

Issue 10 - April 2011



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

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- Hop the other Russell Brand film of the month, but here, he's the Easter Bunny. Yes, really.
- Killing Bono two Irish brother attempt to become rock stars.
 But U2 gets there first.
- Mars Needs Mums creepylooking mo-cap sci-fi animation
- The Roommate a college freshman gets a psycho for her roommate
- Meek's Cutoff a feminist Western starring Michelle Williams
- Red Riding Hood Amanda Seyfried stars in this Twilightified take on the classic fairy
- Beastly Alex Pettyfer and Vanessa Hudgens take on a modern version of Beauty and the Beast

BritishRedCross

On 11th March 2011, Japan came under turmoil by a huge earthquake and tsunami, with over 10,000 people reported dead and thousands more homeless and in need of emergency aid.

Please visit the British Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.uk to find out how you can donate money to help the victims of this horrific tragedy, or phone them by calling 08450 535353. Thank you.

MOVIE OF THE MONTH: THOR

It's not long to go now, folks. Iron Man and The Incredible Hulk have had their film dues before 2012's ambitious Avengers film, so 2011 is the year where we'll meet two more of them - Captain America is out in July, but now, it's time to meet Thor in April's Movie of the Month.

It goes without saying that Thor is going to be a big one - and not just in terms of anticipation, I mean in mythology and, from the looks of the increasinglyawesome trailer, astounding art direction. It also wins this month's prize for Most Unlikely Director, Kenneth Branagh (yes, as in "Shakespearian actor cum director, both for that 4 hour version of Hamlet" Kenneth Branagh). But that's not to say that Marvel doesn't know what they're doing - Branagh's assembled an interesting

the roles of this comic book adaptation. Australian actor Chris Hemsworth (whom you may have already seen in the opening scene in J.J Abrams' Star Trek - he's Kirk's dad) is the title character of Thor, while Academy Award winners Anthony Hopkins (Silence of the Lambs) and Natalie Portman (Black Swan), Stellan Skarsgaard (Good Will Hunting), Tom Hiddleston (Steven

international cast to fill in



Spielberg's upcoming War Horse), Idris Elba (BBC's Luther), Kat Dennings (Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist) and Rene Russo (The Thomas Crown Affair) also star, while Clark Gregg and Samuel L. Jackson return to the Marvel universe as Agent Coulson and Nick Fury respectively.

The story focuses on Thor (Hemsworth), a powerful but arrogant warrior who resides in the fictional God-like realm of Asgard. When his reckless actions reignite an ancient war. Thor's father Odin (Hopkins) decide enough is enough and casts him down to Earth to forcibly live with the humans as punishment. On Earth, he is soon taken into care by scientists Jane Foster (Portman) and Erik Selvig (Skarsgaard), who begin

to show him the bright side of humanity and, as though it's a requirement in Hollywood films adays, show him how to be a real hero. It's not until Thor's adoptive brother and nemesis Loki (Hiddleston), however, decides to send down the most feared enemies from Asgard to invade Earth that Thor must step up to the game and defend the planet he once despised.

If you can't wait until *The Avengers* next year, then *Thor* is just one of 2011's little teasers, if you will, for the big event.

The film is released on **April 29th** (which may change to the **27th** due to a certain royal wedding taking place on that same day).

