

Issue 12 - June 2011



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

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Also Out This Month

- Last Night Keira
 Knightley and Sam
 Worthington are a couple
 with external desires
- Prom Disney's vision of the teenage hardships of prom night
- Senna documentary about the life and death of Brazilian race-car driver Ayrton Senna
- Honey 2 a sequel to the 2003 dance film starring Jessica Alba
- Jumping The Broom two different families from two different social groups must come together for a wedding
- Kaboom a story of sexual desires with an apocalyptic theme
- Swinging with the Finkels -Martin Freeman and wife decide to add excitement to their marriage by, erm, y'know, it says in the title...
- Countdown to Zero it's another documentary, this time about the escalating nuclear arms race
- Incendies French-Canada's Oscar-nominated masterpiece

MOVIE OF THE MONTH: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

It's safe to say that the X-Men film series has been troubled in recent times. After Bryan Singer delivered the first two films to critical claim, everything went downhill after the extremely disappointing X-Men 3 (directed by the guy who did Rush Hour nonetheless). Even the much-better X-Men Origins: Wolverine can be seen as somewhat of a tactical failure.

Now, the series seems to have gotten back onto its feet again, all thanks to one man: *Kick-Ass* director Matthew Vaughn (who interestingly enough was going to direct the third movie before the *Rush Hour* guy - I can't even say his name, I'm rather angry at him - was chosen).

Vaughn, having directed this new entry and, subsequently, June's Movie of the Month, has shifted the focus not only on the mutants themselves but also on a time when people really though it was the end.

X-Men: First Class - which is also being produced by Singer - also manages to boast a surprisingly high-standard cast. James McAvoy (Atonement) and Michael Fassbender (Inglourious Basterds) lead the pack, which also includes Kevin Bacon (Mystic River), January Jones (TV's Mad Men),



Rose Byrne (Get Him To The Greek), Nicholas Hoult (A Single Man), Jennifer Lawrence (Winter's Bone), Oliver Platt (Frost/Nixon), Zoë Kravitz (The Brave One), Edi Gathegi (Twilight) and Vaughn's "good luck charm" Jason Flemyng (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button).

The prequel goes back as far as the 1960s, a time when mutants hadn't revealed themselves to the world just yet and a time when Professor X (McAvoy) and Magneto (Fassbender), instead of being archenemies, were in fact the closest of friends and known as Charles Xavier and Erik Lehnsherr, respectively. We get a glimpse of the young men experiencing their powers for the first time, and how they

worked together with other mutants - some new and some familiar, like Mystique (Lawrence) and Beast (Hoult) - to prevent the world from nuclear annihilation and the threat by the Hellfire Club, led by the mysterious Sebastian Shaw (Bacon). However, in the process, a rift between Xavier and Lehnsherr opened and so began a war between Magneto's Brotherhood and Professor X's X-Men. Exciting stuff, and sounds certain to thrill those who like both stunning action sequences and interesting character development. But will it be tons better than X-Men 3? I hope so, but only time will tell

come June 3rd.

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News Round-Up

- Saoirse Ronan will star in the adaptation of Twilight author Stephanie Meyer's The Host, which Andrew Niccol (Lord of War) set to direct
- Justin Lin is confirmed to direct Fast and Furious 6
- Rachel Weisz may join Sam Raimi's Oz, the Great and Powerful, while Michelle Williams, Joey King and Zach Braff are confirmed to star
- Malin Akerman replaces Amy Adams in Rock of Ages
- Glee Live! 3D!, a film version of the TV show's concert tour, will be released in August
- Danny Boyle will direct thriller Trance in between directing the London 2012 Olympic opening ceremonies, and Michael
 Fassbender is in talks to star
- Hugh Grant, Salma Hayek, David Tennant, Jeremy Piven, Martin Freeman and others sign on for Aardman's The Pirates! Band of Misfits
- Wes Bentley, Stanley Tucci, Woody Harrelson, Lenny Kravitz and Toby Jones join The Hunger Games
- Tommy Lee Jones, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Tim Blake Nelson and others join Steven Spielberg's Lincoln
- Ricky Gervais lends his voice to Spy Kids: All the Time in the World
- Rob Marshall will direct a remake of The Thin Man, with Johnny Depp starring
- Charlie Hunnam joins Guillermo Del Toro's Pacific Rim
- Hugo Weaving and Orlando Bloom will return to Middle-Earth in The Hobbit films, while Stephen Fry and Benedict Cumberbatch also join
- David Hasselhoff returns to the water in Piranha 3DD
- Cameron Diaz will headline ensemble pregnancy romcom What To Expect When Your Expecting
- Joel Edgerton signs on for Baz Luhrmann's The Great Gatsby

