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Issue 6 - December 2010



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

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MOVIE OF THE MONTH:

TRON: LEGACY



The famous lightcycles from the original get a new millennium make-over for the highlyanticipated *Tron: Legacy*

Also Out This Month

- Miral Oscar-nominated directed Julian Schnabel returns with a drama set in war-torn Jerusalem
- Secretariat Oscar-baiting biopic about the fabled racehorse (don't call it Seabiscuit 2)
- Somewhere Sofia Coppola returns to the big screen with this Golden Lionwinning drama
- Tyler Perry's For Coloured Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf - Tyler Perry takes on the awardwinning feminist play
- Burlesque Christina Aguilera and Cher star in a new musical together
- Fred: The Movie YouTube hit gets his own film (this is not a joke - run for your lives!)
- Chatroom Japanese horror director Hideo Nakata makes his Englishlanguage debut

Ladies and gentlemen, we are set for huge movie entertainment for the next five Christmases - next year, we've got Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol and Sherlock Holmes 2; in 2012 and 2013, we have Peter Jackson's two-part Hobbit films; and in 2014 and 2015, James Cameron will bring us the two sequels to Avatar. But before any of those films, we have the offering this Christmas (and subsequently December's

Legacy.
The film, for those who didn't already know, is the long-awaited follow-up to the 1982 sci-fi extravaganza *Tron*, which boasted some of the finest graphics ever seen at the time (granted, now-

Movie of the Month): the

highly-anticipated Tron:

adays it looks rather cheap but trust me, it was a big deal when it first came out).

Oscar-winning actor Jeff Bridges (star of the original) returns for the sequel, directed by newcomer Joseph Kosinski, and is joined this time by Garrett Hedlund (Troy), Olivia Wilde (TV's House), Michael Sheen (The Damned United) and Bruce Boxleitner (also from the original Tron). The first film followed young hacker Kevin Flynn (Bridges) who is literally abducted into the world of a computer game that he created, where he is forced to participate in gladiatorial games as a hacker program called Clu and where his only chance of escape is with the help of a heroic

security program called Tron (Boxleitner).

Tron: Legacy takes place 25 years later, and Kevin has mysteriously disappeared. His grown son, Sam (Hedlund), is eager to find his dad and in doing so manages to also be sucked in to the updated and more dangerous world of the computer, where he must team up with fearless warrior Quorra (Wilde), take down a new version of his father's program, Clu 2 (a digitally de-aged Bridges) and find his dad. With a plot like this, visuals to dwarf even Avatar, and Daft Punk on music duty, what more could you want from this **December** 17th release (which will also be in 3D, like everything else)?





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News Round-Up

- James Nesbit and Adam Brown join the cast of The Hobbit
- Jamie Chung, Paul Giamatti and ex-President Bill Clinton (?) join The Hangover Part II
- MGM files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy
- Martin Sheen, Sally Field and Denis Leary will feature in the Spider-Man reboot
- Judi Dench will cameo in Pirates of the Caribbean 4
- The writers of Zombieland will adapt the comic book series Cowboy Ninja Viking
- Warner Bros announces plans to open a studio complex in Britain, including a Harry Potter museum
- Robert De Niro will receive the Cecil B. DeMille award at the Golden Globes next month
- A 3D live-action film based on Walking with Dinosaurs is in the pipeline
- Roland Emmerich's "found footage" film The Zone is shut down
- John Krasinski, Ed Helms, Jack Black, Alan Arkin, Billy Crystal, Jean-Claude Van Damme Danny Trejo and Lady GaGa will cameo in The Muppets
- Darren Aronofsky reveals that the title for Wolverine 2 is just The Wolverine
- Carey Mulligan is cast as Daisy in Baz Luhrman's The Great Gatsby
- Mike White will direct Pride and Prejudice and Zombies
- Michael Caine, Emily Mortimer and Jason Issacs join the voice cast for Cars 2
- Warner Bros is planning a remake of The Wizard of Oz
- Steven Soderbergh may direct an adaptation of The Man From U.N.C.L.E, with George Clooney in talks to star
- Amazon.com has launched Amazon Studios, an online system for new filmmakers
- Paramount Pictures plans for a third Paranormal Activity next Halloween

I'M ON A BOAT: THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER

BEERE ERERE ERERE ERERE

The first adaptation of C.S Lewis' acclaimed *The Chronicles of Narnia* book series, *The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe*, was an arousing success for Disney upon its release - however, the second film, *Prince Caspian*, didn't do as well as they had hoped at the box office (possibly because of a summer release as opposed to a Christmas one?) which led to the series being dropped by the company.

Now, it's 20th Century Fox who are behind the third adaptation, entitled *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*.

Michael Apted (Gorillas in the Mist, The World Is Not Enough) takes over directing duties this time round, but some of the cast from the first two films, including Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Tilda Swinton and the voice of Liam Neeson, will remain the same. New additions include Will Poulter (Son of Rambow), Laura Brent, Bruce Spence (Finding Nemo), and the voice of Simon Pegg.

