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Also Out This Month

- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days* - a summer holiday-themed entry into the popular kids' franchise
- *The Flowers of War* - Christian Bale stars in this Chinese drama about a priest who protects a group of fugitives
- *Undeclared* - Oscar-winning documentary of a high school American football team going on to glory
- *The Dinosaur Project* - found-footage flick of a group of friends who discover a colony of prehistoric creatures
- *Step Up 4: Miami Heat* - more breakdancing by young dancers in this third sequel
- *Take This Waltz* - Michelle Williams must decide between husband Seth Rogen and a handsome neighbour
- *The Wedding Video* - found-footage comedy of the world's most disastrous wedding
- *The Imposter* - documentary about a young man claiming to be a missing child in a family
- *Shadow Dancer* - a member of IRA becomes an informant for MI5 in 1990s Belfast
- *A Few Best Men* - Aussie-British equivalent of *The Hangover*

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MOVIE OF THE MONTH: *THE BOURNE LEGACY*

Can a franchise movie work without the two people who made that franchise what it is? Probably, but the absence of star Matt Damon (*Good Will Hunting*) and director Paul Greengrass (*United 93*) may make the fourth film in the action-packed Bourne franchise, *The Bourne Legacy*, lose some points. However, that doesn't mean that they've faltered in finding decent replacements for both star and director.

Tony Gilroy (*Michael Clayton*), who served as writer for the previous three *Bourne* films, is here promoted to directional duties, and filling in for Mr. Damon is rising action star Jeremy Renner (*The Hurt Locker*), still on a career high after appearing in *Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol* and *The Avengers*.

Thankfully, Renner isn't playing the amnesiac superspy Jason Bourne but is instead playing a different character whose situations surround the events of *The Bourne Ultimatum* (but more on later).

Other new additions to the *Bourne* acting department are Rachel Weisz (*The Constant*

Jeremy Renner fills in for an absent Matt Damon as the newest badass superspy in *The Bourne Legacy*



Gardener), Edward Norton (*Fight Club*), Donna Murphy (*Star Trek: Insurrection*), Zeljko Ivanek (*In Bruges*), Corey Stoll (*Midnight in Paris*) and Oscar Issac (*Drive*), while making their return to the franchise are Joan Allen (*Face/Off*), David Strathairn (*Good Night, And Good Luck.*), Albert Finney (*Big Fish*) and Scott Glenn (*Silence of the Lambs*).

As for Bourne himself, while there isn't any new footage of him in action we get archival footage of Damon in the role which solidifies his presence even when he's not even in the film. So, as was previously stated, the events of *The Bourne Legacy* are unfolded around the

events of *The Bourne Ultimatum*, when the CIA decides to shut down its "Operation Outcome" program - an updated version of "Operation Treadstone" for die-hard fans of the first few films - after Jason Bourne disappears after exposing their darker ambitions. One particular agent of the program, Aaron Cross (Renner), teams up with a doctor (Weisz) who helped create the Outcome agents and escape before a ruthless CIA agent (Norton) has them assassinated. Can the *Bourne* franchise work without Bourne himself? We'll be able to find out for ourselves on **August 17th**.

News Round-Up

- A US remake of *The Inbetweeners Movie* is in the works
- Jena Malone, Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Amanda Plummer join *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*
- *The Amazing Spider-Man* will get two sequels to round off a trilogy
- Michael Fassbender will star in and produce the adaptation of video game *Assassin's Creed*
- Anthony Hopkins is cast as Methuselah in Darren Aronofsky's *Noah*
- Christopher Nolan rules himself out of directing the *Justice League* movie
- Etan Cohen (*Tropic Thunder*) will rewrite *Ghostbusters 3*
- *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay* will be split into two films, with late 2014 and late 2015 release dates
- Channing Tatum will produce and star in a biopic of stuntman Evel Knievel
- Josh Trank (*Chronicle*) is confirmed to direct the *Fantastic Four* reboot
- Director David Slade departs the *Daredevil* reboot
- Mads Mikkelsen drops out of the villain role in *Thor 2* (now called *Thor: The Dark World*)
- Ken Jeong (Mr. Chow) and Mike Epps (Black Doug) return for *The Hangover Part 3*
- Daniel Radcliffe vacates a departing Shia LaBeouf's role in supernatural thriller *Horns*
- Edgar Wright and Simon Pegg's *The World's End* is officially a go
- Anthony Mackie is in talks to play Sam Wilson (aka Falcon) in *Captain America 2* (now known as *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*)
- Marvel confirms adaptations of *Guardians of the Galaxy* and Edgar Wright's long-awaited *Ant-Man*
- Sony is planning a reboot of *Jumanji*

The transition from animation to live-action has never been easy. Directors like Mike Judge (*Office Space*), Brad Bird (*Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol*), and Phil Lord and Chris Miller (*21 Jump Street*) got to where they are now due to their past affiliations with animated films or TV shows.