IN BRIGHTEST DAY: GREEN

LANTERN

So far, it seems like DC's success with superhero films lies with Batman and Superman (in recent times, mostly the former). The rest, well... Jonah Hex, anyone? But luckily, it may be that we have a new addition to rival both of them with Green Lantern.

Ryan Reynolds (The Proposal) is the eponymous hero in this film, which is directed by Casino Royale helmer Martin Campbell. Joining Reynolds are Blake Lively (The Town, but you may also know her from TV's Gossip Girl), Peter Sarsgaard (An Education), Mark Strong (Sherlock Holmes), Tim Robbins (The Shawshank Redemption), Angela Bassett (Contact), and the voices of Geoffrey Rush (The King's Speech) and Michael Clarke Duncan (The Green Mile). The plot follows Hal Jordan (Reynolds), a gifted but cocky



test pilot for the United States Air Force. One night, he comes across a spaceship that crash-lands in the middle of nowhere. Inside is an alien who gives him a mysterious ring which in turn, when given the right oath, gives him amazing superpowers. Hal soon realizes that he has become a member of the Green Lantern Corps, a group of extraterrestrial warriors who

are struggling to keep intergalactic order. As the first human to be selected, Hal must confront his fears and control his new powers if he is to save the galaxy from a new threat and become the greatest Green Lantern there ever was.

Okay, I admit that last part was a little cheesy, but this looks good nonetheless. Tis released on **June 17th**.

IT'S PANDA-MONIUM (SORRY): KUNG FU PANDA 2

Three years after the first adventures of the most unlikely kung fu master in history - a fat panda voiced by Jack Black - it's time for the next chapter in Kung Fu Panda 2.

The first film, released back in 2008, was a critical success in the sense that it boasted amazing visuals and choreography, so it's no wonder that DreamWorks wanted more adventures that would be just as thrilling, if not more so. And, from the looks of it, they've succeeded.

Black returns to voice our hero Po the Panda, while also making a return are Angelina Jolie (she who makes up 50% of Brangelina), Dustin Hoffman (Rain Man), Jackie Chan (The Karate Kid), Lucy Liu (Charlie's Angels), Seth Rogen (The Green Hornet), and David Cross (Alvin and the Chipmunks). Debuting acts include Gary Oldman (Harry Potter), Michelle Yeoh (Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon), Jean-Claude Van Damme (every single bad B-movie you



can think of), and Danny McBride (*Tropic Thunder*). A lot's changed for Po since we've last saw him - now a fully-fledged kung fu master, he has earned the respect of Master Shifu (Hoffman) and the infamous Furious Five, including Tigress (Jolie), Monkey (Chan), Viper (Liu), Mantis (Rogen) and Crane (Cross). However, as you can imagine, this peace is

disrupted fairly soon, especially with the news that the feared emperor albino peacock Lord Shen (Oldman) seeks to take over China with a weapon so powerful it could destroy kung fu itself. Now, Po and the Furious Five must set out to vanquish this threat, while also divulging more into Po's unknown past. Prepare for more kung fu stylings on June 10th.