Lucy Pevensie (Keynes and Henley), the younger brother and sister from the first two films, once again being transported to the world of Narnia, with their arrogant cousin Eustace (Poulter) in tow. They end up on the ship Dawn Treader, where they reunite with now-King Caspian (Barnes), that wonderful lion Aslan (Neeson) and heroic mouse Reepicheep (Pegg) on another heroic adventure.

But now that it's back in its preferred Christmas spot, and

preferred Christmas spot, and distributed by a different studio other than Disney, will it be a success? Either way, it looks to be an alright way to spend the holidays upon its release of **December 10th**.



Narnia has a navy, as revealed in The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

EVIL NEVER LOOKED SO BLUE: *MEGAMIND*

Usually in superhero flicks, the focus is pretty much always on the actual hero of the story - meaning no love whatsoever for the supervillain.

So for all the Lex Luthors, Jokers, Green Goblins et al, here comes a film that FINALLY reverses the formulae of the superhero genre.

Megamind, the latest film by DreamWorks Animation (whose earlier films this year - How To Train Your Dragon and Shrek Forever After - were set alight at the box office), is pretty much the first of its kind where the villain is the hero, and not the other way round.

A stellar voice cast has also been lined up (why wouldn't it be, it's DreamWorks - they can even get an all-star cast for pieces of shit like *Shark Tale*), including Will Ferrell, Tina Fey, Jonah Hill, David Cross, Justin Long, Bill Hader, Amy Poehler, Ben Stiller, and Brad Pitt. In a plot that sounds like any other, there's the goody-two-

shoes superhero, Metro Man (Pitt) and there's the big-headed (quite literally) Megamind (Ferrell). Megamind may be the most brilliant villain the world has ever known, but every plan he's had has been thwarted by his better-appreciated, but arrogant, nemesis Metro Man. One day, however, Megamind actually manages to succeed in killing his superhero rival and taking over Metro City. But he soon finds that life without an enemy to fight is pretty dull and, with his sidekick Minion (Cross), manages to create a new superhero out of lonely cameraman Hal (Hill) - the only thing is, he wants to use his new powers for EVIL, so now it's up to the former villain to become the hero and save the day!

December 3rd is the release date for this one, but can it match How To Train Your Dragon or Toy Story 3 in terms of quality in animation? Probably not, but it looks like a good laugh either way.



Evil finally triumphs in Megamind









EASYJET DOESN'T OFFER THIS: THE TOURIST

"Johnny Depp! Angelina Jolie! Together in a film! Set in Venice!" is how the marketing may as well have been for *The Tourist*, but let's be honest - it's the truth.

Yes, the laid-back and quirky actor most famous for playing a pirate and his collaborations with Tim Burton is, for this film, paired up with The Most Beautiful Woman In The World©, a woman who spends her spare time doing humanitarian work and looking after her many adopted children with partner Brad Pitt.

But this article isn't just focused on the film's star power - its director, Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, won an Oscar for the critically-acclaimed German thriller *The Lives of Others*, and producer Graham King won the Oscar for

Best Picture for Martin Scorsese's *The Departed*.

Other members of the cast include Paul Bettany (*The Da Vinci Code*), Rufus Sewell (*A Knight's Tale*), Steven Berkoff (*Octopussy*) and ex-Bond Timothy Dalton.

The film follows an American, Frank (Depp), who is travelling to Venice to mend a broken heart. On the way, he meets a mysterious Englishwoman, Elise (Jolie), who deliberately crosses paths with Frank in order for the authorities following her to mistake him for her former lover, a man who stole money from a top gangster (Berkoff). Frank soon realizes that he has become a target and with Elise must try and stay one step ahead of the rest.

Anyone who likes both actors will have no trouble liking this **December 10th** release.



SECRETARIES SECRETARIOS

Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie cross paths in *The Tourist*

News Round-Up

- Robert Downey Jr departs from Alfonso Cuaron's Gravity and may move on to the family comedy How To Talk To Girls
- Howard Shore will return to score The Hobbit
 - The Dark Knight Rises will start filming in May, according to Michael Caine, and will also be the last time Christian Bale plays Batman
 - Daniel Day-Lewis will play Abraham Lincoln in Steven Spielberg's biopic
- Malin Akerman replaces troubled star Lindsay Lohan in a biopic about porn star Linda Lovelace
- Leonardo DiCaprio will produce and co-star in JFK assassination conspiracy thriller Legacy of Secrecy
- All eight Harry Potter films will be re-released in a limited 3D release
- Warner Bros is rebooting Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- Gore Verbinski is confirmed to direct The Lone Ranger
 - Mark Wahlberg will play Nathan Drake in the film version of PS3 game Uncharted
- French actor Gilles Lellouche is a late addition to the cast of Sherlock Holmes 2
 - BFI will take over from UK Film Council as Britain's source of funding for British filmmakers
 - R.I.P: Ingrid Pitt (horror movie icon), Leslie Nielson (Airplane! and Naked Gun) and Irvin Kershner (director of The Empire Strikes Back)
- The Hobbit will one of the first films shot with new 3D Red Epic cameras
- James Franco and Anne Hathaway are to co-host the 83rd Oscars
- Kirsten Dunst joins Chloe Moretz in Hick
- Halle Berry will star in Cloud Atlas, the Wachowski Bros' next film
- Tom Hanks is confirmed for Kathryn Bigelow's next film Triple Frontier

A FOCKING NIGHTMARE:

LITTLE FOCKERS When Gaylord "Gregory" Focker (Sin City) and Lau

When Gaylord "Gregory" Focker (Ben Stiller) met his girlfriend Pam's (Teri Polo) father, the ex-CIA man Jack Byrnes (Robert De Niro), in 2000's Meet The Parents, everything went anything but right.