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News Round-Up

- A sequel to Percy Jackson and the Olympians is in development
- Tom Hanks and Tim Allen reunite for Disney's Jungle Cruise
- Diane Lane and Kevin Costner are Clark Kent's mum and dad in Zack Snyder's Superman, while Amy Adams is Lois Lane
- The 3D version of Star Wars: Episode 1 - The Phantom Menace is set for a February 2012 release
- Shane Black confirms he'll write Iron Man 3 as well as direct
- Kristen Stewart is confirmed as Snow White in Snow White and the Huntsman, but Viggo Mortensen drops
- Sylvester Stallone won't write or direct The Expendables 2, which is announced for an August 2012 release
- Guillermo Del Toro signs on to direct monster movie Pacific Rim
- Mark Ruffalo is to play legendary jazz pianist Joe Albany in Low Down
- Robert Zemeckis' motioncapture remake of the Beatles' Yellow Submarine is cancelled
- Stifler and the gang are back: original American Pie actors sign on for American Reunion
- Richard Linklater is eyed to direct the remake of comedy The Incredible Mr. Limpet
- Twilight: Eclipse director
 David Slade has been hired
 to direct the Daredevil reboot
- Megan Fox and Albert Brooks joins Judd Apatow's next film as a director
- Winter's Bone star Jennifer Lawrence is confirmed as the lead in the adaptation of The Hunger Games
- Liam Neeson signs on for Taken 2
- Darren Aronofsky drops out of directing The Wolverine
- Billy Bob Thornton is in talks for Bad Santa 2

MALICE IN WONDERLAND: SUCKER PUNCH

When Warner Bros shocked the world in announcing that Zack Snyder, the visionary director of comic-book classics 300 and Watchmen, would be directing the next Superman, the world wondered what had convinced them to do so.

It appears Sucker Punch is that reason.

The film is Snyder's first completely original film (i.e. not based on any comic books or children's books or George A. Romeo films), and it looks just as messed up (but in a good way) as his previous films.

It's also described as an all-out "girl power" action flick, and for good reason - the main characters are almost entirely made up of female badasses, including Emily Browning (Lemony Snicket), Abbie Cornish (Bright Star), Vanessa Hudgens (High School Musical), Jena Malone (Donnie Darko), Jamie Chung (soon to be seen in The Hangover Part II), Carla Gugino (Watchmen), and a couple of men as well, such as Jon Hamm (Mad Men) and Scott Glenn



(Silence of the Lambs).

The film begins when Baby Doll's (Browning) evil stepfather incarcerates her into a women's asylum during the 1950s. There, with four other girls nicknamed Sweet Pea (Cornish), Blondie (Hudgens), Rocket (Malone) and Amber (Chung) also facing lobotomies, she retreats into an alternate reality where anything can happen and can be considered normal (dragons and robots and whorehouses - oh

my!). There, she and her new friends envision a daring and noble escape from the asylum. Sounds very much like an awesome drug trip (not that I recommend drugs, of course), but you'll be able to experience it yourself on **April 1st.**

CRAVEN FOR SUCCESS: SCREAM 4

Wes Craven is rightly considered to be the modern master of suspense. And now, he's returning to what is undoubtedly his most famous franchise.

Scream was a smash hit upon its release back in 1996, spawning two not-as-well-received sequels and a shameless parody in Scary Movie (bit of trivia: that was the original title for the first Scream film).

But Scream 4 looks like a good old return to the basics, not only putting Craven back into the director's chair but also bringing back Kevin Williamson, writer of the first film.

Not only that, but some of the original stars are back as well, including Neve Campbell and now ex-couple Courtney Cox (Friends) and David Arquette (Eight Legged Freaks), with new additions such as Emma Roberts (4.3.2.1), Hayden Panettiere (Heroes), Rory Culkin (Scott Pilgrim vs. The World), Adam Brody (Mr. and Mrs. Smith), Anthony Anderson (Transformers), Kristen Bell (Forgetting Sarah Marshall) and Anna Paquin (True Blood).

The first three films dealt with the murders by a disguised killer named Ghostface (the killer is different in each movie), named so after the mask they wear on his or her face that looks like a ghost (of course!),



and how each incarnation is outwitted by the intelligent and strong heroine Sidney Prescott (Campbell).

The fourth film takes place ten years after the last film, when Sidney returns to her home town of Woodsboro to promote a self-help book. Naturally, the past catches up and it's not long until a new Ghostface killer is out killing people. Teaming up with old friends Gale Weathers and Dewey Riley (Cox and Arquette) as well as Sidney's cousin Jill (Roberts) and her friends, they set

out to expose this new killer once and for all.