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SHE DOESN'T GIVE AN F: BAD TEACHER

The last time Cameron Diaz headlined an adult comedy (*The Sweetest Thing*), the results didn't really go as planned. So can we assume *Bad Teacher* is a good step forward from that 2001 stumble back?

It certainly seems that way, because it looks like Diaz has finally found the perfect role to display her comedic talents. Director Jake Kasdan (Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story) also has, in addition to Diaz, the likes of Jason Segal (Forgetting Sarah Marshall), Justin Timberlake (The Social Network, and who also went out with Diaz a few years ago), Lucy Punch (Hot Fuzz), Molly Shannon (Marie Antoinette) and Phyllis Smith (TV's The Office).

Diaz plays Elizabeth Halsey, who is a foul-mouthed, self-centered, money-hungry and, as the title puts it, a bad teacher at a local high school. And when I say "bad," I mean "doesn't care about her job or pupils" bad. Elizabeth soon meets the new substitute teacher, Scott (Timberlake), who happens to



come from a wealthy background - something Elizabeth is instantly attracted to. When she learns that his previous girlfriend was well-endowed (with a huge chest, that is), Elizabeth resolves to raise money to get breast implants in order to attract Scott's attention. She decides to do this by attempting to obtain a high class average which comes with an extra bonus, which means that Elizabeth will have to

step up her game in order to get what she wants.

Be prepared to see how far someone as horrific as this character seems will go in order to satisfy her own selfish needs (but, I'm hoping, with overall good outcomes) on **June 17th.**

News Round-Up

Dakota Fanning, Elizabeth Olsen, Dustin Hoffman, Peter Sarsgaard and Sissy Spacek join teen flick *Very Good Girls*

Tim Burton drops our of directing *Maleficent*, while David Yates (*Harry Potter*) is being courted to replace him

Armie Hammer is confirmed for *The Lone Ranger*

An early concept for a third and final *Hangover* is being developed

Titanic will be re-released in 3D on 6th April 2012 in time for the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's maiden voyage

A *Carrie* remake is moving forward

Tom Cruise joins Joseph Kosinksi's Oblivion

Terrence Malick's *The Tree* of Life wins the Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival

 Andrew Stanton's John Carter of Mars is now shortened to John Carter

Ed Westwick is Tybalt in a new version of Romeo and Juliet

The Avatar sequels will be filmed at MBS Media Campus in California

Doug Liman (The Bourne Identity), Mark Romanek (Never Let Me Go), Justin Lin (Fast Five) and James Mangold (Knight and Day) are among the directors rumoured to be possibilities to direct The Wolverine

Bill Nighy, Kate Beckinsale, John Cho and Jessica Biel join *Total Recall*

Bradley Cooper is interested in co-writing a treatment for a *Hyperion* adaptation

Shannon Elizabeth returns as foreign exchange student Nadia in *American Reunion*

A sequel to hit horror flick Insidious is being considered

The two-part Hobbit films have titles and release dates - The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey will be released on December 14th 2012, and The Hobbit: There and Back Again will be released on December 13th, 2013

RIDING THE (YOU)TUBE: LIFE IN A DAY

If Facebook revolutionized the way in which people communicate, then YouTube has revolutionized the way in which we see glimpses of other people's lives.

It is this approach that *Life in a Day*, arguably 2011's most creative film thus far, has gone for.

Directed by Kevin Macdonald (The Last King of Scotland) and produced by director brothers Ridley and Tony Scott, the people who star in it and even film it are actually us, the normal everyday public.

Last year, many people around the world submitted their videos onto a YouTube account with the hopes to have it included in a brandnew, experimental documentary. The catch? They all have to have filmed their videos throughout their day



on July 24th 2010. And if you go and see the trailer - funnily enough, on YouTube - then you can see just the amazing things that people have filmed.

So what are these amazing things? Well, unless you've already seen the trailer, then I cannot say for I feel it might ruin the joy that this particular film seems to

convey. After all, have time capsules ever been more exciting?