When everyone was introduced

to Greg's parents, the stay-athome hippie Bernie (Dustin Hoffman) and sex therapist Roz (Barbara Streisand), in the 2004 hit sequel *Meet The Fockers*, things went from bad to worse. Now, the situation has changed -Greg and Pam have started a family, but has that really lifted tensions between father-in-law and son-in-law?

The third film in the series, entitled *Little Fockers*, brings the game up a notch in all the wrong ways.

Stiller, De Niro, Polo, Hoffman, Streisand, Blythe Danner and Owen Wilson all reprise their roles from the first two films, and are joined by new cast members such as Harvey Keitel (Reservoir Dogs), Jessica Alba (Sin City) and Laura Dern (Jurassic Park).

The film follows Greg having a bit of a mid-life crisis - although he's now married Pam and has two adorable children, he starts to worry about whether he can be a good father and make enough money for the family. Ultimately, this leads to Jack once again becoming highly suspicious of his son-in-law, and tensions between the two begin to mount.

What will happen - will the two finally be able to bond, or will it all go to hell?

Bottom line is, things will not be the same for the Byrnes and Focker families, and we'll get to see how this is possible on December 22nd.



Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro face off in *Little Fockers*







SING RECERERER RECE



SIZE MATTERS NOT, IT LOOKS SHIT: GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

When it comes to adaptations of classic pieces of literature, there are two categories: Done The Right Way, and Done The Wrong Way.

Gulliver's Travels, unfortunately, looks to fall way into the latter.

Now, to be fair, when I first read about this film, I thought "Hey, looks like a good Christmas movie for the whole family" and was equally impressed by some of the actors they managed to gather for the film - Jack Black, Jason Segal, Emily Blunt, Amanda Peet, Catherine Tate, Billy Connolly and James Corden are all part of the British/American ensemble - so therefore I thought "Looks like harmless fun."

Then the second trailer came out.

And all hope I had for this film kind of disappeared. I

mean, I knew it would be bad but not THIS bad.

What was meant to be an adaptation of the acclaimed 1735 Jonathan Swift novel - in which a man, Lemuel Gulliver (Black) travels to the island of Lilliput which is populated by incredibly tiny people - has now been studio -raped with Star Wars references, a pointless modernisation of the characters, and a GIANT FREAKING ROBOT FOR NO FREAKING REASON!!!! IN 3D!!!!!!

Not to mention the fact that in this trailer alone, they just gave away the whole movie so save yourself some money and just watch that instead.

If you actually do want to see this (and God have mercy on your soul) - it's released **December 26th** (a good way of orally getting rid of all that Christmas dinner, then! Ew.)



Jack Black is bigger than most in *Gulliver's Travels*



HOMEWARD BOUND: THE WAY BACK

Don't you just hate it when you're stuck in a Siberian death camp? FML indeed. But what happens once you escape captivity and then need to make the journey home? In *The Way Back*, this is exactly the situation.

Oscar-nominated director Peter Weir (he of Master and Commander, The Truman Show and Dead Poets Society fame) is back after seven years with his latest epic masterpiece - and he's not doing it alone.

He's managed to assemble a fine set of European actors (and one American) to make up his ragtag team of heroes, including Jim Sturgess (21, Across The Universe), Colin Farrell (In Bruges, Phone Booth), Ed Harris (The Truman Show, A History of Violence), Saoirse Ronan (Atonement, The Lovely Bones), Mark Strong

(Kick-Ass, Sherlock Holmes), Dragoş Bucur and Gustaf Skarsgård.

The fact-based film, already talked about amongst awards folk, focuses on a group of soldiers who manage to escape from a Siberian gulag in 1940 and are then forced to make the entire journey across the country to India in order to make it home in time for tea. Pretty simple? Looks bloody difficult if you asked me (but then again I'm as lazy as hell), but the question is will they survive the walk and make it back? The question will be answered on

December 26th.



Jim Sturgess leads the crosscountry team in *The Way* Back







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SECRETARIES SECRETARIOS

STIFFEN THE COMPETITION: Love & Other Drugs

Five years ago, they starred together in *Brokeback Mountain* as lovers (and not the kind for which said film is known for!). Five years later, Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway reunite in *Love and Other Drugs* - as lovers. Diversity just doesn't seem to agree with these two, eh?