Horror fans are bound to lap it up, and they won't have long to wait as it's out on **April 15th.**

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SOUTH OF THE BORDER:

Blue Sky Studios, the team behind such hits as the *Ice Age* films, *Horton Hears A Who* and, erm, *Robots*, are back with a brand new tale with stunning animation, exotic locations, and lovable anthropomorphic birds. In 3D.

Taking a tip from Pixar's *Up*, *Rio* has set its prime location as the exotic South America, in particular the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro (where the film gets its title).

And, as expected from most animated films nowadays, a popular voice cast is involved - Jesse Eisenberg (The Social Network), Anne Hathaway (Alice in Wonderland), George Lopez (Valentine's Day), Jermaine Clement (Flight of the Conchords), Leslie Mann (Knocked Up), Tracy Morgan (Cop Out), Black Eyed Peas singer Will.i.am and Jamie Foxx (Collateral).

The protagonist of the film is Blu (Eisenberg), a cowardly blue macaw, a rare form of bird and subsequently the last of his kind, who lives a domesticated life in



the snowy Minnesota, USA. When scientists discover that another blue macaw has been spotted in South America, and that particular bird, named Jewel (Hathaway) is a female, they bring Blu to Brazil to meet her and potentially save the species. The two unlikely companions then find themselves trying to avoid poachers and their pet cockatoo Nigel (Clement) while also discovering a new, more exciting world than Blue has

ever seen before.
For all the family, be sure to check it out on **April 8th**.
Hey, I just made it through the entire article without doing a bad bird pun! That's beak-in' sweet!

Wait...

News Round-Up

- Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Juno Temple join *The Dark* Knight Rises
- The Hobbit finally began filming on 21st March (and, urm, so did Clash of the Titans 2)
 - Alan Rickman joins Colin Firth and Cameron Diaz comedy Gambit
- The next film in the Narnia series is likely to be The Magician's Nephew
- Legendary actress Elizabeth Taylor dies aged 79
- A sequel to 2012's The Amazing Spider-Man is already being written
- Oscar-winning director Tom Hooper (The King's Speech) is in talks to direct an adaptation of the musical Les Miserables
- James Franco and Mila Kunis are confirmed for Sam Raimi's Oz, the Great and Powerful
- The Social Network's Armie
 Hammer is the Prince in The
 Brothers Grimm: Snow
 White, while Saoirse Ronan
 may take on the title role
- Reese Witherspoon drops out of Pixar's upcoming Brave, and Kelly Macdonald replaces her
 - Jennifer Garner will produce and star in an update of *Miss Marple*
- The penguins in *Madagascar* will get their own spin-off film
 - Monsters Inc. 2 will be a prequel called Monsters University
 - Hailee Steinfeld is attached to star in an Sucker Punchstyle version of Sleeping Beauty
 - A planned Justice League movie will not have any connection to Christopher Nolan's Batman films or Zack Snyder's upcoming Superman
 - Geoffrey Rush will provide a voiceover in *Green Lantern*, while Leonard Nimoy will voice a character in *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG: WINNIE THE POOH

If new, CGI cartoon movies about birds aren't your thing, then how about a trip down memory lane instead?

This new film featuring the classic children's character Winnie The Pooh is a return to basics for Disney, and gives starring roles once again to characters such as Christopher Robin the human boy who everyone looks on for good advice, Eeyore the permanentlydepressed donkey, Kanga and her young son Roo, Owl the wise but egotistical bird, the practical Rabbit, the fearful Piglet, the energetic Tigger and, of course, the bear with very little brain himself.

Also in the mix, as the narrator, is John Cleese whose words tell the story and even literally help the characters at parts.



The film follows the characters in the Hundred Acre Wood try and find the dreaded "Backson" after reading a note from Christopher Robin saying he's been captured by one (little do they know, they simply misinterpreted the words "back soon").