See for yourself what looks like to be a memorable and overall thrilling experience on **June 17th.**

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STEVEN SPIELBERG AND PETER JACKSON PRESENT MUSTEVEN MOFFAT IN SOEDGAR WRIGHT & JOE CORNISH TINTIN COM COMING SOON ***STEVEN SPIELBERG



A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT: BRIDESMAIDS

Last month, the Hangover boys got up to more troubles in a pre-wedding party gone wrong.

While Bridesmaids isn't exactly a carbon copy of the aforementioned film, it comes very nearly close except it focuses more on the wedding than anything. Another major difference is that it features an almost-allfemale cast, thereby giving some of today's underrated comediennes a chance to shine.

Kristen Wiig (Paul), Maya Rudolph (Away We Go), Rose Byrne (Get Him To The Greek), Ellie Kemper (TV's The Office), Melissa McCarthy (Life As We Know It) and Wendi McLendon-Covey (Reno 911!: Miami) make up the central six titular bridesmaids, while the late Jill Clayburgh (Love and Other Drugs) and sole males Jon Hamm (The Town), Matt



Lucas (Little Britain) and Chris O'Dowd (Gulliver's Travels) complete the cast. The central character, however, is Annie (Wiig), who is asked to be the maid of honour at her best friend Lillian's (Rudolph) wedding. Annie later finds out, however, that being maid of honour means that the list of what she needs to organize is endless. With Lillian and

her other bridesmaids, Annie organizes a bachelorette trip to Las Vegas which none of them will ever forget - or remember!

You're cordially invited to check this one out when it's released on June 24th.

IT'S DAM GOOD (ONCE AGAIN, SORRY): THE BEAVER

The comedian Frankie Boyle had it right about the irony that a decade after Mel Gibson filmed Braveheart in Scotland, and people criticized how someone like him could accurately play a Scottish person, he is now considered to be very much like them - "an alcoholic racist". Truth be told, this is a bit of an unfair judgment on a man who we all once knew as Mad Max, and many have since forgotten about his actual acting abilities. So it's only fitting that he chooses The Beaver to remind audiences of what he's capable of. Gibson is the lead in the film opposite Jodie Foster (Silence of the Lambs), who also makes her directional debut with this film, as well as Anton Yelchin (Star Trek) and Jennifer Lawrence (Winter's Bone) who embody the youthful aspects of the film. Gibson plays Walter Black, the CEO of a toy company who's tackling a very serious feeling in his life: depression. So much so, in fact, that it's caused a strain



in his relationship with his wife Meredith (Foster) and especially his oldest son Porter (Yelchin). Having tried everything to help cure it and failing miserably (so to speak), he's very nearly given up hope. One day, however, Walter finds a discarded beaver hand puppet which he starts to use to communicate his personal feelings. Soon, Walter's never felt better and back on tract with his family ties, and all because of The Beaver.

What may sound like a slightly silly premise (anyone else reminded of Mr. Garrison and Mr. Hat from South Park?) may actually turn out to be a moving winner, but we'll see if Gibson's still got it or not on June 17th.

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DELIVER US FROM EVIL: THE MESSENGER

All the way from 2009, a year when another Iraq War-based film, *The Hurt Locker*, got all the attention from critics and awards alike, comes a small gem that shouldn't have been overlooked.

The Messenger is more of a homegrown affair from the US, but like The Hurt Locker it gives us a good insight into the soldiers who right now are risking their lives to defeat terrorism.

Israeli filmmaker Oren Moverman (writer of Bob Dylan flick *I'm Not There*) makes his directional debut with this film, and also co-wrote the Oscarnominated screenplay with Alessandro Camon.

His cast includes Ben Foster (3:10 To Yuma), Woody Harrelson (Zombieland), Samantha Morton (In America), Steve Buscemi (Reservoir Dogs) and Jena Malone (Donnie Darko).