Anyway, Love and Other Drugs is the title of the film, and is directed by Ed Zwick, who is making a rather odd and unexpected turn into the drama/romance/comedy/whatever the trailers make it out to be genre of film after war epics (Glory, The Last Samurai, Blood Diamond, Defiance,) and, erm, Legends of the Fall.

Meanwhile, the lovable duo of Gyllenhaal and Hathaway have done good in recent years - Gyllenhaal earned an Oscar nomination for *Brokeback Mountain*, appeared in David Fincher's criminally-underrated *Zodiac* and earlier this year ventured into surprisingly-entertaining blockbusters, namely *Prince of Persia*; Hath-

away, meanwhile, starred alongside Meryl Streep in *The Devil Wears Prada*, got nominated for an Oscar for *Rachel Getting Married*, and appeared in Tim Burton's epic *Alice in Wonderland*.

Here, they are joined by the likes of Oliver Platt (who will next appear in Matthew Vaughn's X-Men: First Class) Hank Azaria (he who voices a shitload of characters on The Simpsons) and Gabriel Macht (erm, The Snirit)

As for the story, Hathaway portrays Maggie, a free spirit who will let nothing tie her down. All this changes, of course, when she meets her match in the charming and relentless Jamie (Gyllenhaal), a man working in the world of pharmaceutical sales - namely Viagra. Their evolving relationship surprises both of them, as they find themselves to the most powerful drug created: love.

Those looking for a feel-good romance will look no further than this **December 29th** release.



Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway love up in *Love* and Other Drugs





IN MEXICO, NO-ONE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM: MONSTERS

Some might say last year's District 9 was the catalyst for this new gritty take on sci-fi, but it seems it was most certainly the inspiration. While that film centered on extraterrestrial refugees living in shantytowns in South Africa, Monsters is different in substance but similar in style.

Featuring, like the Peter Jackson-produced sci-fi actioner, a minimal cast of unknowns (in the form of Whitney Able, Kevon Kane and Scoot McNairy), this one is directed by Gareth Edwards, who not only makes his feature film debut as a director but also did the screenplay/visual effects/ cinematography/tea errands for it as well. Pretty darned impressive, it has to be said. The film, not unlike the aforementioned 2009 film, is

set some years (in this case,

six) after a NASA probe crash lands in Mexico, and alien life forms have begun to spread amongst the US-Mexican border, leaving half of Mexico quarantined. It is this situation that Andrew (McNairy) finds himself in when he is asked to go into the infected zone of Mexico, retrieve an American tourist and bring her back to the US border.

The similarities between this film and *District* 9 are endless, but this looks to be a very clever take on the alien invasion genre and, judging by its wondrous praise by UK critics alike, shouldn't be one to miss when it's released on **December 3rd.**



Mexico is quarantined for alien invasions in *Monsters*











The Twilight Saga: Eclipse

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 06/12/10



Shrek Forever After

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 06/12/10



Inception

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 06/12/10



<u>The Expendables</u> Also available on Blu-Ray

Released: 13/12/10

MONTHLY RECAP: WHAT HAPPENED IN NOVEMBER?

SEREE EREE EREER EREER

Remember, remember, that month called November... still can't? Well, allow me to help vou.

November 5th (better known as Bonfire Night to you lot) brought out a bunch of good new releases, such as Mike Leigh's captivating drama Another Year; Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis' disastrous road trip in Due Date; rednecks injuring themselves in the third dimension in Jackass 3D: and vampires made a non-Twilight appearance in Let Me

The 13th was guieter in comparison, with the releases of alien abduction flick Skyline (from the guys who did Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem - maybe that's the reason why it didn't do so well!); and lighthearted Kristen Bell comedy You Again. However, the 19th of November brought out one of the most anticipated films of the year, and most certainly the decade - yes, it was Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 that captivated audiences once more. and left many people disappointed - not with the film's quality, but with the fact that we will all now have to wait until July 15th, 2011 (save the date, it's gonna be FREAKING

HUGE!!) until the



It was the beginning of the end in Harry Potter and the Deathly
Hallows: Part 1

second part and therefore the final film in the nearly-decadeold Harry Potter franchise. And, for those not up for wizards and lightning bolt-shaped scars, there was the Taiwanese Palme D'Or winner Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives - but my guess is that you never saw that one. Finally, the month came to an end not with a whimper but with a bang with a ton of releases: George Clooney gave a more subtle and different performance than we've ever seen as The American; the year's most talked-about Swedish film trilogy came to

an exciting close with

The Girl Who Kicked

The Hornet's Nest:

Colin Farrell, Keira

from the writer

Knightley and Ray Win-

stone teamed up for a

British gangster thriller

of The Departed, entitled London Boulevard: Robert Rodriguez returned to the Grindhouse with spin-off Machete; and Denzel Washington and Chris Pine had to stop a train from causing Michael Bay-level mass destruction in Unstoppable. With eleven months down for 2010, there's one more left - but you can view all about December over the past few pages. Or why not flick (or scroll down or however you're reading this) to the yearly recap of 2010?







Film Feeder #6 Page 7

SECRE ERERE ERERE ERERE

COMING SOON: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY?