Having seen the film at a screening recently, I can say

that the film indeed brings back all the warmth and harmless joy that the original cartoons brought to those who grew up with them (me included).

But don't take my word for it - have your own trip back the Hundred Acre Wood on **April 15th.**

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DREAMWORKS PUSSINBOOTS PRAY FOR MERCY NOVEMBER 8 Indicatablesia and And St 30 Indicatablesia and Indicatablesia a

EXPRESS: YOUR HIGHNESS An Oscar winner, an Oscar

YE OLDE PINEAPPLE

An Oscar winner, an Oscar nominee/host, an OBE, and that bloke from *Tropic Thunder*. And directed by the guy who did *Pineapple Express*.

The most unlikely cast and director for a medieval-set film ever? Most probably.

But Your Highness doesn't seem to look like any other fantasy farce, especially as it's described as the first "adult stoner fantasy". So expect weed jokes, female nudity, smutty language and explicit sexual innuendo.

David Gordon Green directs the comedy, while the likes of James Franco (127 Hours), Danny McBride (Tropic Thunder, who also co-wrote the film), Natalie Portman (Black Swan), Zooey Deschanel ((500) Days Of Summer), Justin Theroux (Zoolander), Michael Clarke Duncan (The Green Mile), Toby Jones (Frost/Nixon) and Charles Dance (For Your Eyes Only).



Set in a medieval fantasy world where slaying dragons, dealing with magical and mystical beings, and rescuing fair damsels is considered normal, two princes - Fabious (Franco), noble and valiant, and Thadeous (McBride), lazy and arrogant - must go on a quest to rescue the virginal bride (Deschanel) of Thadeous from the evil sorcerer Leezar (Theroux). On their quest, they join forces with a warrior

princess (Portman) who helps them on their quest.

From what we can gather from the trailer, it should be a laugh riot with many new catchphrases for us to worship for a long time.

Saddle up and ride to the cinema upon its release on **April 15th**.



BACK TO THE FUTURE: SOURCE CODE

After the critical and cult success of his film debut *Moon*, Duncan Jones can no longer be referred to as "David Bowie's son".

And with his second film, he continues to assert this fact. Source Code, in terms of pace and setting, is almost entirely different to his 2009 sci-fi film, but the element of sci-fi is still in tact as it, sort of, deals with events such as time-travel and body-swapping.

And Jones has got a good cast to support his new feature - Jake Gyllenhaal (Donnie Darko), Michelle Monaghan (Mission: Impossible 3), Jeffrey Wright (Casino Royale) and Vera Farmiga (Up In The Air) are all on hand to make this film a good

And what a premise too: a soldier named Colter Stevens (Gyllenhaal) wakes up in the body of an unknown man on a Chicago commuter train. After eight minutes of confusion, the train explodes, killing everyone



on board.

Colter then wakes up in a mysterious government building, where he learns that he is part of the "Source Code" an experimental program which allows someone to cross over into another person's body during the last eight minutes of his life. His assignment? To figure out who planted the bomb on that train before another threatened attack on the city later that same day. Until he

discovers the person responsible, he must re-live those eight minutes over and over again, gathering clues as he goes as to who the bomber is so he can prevent the next attack. What promises to be a thrilling, intelligent and overall awesome film is released on **April 1st.**



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RUSSELL BRAND WANTS MOORE ROLES: ARTHUR

One way or another, Russell Brand seems to be having the time of his life at the moment

Not only has he gotten married to who may challenge Angelina Jolie as being the most beautiful person on the planet, but his film career has peaked with the likes of Get Him To The Greek, Despicable Me, and now Arthur.

The film is a remake of the classic Dudley Moore comedy which also starred Liza Minelli and John Gielgud, the latter in an Oscar-winning role.

Brand takes the titular role in the film, directed by feature film debuting director Jason Winer and also starring Helen Mirren (*The Queen*), Jennifer Garner (*Juno*), Greta Gerwig (*Greenberg*), Nick Nolte (*Tropic Thunder*), Luis Guzman (*Out of Sight*) and Geraldine James (*Alice in*



Wonderland).