Foster plays US Army Staff Sergeant Will Montgomery,



who is returned to America after he is injured in a bomb explosion in Iraq. He is assigned to the Casualty Notification Team (aka the soldiers who tell you whether your husband or wife has been injured or killed in duty). Will is placed alongside recovering alcoholic Captain Tony Stone (Harrelson, in an Oscarnominated role), who teaches him how breaking the news to loved ones is properly done.

But Will soon learns that even this job can have its own dangers, especially as he starts to become involved with a woman (Morton) who was informed by Will and Tony that her husband was killed in Iraq. See it while you can from **June 17th.**

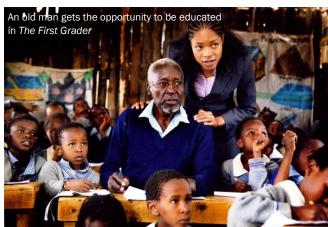




AN EDUCATION: THE FIRST GRADER

They say that you can't teach an old man new things - but as *The First Grader* shows, this is not necessarily true (to be fair, I'm not even sure if people do say that at all). The latest string of films greenlit by the now-defunct UK Film Council (R.I.P) is an inspirational story of the power of education and the right to equality.

Justin Chadwick (*The Other Boleyn Girl*) directs, while Naomie Harris (*Pirates of the Caribbean*) and Kenyan actor Oliver Litondo are the main draws in terms of acting. *The First Grader* is set in Kenya in 2003, when the government introduces a new initiative for free primary school education. An 84-year -old man, Maruge (Litondo) decides to use this in order to claim the education he has always craved. A former



Mau-Mau fighter, Maruge's desire to learn to read and write has been sparked by the arrival of an important letter from the government. However, when he arrives at the gates of a local primary school, only the head teacher Jane (Harris) is sympathetic towards him, while colleagues and superiors

are unenthusiastic and appalled. Despite facing discrimination and hostility, Jane advocates on Maruge's behalf, but the battle is not so easily won.

Find out if an old man has what it takes to be rightfully educated from **June 24th.**



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127 Hours

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 06/06/11



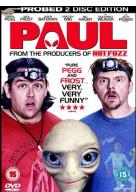
Gnomeo and Juliet

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 06/06/11



True Grit

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 13/06/11



Paul

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 13/06/11

STILL SHOWING: WHAT HAPPENED IN MAY?

With May, the summer movie season arrived in great force with a ton of exciting new releases that entertained us for hours on end. On the 6th, the violent samurai flick made a glorious comeback in 13 Assassins; a young British-Asian chose between family and DJing in Everywhere and Nowhere; Saoirse Ronan kicked some ass in Joe Wright's Hanna; Paul Bettany introduced audiences to the coolest priest ever in. erm, Priest; Kate Hudson took a backseat in the new romcom Something Borrowed; and Robert Pattinson and Reese Witherspoon joined the circus in Water For Elephants.

Even though Friday 13th is a day of bad luck, that didn't stop these releases from being superstitious; Joe Cornish debuted his hilarious chavs vs. aliens flick Attack The Block: Topher Grace and Anna Faris took us back to the wondrous comedy age of the 1980s in Take Me Home Tonight: and Martin Sheen walked across



the beautiful scenery of Europe in The Way. But on the 20th, we got another big blockbuster with the long-awaited return of Captain Jack Sparrow - now with less Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley! - in Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides. While audiences were undoubtedly entertained by the Captain's antics, there was also the Iovable Paul Giamatti comedy Win Win for those who weren't so keen on the new adventures of the eponymous pirate. Finally, the month went out with a bang on the 27th, with films for everyone for the kids, there was the sequel to the surprise hit from last

year Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Rodrick Rules: while for the adults. there was the muchanticipated sequel to the 2009 hit comedy The Hangover, with the boys headed off to Bangkok for much alcohol-induced madness. And with that, the merry, merry month of May has wrapped and now it's time to look forward to the summer movie season that May has set the standards

high for.