But when you come off one of the most successful animated TV shows of all time, you know the hype's going through the roof.

Such is the case with Seth MacFarlane, creator of *Family Guy*, *American Dad!* and *The Cleveland Show*, who now makes his own leap from 2D to 3D (in the sense of live-action people, not the format which he has thankfully avoided here) with his new movie *Ted*.

MacFarlane directs and co-writes this new comedy, as well as plays the titular character of Ted in both voice and movement - the character's physicality was created using motion-capture technology again performed by MacFarlane - and, for the most part, it seems to have really paid off well.

But of course, like many other instances where CGI characters

TED

Mark Wahlberg is best friends with his teddy bear, the result of his childhood wish, in *Ted*



need to react to real people, there are other actors cast in the predominantly human roles. The cast includes Mark Wahlberg (*The Departed*), Mila Kunis (*Friends with Benefits*), Giovanni Ribisi (*Avatar*), Joel McHale (*The Informant!*) and Patrick Warburton (*The Emperor's New Groove*) among others. Also, be sure to listen out for a narrator cameo by Patrick Stewart (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*).

The fantastical story starts out with a lonely young boy named John who, one magical Christmas evening, wishes upon a shooting star for his teddy bear to come alive. The next morning,

it turns out that the wish came true, and Ted (MacFarlane) is now alive.

Cut forward to several years later, when a grown-up John (Wahlberg) and Ted are a pair of slackers who do nothing but sit around and get high all the time. Meanwhile, John is pursuing a four-year relationship with Lori (Kunis), whose patience with Ted is starting to unwind.

Fancy checking out what is currently being stated as one of the funniest comedies of the summer? Check out *Ted* from **August 3rd**.

BRAVE

A Scottish princess goes on a fascinating quest in *Brave*



MacDonald in the voice booth are Emma Thompson (*Sense and Sensibility*), Billy Connolly (*Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*), Kevin McKidd (*Trainspotting*), Craig Ferguson (*How To Train Your Dragon*), Robbie Coltrane (*Harry Potter*), Julie Walters (*Billy Elliott*) and Pixar's "good-luck charm" John Ratzenberger, who continues the tradition of appearing in every Pixar film made.

But what's the story for the studio's thirteenth film?

Merida (MacDonald) is the free-spirited young daughter of King Fergus (Connolly) and Queen

Elinor (Thompson), the latter being a stern but loving mother. When Merida defies an age-old custom, she unintentionally starts a chain reaction of chaos throughout the kingdom. Things get even more complicated when Merida turns to a mysterious Wise Woman (Walters) that grants her an ill-fated wish, prompting Merida to discover true bravery if she wants to destroy the curse.

For further proof of Pixar's (mostly) faultless streak of quality animations, *Brave* is out in cinemas on **August 17th**.

With last year's *Cars 2* as proof, it seems that Pixar is not as flawless as we once thought. Hopefully, it will fall onto their newest animated venture, *Brave*, to pick up the pieces and get the studio back on track. From what we've seen, it looks as though they're very much back in the game.

Brave is Pixar's first fairy tale and their first to feature a female protagonist, as voiced by Scottish actress Kelly MacDonald (*No Country For Old Men*).

In fact, most if not all of the voice actors are Scottish, appropriate for the film's magical (or as magical as one can get with Scotland) setting of the medieval Highlands. Hoping to do to Scotland what *The Avengers* did to Shawarma (kebab-like food; Tony Stark had a craving for them), this should boost tourism in the country like mad. So, for any readers actually from there, expect a siege of tourists coming to check out the place after the release of this film!

