer's Apprentice, fared slightly better in the review department.

But then came the 20th, which featured arguably some of the biggest releases of the month, including the highly-anticipated action film *The Expendables* (with a cast like Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li et al, just who's gonna complain?); Angelina Jolie kicked some arse as spy-on-the-run Salt;



Sylvester Stallone was back in action in The Expendables

the newest talking dog movie in at least two weeks came out in the form of Marmaduke; and Jaws rip-offs really came at you in *Piranha* 3D.

Finally, August 27th gave viewers the chance to return to Pandora in a special edition of Avatar: Lisbeth Salander (as played by Noomi Rapace) returned as The Girl Who Played With Fire: Adam Sandler and co brought in the (non-existent) laughs in Grown Ups; and Michael Cera took on his new squeeze's seven evil exes in Edgar Wright's Scott Pilgrim

vs. The World. Overall, August was a fitting end to a actionpacked, but over-sosoon, summer (Jesus, hasn't the time FLOWN?). But now, it's unfortunately over, and now we have to slow down slightly for September, but that doesn't mean there isn't anything good coming out this month (see the last few pages for further details).

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## COMING SOON: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER?

Halloween is almost upon us, and that means a bunch of scary films coming out this month... but we'll get to that later.

October looks to be

chockablock with exciting new releases and even possible awards contenders. First up, on the 1st, Ryan Reynolds gets claustrophobic in the new thriller *Buried*; and ex-Darth Vader Hayden Christensen is part of a bank robbing group in

Takers.

Then, on the 8th (a couple days prior, on the 6th, I celebrate my 18th birthday!), Zac Efron goes from girlcharmer to tear-jerker in The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud; Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel need to get along to look after their godchildren in Life As We Know It; and Michael Douglas is back for more financial mischief as Gordon Gekko in Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps. The 15th brings us entertainment for children and adults alike: Steve Carell is the voice of the evil Gru in the surprise US box office hit Despicable Me; Colin Farrell and Keira Knightley team up for the crime/romance UK retelling of Sunset Boulevard (here called London Boulevard. Swift); the origins of



Justin Timberlake and Jesse Eisenberg in The Social Network

Facebook are given a look-see by David Fincher, in the form of *The Social Network*; and it appears that, no matter how much you want to kill them, Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer just won't screw off and die, and they prove that with their new *Twilight* "spoof" *Vampires Suck*.

Next, on the 22nd, Justin Long and Heroes' Hayden Panettiere voice a pair of wolves in Alpha and Omega; Emma Stone (Zombieland) is the school faux-slut in Easy A: 300 and Watchmen director Zack Snyder is back with an animated film about owls (yes, really) known as Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole: Bruce Willis. Helen Mirren, Morgan Freeman and John Malkovich are Retired and Extremely Dangerous - or more

specifically, RED, and

we get our first dosage of Halloween goodness in the sequel to last year's hit *Paranormal* Activity.

Finally, the 29th brings us a couple of horror films just in time for Halloween - in the forms of Burke and Hare, the new horrorcomedy starring Andy Serkis and Simon Pegg, and the seventh (and presumably final) entry in the Saw franchise but also a more cheery, light-hearted film to balance the spookiness, notably The Kids Are All Right. Now, is that a packed month, or what?



Robin Hood

Also available on Blu-Ray
Released: 20/09/10



The Ghost

Also available on Blu-Ray
Released: 20/09/10



StreetDance 3D

Also available on Blu-Ray
Released: 27/09/10



<u>Death at a Funeral</u>

Also available on Blu-Ray

Released: 27/09/10

#### **UK Film Release Dates**

#### **SEPTEMBER**

#### 3RD

- 22 Bullets
- Certified Copy
- Cherry Tree Lane
- Dinner For Schmucks
- Jonah Hex
- The Last Exorcism
- Why Did I Get Married Too?

#### 10TH

- Cyrus
- Going The Distance
- Resident Evil: Afterlife
- The Runaways
- Tamara Drewe

#### 17TH

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

#### <u> 24TH</u>

- Eat, Pray, Love
- The Hole 3D
- The Town
- World's Greatest Dad

#### **OCTOBER**

#### 1ST

- Buried
- Takers

#### 8TH

- The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud
- Life As We Know It
- Mr. Nice
- New York, I Love You
- Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps

#### 15TH

- Despicable Me
- London Boulevard
- The Social Network
- Vampires Suck

#### **22ND**

- Alpha and Omega
- The Arbour
- Easy A
- Legend of the Guardians:
   The Owls of Ga'Hoole
- Red
- Paranormal Activity 2

#### 29TH

- Burke and Hare
- The Kids Are All Right
- Saw 3D

All release dates are correct as of time of press.

#### **NOVEMBER**

#### 5TH

- Another Year
- Due Date
- Jackass 3D
- Let Me In

#### 12TH

- Countdown to Zero
- Skyline
- Unstoppable
- You Again

#### <u> 19TH</u>

- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1
- The Virginity Hit

#### 26TH

- The American
- The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest
- Into Eternity
- Machete
- Monsters

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