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COMING SOON: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY?

Oh. My. God. What a month this July is shaping up to be - not only is it the first anniversary of the Film Feeder, but this year it's filled to the brim with some of the most exciting films of the year.

Where to begin? On July 1st, Robert Redford releases his conspiracy theory on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln in The Conspirator; Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts reunite for the light-hearted dramady Larry Crowne; and Michael Bay brings to us even more robots fighting to the death in Transformers: Dark of the Moon (here's hoping it's better than the second one!)

The 8th is relatively quiet (the calm before the storm - but more on that in a second), with the releases of standup flick Huge starring Noel Clarke; Phillip Seymour Hoffman makes his directional debut with Jack Goes Boating; and Katherine Heigl becomes a bounty hunter in One For The Money.

But then, on the 15th, it's a big one. It's a huge one. You can see it from space, it's so enormous. I am, of course, talking about what has to be the most anticipated movie of the year, if not the decade: the time has



come when Harry, Ron and Hermione must return to Hogwarts and battle and defeat Voldemort and his Death Eaters once and for all in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2. Or, if finales of childhood phenomenons aren't your thing, check out the new "grindhouse" flick Hobo With A Shotgun. Does exactly what it says on the tin. Or maybe even check out Holy Rollers starring Jesse Eisenberg (delayed from May). Then, on the 22nd, Ewan McGregor has to take care of his terminally-ill, gay father in Beginners; Disney/ Pixar releases its sequel to one of its biggest hits with Cars 2; Kevin Spacey, Jennifer **Aniston and Colin** Farrell are Horrible Bosses: and director David "Ross from Friends" Schwimmer

takes on a heavy and

disturbing subject with *Trust*.

Finally, the month closes on the 30th with Chris Evans introducing us to the newest member of the Avengers team in Captain America: The First Avenger; a children's literary anti-hero gets the bigscreen makeover in Horrid Henry: The Movie; and Kevin James finds out that the animals in the zoo have amazing talking abilities in The Zookeeper.

So, with that overview in mind, it looks like we're going to be in a FANTASTIC July month for movies. The clock can't go fast enough...



<u>The Fighter</u>
Also available on Blu-Ray
Released: 20/06/11



Brighton Rock

Also available on Blu-Ray

Released: 20/06/11



No Strings Attached
Also available on Blu-Ray
Released: 27/06/11



Never Let Me Go

Also available on Blu-Ray

Released: 27/06/11

UK Film Release Dates

JUNE

<u>3RD</u> • Last Night

- Prom
- Screwed
- Senna
- X-Men: First Class

10TH

- Honey 2
- Kaboom
- Kung Fu Panda 2
- Mother's Day

17TH

- Bad Teacher
- The Beaver
- Green Lantern
- Life in a Day
- The Messenger
- Swinging with the Finkels

24TH

- Bridesmaids
- Countdown To Zero
- The First Grader
- Incendies

JULY

1STThe Conspirator

- Larry Crowne
- Transformers: Dark of the Moon

<u>8TH</u>

- Huge
- Jack Goes Boating

15TH

- Cell 211
- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2
- Hobo With A Shotgun
- Holy Rollers

22ND

- Beginners
- Cars 2
- Horrible Bosses
- Trust

29TH

- Captain America: The First Avenger
- Horrid Henry The Movie
- The Zookeeper

AUGUST

5TH

- The Change-Up
- Mr. Popper's Penguins
- Sarah's Key
- Super 8

12TH

- The Devil's Double
- Don't Be Afraid of the Dark
- Project Nim
- Rise of the Planet of the Apes
- The Smurfs

19TH

- Cowboys and Aliens
- In A Better World
- The Inbetweeners
- Spy Kids 4: All The Time In The World

26TH

- Conan the Barbarian
- Final Destination 5
- Monte Carlo
- One Day
- The Skin I Live In

All release dates are correct as of time of press.

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