Meanwhile, alongside Ms

TOTAL RECALL

It's rare that remakes tend to fare better than the original (recent case in point: *The Amazing Spider-Man* - yeah it's meant to be a reboot, but who are you kidding? It's a remake). So, could it be that the new version of sci-fi classic *Total Recall* will join that exclusive club? Judging by the action-packed trailers, it certainly has potential.

The original 1990 film of the same name, directed by Paul Verhoeven (who would later go on to direct so-bad-it's-good classic *Showgirls*) and starring a pre-Governator Arnold Schwarzenegger, was in turn based off a Phillip K. Dick story entitled *We Can Remember It For You Wholesale*. But this new version of a new version of a classic story by one of sci-fi's leading writers appears to be closer to the book than the previous effort was. How it's closer would probably take too long to explain, and since I'd never read the story or saw the original it would prove to be a difficult task.

But for all fans of the original film, there is at least one element saved over - that three-

Colin Farrell gets on the wrong side of the futuristic law in the new remake of the Schwarzenegger classic *Total Recall*



breasted hooker is back! <the chorus to Beethoven's *Ode To Joy* starts playing> God, we're such perverts.

Anyway, this new adaptation is directed by Len Wiseman (*Die Hard 4.0*) and stars Colin Farrell (*In Bruges*) in the role originated by Schwarzenegger.

Supporting roles are filled by actors Kate Beckinsale (*Underworld*), Jessica Biel (*The A-Team*), Bill Nighy (*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*), Bryan Cranston (*Drive*), John Cho (*Star Trek*) and Ethan Hawke (*Before Sunset*).

In the dystopian year of 2084, where two superpowers rule the Earth in a battle for supremacy, a troubled factory worker (Farrell) visits the Rekall Corporation - where artificial memories of lives people would like to have are implanted - and starts to suspect that he's a spy who's memory and personality were erased and replaced. Which side he's fighting on is unclear, but all this and tons of more secrets will be revealed when *Total Recall* hits cinemas on **August 31st**.

THE EXPENDABLES 2

Never before has the overly-used phrase "The Boys Are Back In Town" applied so appropriately to a film like *The Expendables 2*, cos when it says the BOYS are back in town, they bloommin' well mean the boys are back in town.

In what has to be the most testosterone-fuelled sequel of the year, the follow-up to the 2010 action hit (which was Movie of the Month in issue #2 aka the August 2010 issue - looking back on it now, how *Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World* wasn't named Movie of the Month instead slips my mind) has nearly all of the original's cast back in thrilling action and also incorporates some new faces as well.

And trust me when I say that even the newcomers to this franchise will blow your mind. Sadly, there's no Mickey Rourke (*The Wrestler*) this time round, but that's a minor blip on the radar of muscle-bound awesomeness.

With Simon West (*Con Air*) on directing duties this time, let's see who's on show in the cast!

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Willis amp up the action in *The Expendables 2*



Sylvester Stallone (*Rambo*), Jason Statham (*The Transporter*), Jet Li (*War*), Dolph Lundgren (*Rocky IV*), Terry Crews (*Get Smart*) and Randy Couture (*Cradle 2 The Grave*) are all back in their major roles, while Chuck Norris (*Sidekicks*), Jean-Claude Van Damme (*Kung Fu Panda 2*), Scott Adkins (*The Bourne Ultimatum*) and Liam Hemsworth (*The Hunger Games*) are the newest members of the franchise.

Also after appearing in cameo roles in the previous film, Bruce Willis (*Die Hard*) and Arnold

Schwarzenegger (*The Terminator*) have much larger roles this time round.

This time, the mercenaries known as the Expendables go on a seemingly-simple mission only to have one of their own killed by rival mercenary Jean Vilain (Van Damme). The team decides to venture into hostile territory to stop a deadly weapon and get their revenge against Vilain. *The Expendables 2*, out **August 17th**, promises to be the butchiest film this summer, or your money back!