In a case of "bloody hell, where did the time go?", it's 2011 already. And given that it's January, expect a load of awards contenders to come at you from all angles.

The 7th of January will bring us just two of the most talked-about awards contenders: Danny Boyle's claustrophobic and horrifyingly gory (if what we hear from screenings to be true) 127 Hours; and Colin Firth, Helena Bonham Carter and Geoffrey Rush will try and produce The King's Speech. For others, Russell Crowe will organise a breakout of his jailed wife in The Next Three Days. On January 15th, Hilary Swank goes to law school in Conviction: Seth Rogen becomes the most unlikely superhero vigilante in history with his vision of The Green Hornet; Nicholas Cage will go medieval on our asses in Season of the Witch: and Joel Coen and Ethan Coen return to Westerns with their take on the classic novel and John Wayne film True Grit.

Then, on the 21st, Natalie Portman gives one of the most talkedabout performances this awards season in Darren Aronofsky's Black Swan; Ron Howard divulges down



Colin Firth has vocal troubles in The King's Speech

the romantic comedy route with *The Dilemma*; Rachel McAdams plays long-suffering producer to bickering daytime talk show hosts Harrison Ford and Diane Keaton in *Morning Glory*; and horror master Wes Craven returns for his newest outing, *My Soul To Take*.

Finally, the packed month of January comes to a close on the 28th with many a release, including the adaptation of acclaimed novel Barney's Version starring Paul Giamatti, Dustin Hoffman and Minnie Driver: Babel director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu unites with hotly-tipped actor Javier Bardem in Biutiful; Clint Eastwood and Matt Damon try to communicate with the afterlife in Hereafter;

James L. Brooks brings

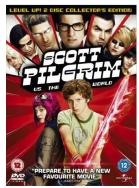
Reese Witherspoon, Paul Rudd, Owen Wilson and Jack Nicholson into the mix for a new romantic-comedy How Do You Know; and Disney reaches its milestone 50th animated feature film with a new take on the classic Rapunzel fairy tale, called (rather stupidly to be honest) Tangled. If January's releases are anything to go by, it looks like 2011's gonna be a corker. To find out how much of a corker it actually looks, go to page 9 for a preview of what's to come throughout the upcoming year.



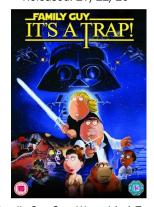
Also available on Blu-Ray Released: 13/12/10



Knight and Day
Also available on Blu-Ray
Released: 13/12/10



Scott Pilgrim vs. The World
Also available on Blu-Ray
Released: 27/12/10



Family Guy Star Wars: It's A Trap!

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 27/12/10







Review of 2010

REKE KEEKE KEEKE KEEK



First Row (from left): Alice in Wonderland, How To Train Your Dragon, Kick-Ass, Iron Man 2, Shrek Forever After, Get Him To The Greek Second Row (from right): The Twilight Saga: Eclipse, Inception, Toy Story 3, The A-Team, The Karate Kid, Knight and Day Third Row (from left): Salt, The Expendables, Scott Pilgrim vs The World, The Social Network, Despicable Me, Harry Potter and the Death-ly Hallows: Part 1

<u>January</u>

While the world was still transfixed on *Avatar*, we got to check out some of the awards contenders for the year including *Up In The Air* and *Precious*. We also received Denzel Washington apocalyptic thriller *The Book of Eli* and Mel Gibson's latest attempt to return to starring roles (until those phone calls ruined everything) in *Edge of Darkness*.

<u>February</u>

More 2010 leftovers dominated some of the second month, including Disney's The Princess and the Frog, Clint Eastwood's Nelson Mandela epic Invictus, and Peter Jackson's tearjerker The Lovely Bones. However, we got new films as well potential Harry Potter replacement Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief, long-delayed horror The Wolfman, and the appropriately-themed Valentine's Day.

March

Tim Burton's version of the classic Alice in Wonderland broke records, Matt Damonstarrer Green Zone thrilled viewers, Shutter Island confused them, How To Train Your Dragon made them feel good and Kick-Ass - erm - kicked ass!

<u>April</u>

This month brought us our first major dud of the year with Clash of the Titans, Steve Carell and Tina Fey went on a night from hell in Date Night, the highly-acclaimed Swedish thriller The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, and that's pretty much it. Quite a slow month, really. Oh wait, there WAS the release of Iron Man 2, the eagerly-awaited sequel to the 2008 hit with Robert Downey Jr as Tony Stark!

May

After the titanium superhero just made it into the end of April, we were left to witness another 2010 dud in the shape of Robin Hood. And don't even get me started on Sex and the City 2 (but then again, I'm a bloke so I automatically have a biased opinion of it). But not to worry - the more fun, and somewhat underrated Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time made up for that.

<u>June</u>

Due to the World Cup, we weren't treated to as many films this month, but we did get Russell Brand-starrer Get Him To The Greek, Noel Clarke's latest joy 4.3.2.1, Chris Rock's remake of Death at a Funeral, and action-comedies Killers and MacGruber.