Arthur (Brand) is a pampered, immature heir to a wealthy inheritance, whose only real friends are his chauffer Bidderman (Guzman) and his long-suffering butler Hobson (Mirren).

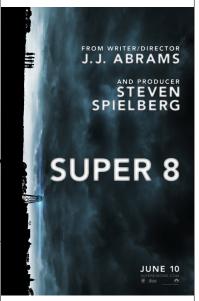
However the inheritance is only is if he marries a woman named Susan Johnson

(Garner).

Trouble is, Arthur doesn't like her and instead has eyes on tour guide Naomi (Gerwig). Now, he must choose which life he wants the most: one where he has nearly all the money in the world, or one with Naomi.

To see his ultimate choice, check the film out on **April 22nd.**





IT'S FAST, APPARENTLY: FAST & FURIOUS 5: RIO HEIST

Call me boring, but you may know by now that movies with fast cars and hot women just aren't my kind of film. I know, you want me crucified for that, but it's the truth. It just ain't my bag, man.

Therefore, I have reserved feelings for the seemingly-never-ending Fast and the Furious series.

But since they're so popular with you lot, and there's a new one out, I kind of have to talk about it a little bit to keep you satisfied (you're welcome!)

So, Fast and the Furious: Rio Heist (previously Fast Five - reports of the title change due to confusion with an upcoming Enid Blyton book are still unconfirmed) is the fifth film in the franchise, and reunites stars of the previous films Vin Diesel,



Paul Walker, Jordana Brewster, Matt Schulze, Tyrese Gibson, Sung Kang, Ludacris, Gal Gadot, and a whole load of others, alongside the significant new addition of Dwayne Johnson (aka The Rock).

I'll try and sum it up in the best way I can: it features fast cars, hot women, a major heist, and getting on the wrong side of Brazillian drug lords while being pursued by FBI agents.

And, yeah, that's basically it in terms of plot.

It's out on **April 22nd.** Or, if you'd rather, save the money for that weekend and use it to go see *Thor* or something.



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Megamind

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 04/04/11



The American

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 04/04/11



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 11/04/11



Monsters

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 11/04/11

MONTHLY RECAP: WHAT HAPPENED IN MARCH?

By the beginning of March, Oscar season had finally wrapped with *The King's Speech* taking the big prizes. But that's not to say that March wasn't interesting in its own right.

The 5th saw Matt Damon and Emily Blunt literally avoid what fate has in store for them in the thrilling The Adjustment Bureau: Johnny Depp managed to convince as a cowboy chameleon in Rango; Helen Mirren was able to pull off a man's role in a new version of The Tempest: and Liam Neeson became an action hero in Europe - again - in Unknown.

Then, on the 11th, aliens invaded America for the umpteenth time in Battle: Los Angeles; Ben Affleck and Tommy Lee Jones dealt with the hardships of the recession in The Company Men; Naomi Watts and Sean Penn played a couple disgraced by the CIA in Fair Game: Owen Wilson got a week off from marriage in the "comedy" Hall Pass; and Hilary Swank got a creepy Jeffrey Dean Morgan as a landlord in The Resident.

The next batch of films out, this time on the 18th, Felicity Jones found love in the Alps in *Chalet Girl*; Matthew McConaughey was a



lawyer - who as far as I know DIDN'T take his shirt off once (correct me if I'm wrong) - in The Lincoln Lawyer; and Woody Allen released his new London film entitled You Will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger. Finally, on the 25th (how we got there so fast is anyone's guess), **Gwyneth Paltrow** expanded on her singing talent as showcased on Glee in Country Strong; Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell starred in their very own swords 'n' sandals flick entitled The Eagle; Dwayne Johnson went around killing people in a very

fast car in Faster; and **Bradley Cooper became** a hell of a lot smarter after taking a very new drug in Limitless. Understandably, March was a lot quieter, especially since awards season has ended for another year, but it did provide us with some great new films that make us nervous as to what Hollywood has planned next over the forthcoming months.