<u>July</u>

The summer season finally arrived, with sequels - The Twilight Saga: Eclipse, Shrek Forever After and Toy Story 3 - and remakes - The A-Team, The Karate Kid and Predators - galore. We also got Christopher Nolan's new masterpiece (until The Dark Knight Rises) Inception. It's pretty darn good.

<u>August</u>

Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz went round the world in Knight and Day, M. Night Shyamalan provided another dud with The Last Airbender, Nicholas Cage recruited The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Sylvester Stallone assembled a group of awesome action stars for The Expendables, Angelina Jolie turned into a badass spy in Salt, James Cameron gave us more Avatar with a new special edition, Adam Sandler assembled his own ragtag team for another 2010 dud with Grown Ups, and Edgar Wright produced one of the most visual films of the year with Scott Pilgrim Vs. The Word. Just another August in movieland.

September

Kevin Lewis' *The Kid* became a big screen movie, Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg became *The Other Guys*, and Ben Affleck's directing streak continued with *The Town*. That's about it.

October

The origins of Facebook were revealed in The Social Network. Michael Douglas returned to greed in Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps, a new animated hit emerged in Despicable Me, Emma Stone became a star thanks to Easy A, Zack Snyder turned to animated owls in Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole, Bruce Willis and others weren't too old for school in RED, and lesbian parenthood became popular with The Kids Are All Right.

<u>November</u>

Mike Leigh's new drama Another Year came out, as did Robert Downey Jr and Zach Galifianakis' Due Date, redneck buffoonery in Jackass 3D, vampire tale sans Robert Pattinson with Let Me In. George Clooney's moody The American, Colin Farrell and Keira Knightley's gangster thriller London Boulevard, Robert Rodriguez' love letter to exploitation films with Machete, and Denzel Washington and Chris Pine tried to stop an Unstoppable train. Oh, and some independent film about this boy wizard? I dunno.

December

See pages 1-5 for further details.







Preview of 2011



First Row (from left): The Green Hornet, Rango, Paul, Sucker Punch, Hanna, Scream 4 Second Row (from right): Thor, Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, Green Lantern, Cars 2, Transformers: Dark of the Moon, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2

Third Row (from left): The First Avenger: Captain America, Cowboys and Aliens, The Adventures of Tintin: Secret of the Unicorn, The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1, Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol, Sherlock Holmes 2, The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

<u>January</u>

See page 7 for further details

February

All this and more in February: Mark Wahlberg will become a Fighter, a classic Shakespeare play becomes children's fodder in Gnomeo and Juliet, Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston pretend to be married in Just Go With It, a beloved cartoon character becomes a creepy-looking CG creation in Yogi Bear, Simon Pegg and Nick Frost team up with a CG, Seth Rogen-voiced alien named Paul, and Dwayne Johnson goes around killing people in Faster.

<u>March</u>

The third month of the year brings us sci-fi romance The Adjustment Bureau with Matt Damon and Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp lends his vocals to chameleon tale Rango, Helen Mirren does Shakespeare's The Tempest, Robert De Niro and Bradley Cooper team up for thriller The Dark Fields, Aaron Eckhart leads the Battle: Los Angeles against invading aliens, and Zach Snyder proves why he is THE person to direct the next Superman with femaleoriented, balls-out (so to speak) action in Sucker Punch.

April

Even with a royal wedding about, there are still numerous films to be excited about: Saoirse Ronan goes Hit-Girl on our arses in *Hanna*, the classic fairy tale *Red Riding Hood* gets a darker tone, childhoods will be revisited with *Winnie The Pooh*, Ghostface is back in *Scream 4*, Robert Pattinson joins the circus in *Water For Elephants*, and the first big release of the summer: Kenneth Branagh's superhero flick *Thor*.

May

Not much to report here - oh, there IS Pirates of the Caribbean 4! AND *The* Hangover Part II! Not bad, eh?

June

Matthew Vaughn reinvents the X-Men in X-Men: First Class, even more fast cars and Vin Diesel in Fast Five, Ryan Reynolds becomes an alien superhero in Green Lantern, get ready for the return of awesomeness in Kung Fu Panda 2, see how the damned dirty apes came to be in Rise of the Apes, the medieval epic gets a stoner vision in Your Highness, and more robots fighting each other in Transformers: The Dark of the Moon (here's hoping it's better than the last one!)

<u>July</u>

An animal version of Night At The Museum is released in the form of The Zookeeper, Lightning McQueen and Mater travel the world in Cars 2, Chris Evans becomes a WW2-era superhuman in The First Avenger: Captain America, and Rowan Atkinson returns to misguided espionage in Johnny English 2. But come on: we're all REALLY waiting for Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2!

<u>August</u>

The Smurfs will finally get a cinematic make-over, cowboys fight off against aliens in, erm, Cowboys and Aliens, Jim Carrey gets mixed up with a pack of penguins in Mr. Popper's Penguins, Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis are sex buddies in Friends With Benefits, the petit spies are back in Spy Kids: All The Time In The World, J.J. Abrams' latest secret weapon Super 8 will be released, and so will Final Destination 5 (so much for the fourth one being The Final Destination, then).

September

Taylor Lautner learns he was adopted the hard way in Abduction, and Jesse Eisenberg is forced to rob a bank in 30 Minutes Or Less. That's about it.

<u>October</u>

As the end of the year approaches, Hugh Jackman plays a robot fighting manager in Real Steel, The Three Musketeers gets a Pirates-style vision, Steven Soderbergh unleashes his world-spanning project Contagion, Miley Cyrus turns to teen-comedies in LOL, and Steven Spielberg releases his long-mooted mo-cap version of The Adventures of Tintin: Secret of the Unicorn.

November

An ensemble comedy cast plans a *Tower Heist*, Aardman Animation introduces us to *Arthur Christmas*, and the first part of the final Twilight film, *Breaking Dawn*, is released to an expected screaming audience of teen girls.

December

Return to the world of tap dancing penguins in *Happy Feet 2*, Martin Scorsese hops on board the 3D bandwagon with *Hugo Cabret*, the muchloved Spanish feline Puss in Boots gets his own spin-off, run for your lives from *Alvin and the Chipmunks 3D*, be amazed by *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol*, be dazzled by *Sherlock Holmes 2* and be entranced by David Fincher's version of the acclaimed *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*.

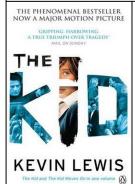






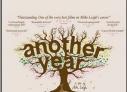
The Top 10 Films of the Year

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10 - The Kid

This adaptation of Kevin Lewis' harrowing autobiography was hardly seen by British audiences (thanks mainly to many screw-ups by the distributors) but it remains an underrated British gem of a movie. Director Nick Moran took those who actually bothered to see it into the sad, hard life of Kevin Lewis as he was abused by his parents, found little success in various businesses, and ended up being a major figure in underground fight clubs – and yet, Kevin managed to find light and happiness with his life. This inspirational fairy tale featured strong performances from Rupert Friend, Natascha McElhone and loan Gruffudd, and deserves a second chance at finding a wide audience when it is eventually released on DVD.



9 - Another Year

Mike Leigh's latest has all the ingredients for a moody British drama - trips to the doctor, feelings of loneliness, disillusions with the younger generation and even a funeral - but it comes out looking strong as the best British film of the year. Maintaining Leigh's trademark improvisational methods and situations, the film is capped with heartwarming turns from Jim Broadbent and Ruth Sheen as an elderly couple very much in love. But the strongest performer out of the lot is Leigh regular Lesley Manville, whose funny, romantic and heartbreaking turn stands out immensely. Visually striking, amazingly realistic and downright British, this here is a true diamond in 2010 British cinema.



8 - How To Train Your Dragon

Wow, what a surprise this film was. A film most were expecting to be another of DreamWorks' typical pop-culture filled cartoons turned out to be one of the most memorable films to come out over the last twelve months. Sporting a voice cast unsurprising of DreamWorks Animation's celebrity streak - including Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler, America Ferrera, Craig Ferguson, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Jonah Hill, Kristen Wiig and David Tennant - and 3D effects that take the audience through a magical and entrancing ride, this is by far their best recent film that has bugger all to do with grumpy ogres, and also the best non-Pixar animated film of the year.



7 - The Town

Ben Affleck proved he had a knack for directing when he unleashed *Gone, Baby, Gone*, and he most definitely continued his good streak with this exciting and just brilliant crime thriller. Affleck also takes the lead role, but he unselfishly gives the best roles to other members of the cast - Jeremy Renner, so memorable in *The Hurt Locker*, is a particular standout as a member of Affleck's bankrobbing posse, and there are memorable and sometimes career-best performances from Rebecca Hall, *Mad Men*'s Jon Hamm, Blake Lively (soon to be seen in *Green Lantern*) and Chris Cooper. With extraordinary character development, intense action scenes, brilliant performances and an atmosphere so realistic it hurts, *The Town* fully deserves to be one of the best films of the year.



6 - Easy A

Six years after teen comedies were revolutionised with *Mean Girls*, here comes a film of the same genre that is both funnier, smarter and - dare I say it - more likable than its 2004 predecessor. Taking heavy inspiration from Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, the film shows how one little lie can turn into a non-stopping monster. Directed with great talent by Will Gluck, and with a screenplay to match that of *The Social Network* (yup, it's that good), it features an impressive ensemble of some of the finest actors playing the most believable characters you're likely to come across in a teen movie. But the real hero of this story? The star-making central performance by Emma Stone, who plays the main character of Olive with humour, drama and pure excellence. For everyone involved with *Easy A*, the best teen flick of the year, A's all around!