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COMING SOON: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY?

Ladies and Gentlemen. welcome to the start of the summer season. Yes. May is where it really kicks off (well, technically it starts with this month's Thor but who's counting?) for the biggest blockbusters to come out in their masses. and it looks like this year is no exception. First off, on the 6th, badass samurais go on a suicide mission in 13 Assassins: Adulthood star Adam Deacon stars in the 8 Mileesque tale of a rising DJ in Everywhere and Nowhere; Saoirse Ronan (The Lovely Bones) reteams with her Atonement director Joe Wright for teen killing machine flick Hanna; the second Kate Hudson rom-com flick of the year comes out in the form of Something Borrowed; and Robert Pattinson (cue screams from crazy Twi-Hards) begins a circus romance with Reese Witherspoon in Water For Elephants.

The 13th brings us what has to be the very first "chavs vs. aliens" hybrid in Attack The Block; Paul Bettany is a priest who wants to hunt vampires in Priest; a long-delayed comedy (hmm, I wonder why?) finally sees the light of day in Take Me Home Tonight; and acclaimed director Emilio Estevez directs his acclaimed



actor father Martin Sheen in self-discovery film *The Way*.

But then, on May 20th, we have a big one. One of the most celebrated characters of the past decade, Captain Jack Sparrow (he made sure I put that "Captain" in), is back in action with Johnny Depp once again back in the bandana in Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides. And if pirates on the high seas simply isn't your thing, then check out the new indie dramady starring Paul Giamatti, entitled Win Win.

And finally, on the 27th and in a clear case of "waiting for a bus and then two coming along at once", another big one comes out. This one, however, is the highly-anticipated sequel to 2009's biggest comedy. I am, of course, talking about

The Hangover Part 2, where the action shifts from Las Vegas to Thailand (but more on that next issue). The only other film out on that date is another sequel, but that one's Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Rodrick Rules so I'm liking the former's chances.

At any rate, it looks like the summer of 2011 will be off to a great start with many films set to entertain and keep us occupied until a certain boy wizard appears for the last time in July...



<u>Tron Legacy</u>
Also available on Blu-Ray
Released: 18/04/11



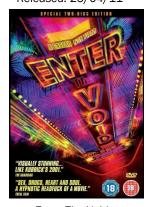
Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 18/04/11



The Tourist

Also available on Blu-Ray
Released: 25/04/11



Enter The Void

Also available on Blu-Ray

Released: 25/04/11

UK Film Release Dates

APRIL MAY JUNE

1ST

- Hop
- Killing Bono
- Oranges and Sunshine
- Source Code
- Sucker Punch

<u>8TH</u>

- Mars Needs Mums
- Rio
- The Roommate
- Tomorrow When The War Began

15TH

- Meek's Cutoff
- Red Riding Hood
- Scream 4
- The Way
- Winnie The Pooh
- Your Highness

22ND

- Arthur
- Beastly
- Fast & Furious 5: Rio Heist

29TH

- Cedar Rapids
- Thor
- Tracker
- The Veteran

<u>6TH</u>

- 13 Assassins
- Everywhere and Nowhere
- Hanna
- Something Borrowed
- Water For Elephants

<u>13TH</u>

- Attack The Block
- Priest
- Take Me Home Tonight
- The Way

20TH

- Pirates of the Caribbean:
 On Stranger Tides
- Win Win

<u>27TH</u>

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Rodrick Rules
- The Hangover: Part 2

3RD

- Beautiful Girl
- Prom
- Senna
- The Tree
- X-Men: First Class

10TH

- The Beaver
- Honey 2
- Jumping The Broom
- Kaboom
- Kung Fu Panda 2
- Mother's Day

17TH

- Green Lantern
- Incendies
- The Peddler

24TH

- Bad Teacher
- Bridesmaids
- Countdown To Zero

All release dates are correct as of time of press.

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