The Top 10 Films Of The Year

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5 - Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World

It's Edgar Wright's latest - but there's no Simon Pegg or Nick Frost in sight! In their place, we get Michael Cera and a whole bunch of baddies and allies in an adaptation of Bryan Lee O'Malley's graphic novel series Scott Pilgrim, in which a young man must fight his new beau's evil exboyfriends. But not to fear - it's much better than it sounds! Taking hoards of inspiration from classic video games - from Mortal Kombat to Zelda - it's a rollercoaster ride of awesomeness with quick-as-a-flash editing, impressive fighting choreography and enough pop culture references that would make a fanboy jizz in his pants. Cera manages to overcome his typical awkwardness in a role best suited for him, and the evil-exes aren't bad either - Chris Evans' arrogant movie star is a memorable one. All in all, Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World is an extremely fun film to watch, but not as fun as...



It's all really down to one young girl, aged 11, having just stabbed someone to death and wearing a purple wig and costume, looking at her next challenges and uttering, and I quote, "Okay you cunts, let's see what you can do now." It was truly Hit-Girl, a breakthrough performance by Chloe Moretz and THAT entrance that made *Kick-Ass* the funniest film of the year, bar none. But there are other qualities that made the film as well - Brit boy Aaron Johnson does a damn good job as the titular amateur superhero, Nicholas Cage pulled off his best performance in years (and certainly his funniest), the script by Jane Goldman just kills, director Matthew Vaughn knows what the audience wants, and above all, it showed many a comic book fan that, against all odds, anyone can do anything - even become a superhero. Now THAT is film-making for the masses!

3 - The Social Network

"A movie about Facebook? Directed by the guy who did *Fight Club*? What next, a musical about Bebo directed by George Lucas?" is what an average Daily Mail reader would say. But time makes fools of us all, and David Fincher managed to bring to cinemas a unique albeit partially-fictionalised look at the origins of the most popular website in the world. The script by *West Wing* creator Aaron Sorkin is the best of any screenplay this year, with such insanely-clever and beautifully-written dialogue you'd have thought Quentin Tarantino had written it. Jesse Eisenberg is magnificent as Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg, Andrew Garfield is a standout as betrayed best pal Eduardo Saverin, and even Justin Timberlake is impressive as Napster co-founder Sean Parker. In short, Fincher and Sorkin have created the most intelligent film of the year. 500 million people "like" this.

2 - Inception

A cast sworn to secrecy, a plot unknown until its twilight months, and a big-time director - it sounds like J.J. Abrams' latest, but rather *Dark Knight* director Christopher Nolan's newest masterpiece. Set in the worlds of corporate espionage and the subconscious state, it was Nolan's imagination running wild, complete with zero-gravity scenes, a mid-air fight whilst spinning at 360°, and a city that folds like Ann Widdecombe's stomach. Leonardo DiCaprio gives it his all with a heartbreaking lead performance, and all the ensemble cast (including Marion Cotillard, Ellen Page, Tom Hardy, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Ken Watanabe) do their best as well, but this is really Nolan's movie, one that came out of almost nowhere to become the most talked-about and best sci-fi film of the year, and probably THE best if it weren't for...

1 - Toy Story 3

It was inevitable that this would be number #1 - it's freakin' *Toy Story*, for crying out loud! Eleven years of series hiatus has done wonders on its viewers, with nearly a childhood to familiarise ourselves with the likes of Woody, Buzz and the rest to add to the dramatic tensions in the wonderful script by *Little Miss Sunshine*'s Michael Arndt. The introduction of new characters such as the sinister Lotso, the hedgehog thespian Mr. Pricklepants and the anything-but Chuckles the Clown add a side to the films that has never been seen before. Character development is sensational, the animation is flawless and the tears just keep on coming (especially during the scene at the dump). Finally, bravo on the ending, for it presents the perfect conclusion to a series that has touched so many of our hearts and childhoods, and an ending to the best film of the year.













UK Film Release Dates

BELEE BELEE BELEE BELEE

DECEMBER

<u> 3RD</u>

- Megamind
- Miral
- Monsters
- Secretariat

<u>10TH</u>

- The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
- Somewhere
- The Tourist
- Tyler Perry's For Coloured Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf

17TH

- Burlesque
- Catfish
- Fred: The Movie
- Tron: Legacy

22ND

Little Fockers

<u> 26TH</u>

- Chatroom
- Gulliver's Travels
- The Way Back

29TH

Love and Other Drugs

JANUARY

<u>7TH</u>

- 127 Hours
- The King's Speech
- The Next Three Days

14TH

- The Cabin In The Woods
- Conviction
- The Green Hornet
- Season of the Witch
- True Grit

21ST

- Black Swan
- The Dilemma
- Morning Glory
- My Soul To Take
- N.E.D.S

28TH

- Barney's Version
- Biutiful
- Hereafter
- How Do You Know?
- Tangled

FEBRUARY

4TH

- Brighton Rock
- The Fighter
- Rabbit Hole

11TH

- The Beaver
- The Debt
- Gnomeo and Juliet
- Just Go With It
- Never Let Me Go
- No Strings Attached
- Yogi Bear

18TH

- Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son
- The Chalet Girl
- I Am Number 4
- Inside Job
- Paul

25TH

- Animal Kingdom
- Drive Angry
- Faster
- Howl
- The Rite
- West is West

All release dates are correct as of time of press.

Next Issue: January 2011