News Round-Up

- Wes Anderson's next film, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, will feature Johnny Depp in the lead
- Andrew Stanton is on board to direct a sequel to *Finding Nemo*
- Jeremy Renner and Amy Adams join David O. Russell's next film
- Gary Ross could direct *Peter Pan* prequel *Peter and the Starcatchers*
- Director Kenneth Branagh will also play the villain in the new Jack Ryan film
- Steven Spielberg wants Chris Hemsworth for the lead role in *Robopocalypse*
- Jackie Earle Haley and Jay Baruchel join *RoboCop*
- The minions in *Despicable Me* are to get their own film
- Denzel Washington is confirmed to star in the big-screen version of *The Equalizer*
- Edgar Wright will direct the JJ Abrams-produced sci-fi film *Collider*
- Jon Favreau joins Martin Scorsese's *The Wolf of Wall Street*
- Gangster Squad* is being reshot due to the recent Colorado shootings (a scene saw gunfire in a cinema)
- Paul Giamatti, Jason Schwartzman and Ruth Wilson join *Saving Mr. Banks*
- Lady GaGa will appear in *Machete Kills*
- Warner Bros may be looking to make a prequel to *The Shining*
- Rush Hour 4* might be happening soon, according to producer Arthur Sarkissian
- A third *Hobbit* movie is confirmed by Peter Jackson
- Jon M. Chu (*GI Joe: Retaliation*) targets a new He-Man film
- Emma Stone will headline Cameron Crowe's next film
- Bad Santa 2* is moving forward
- John Leguizamo is cast in *Kick-Ass 2*



It can't be August without a pretentious ensemble drama pleading for attention. Okay, so 360 isn't THAT pretentious, but considering that some recent dramas have tried to replicate *Crash*'s success by adding highly-regarded thespians into the mix with topical themes and issues, can you really blame me for stating so?

To be fair, there isn't much of an ensemble here in director Fernando Meirelles' (*City of God*) newest film, with only four major actors - Anthony Hopkins (*Silence of the Lambs*), Jude Law (*Sherlock Holmes*), Rachel Weisz (who won an Oscar for her role in Meirelles' *The Constant Gardener*) and Ben Foster (*The Messenger*) - in the mix with a bunch of additional international actors.

The screenplay, meanwhile, is written by acclaimed writer Peter Morgan (*The Queen*, *Frost/Nixon*), who in turn

360



Anthony Hopkins is part of a small cast ensemble brought together in director Fernando Meirelles' 360

made this film as a loose adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's play *La Ronde*. The film's overall structure resembles a crisscrossing anthology - again, much in the style of *Crash*, *Traffic* etc - as the film dives into a series of stories of different couples and their sexual encounters. Some of the characters include a woman (Weisz) who embarks on an affair with a photographer - who, himself, is unfaithful to his girlfriend - when she grows dissatisfied with his

businessman husband (Law). We also get an older man (Hopkins) on his journey to identify his missing daughter, a rapist (Foster) who is freed from jail, and a whole other load of characters who seem to just come out of nowhere and start to somehow be important to the plot. Actually, I take it back - 360 DOES sound annoyingly pretentious now that I think about it. But see if it is indeed as we feared from **August 10th**.

THE WATCH

You might have already heard of this film before in the news, back when it was known as *Neighborhood Watch*.

Earlier this year, promotional material for the flick - including a bullet-ridden teaser poster and a brief trailer which seemingly glamorizes the nature of neighborhood watch groups - had to be removed from cinemas in Florida as the controversy surrounding the shooting of Trayvon Martin by a neighborhood watch captain began to grow.

But one minor name change later and a slight re-focus in the promos and we now have *The Watch* coming our way into cinemas.

Sadly, this is just another addition to the film's small history of development issues. Producer Shawn Levy (*Real Steel*) originally saw the film as a semi-family friendly comedy, while director David Dobkin and star Will Ferrell were attached before dropping out.

Enter writing team Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg (*Superbad*),



Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill and Richard Ayoade form a neighbourhood watch alliance in *The Watch*

who gave the script a re-tuning to resemble a more adult comedy with more swearing and the like.

Add in director/Lonely Island member Akiva Schaffer (already with cult favourite *Hot Rod* under his belt) and stars Ben Stiller (*Zoolander*), Vince Vaughn (*Wedding Crashers*), Jonah Hill (*21 Jump Street*) and Richard Ayoade (*The IT Crowd*) as the main protagonists, with supporting players Rosemarie DeWitt (*Your Sister's Sister*), Will Forte (*MacGruber*), Billy Crudup (*Watchmen*) and Doug Jones

(*Pan's Labyrinth*) also thrown into the mix, and you got the film.

As for the plot itself, a bunch of suburbanites (Stiller, Vaughn, Hill and Ayoade) form a neighborhood watch alliance to escape from their dull and boring lives. However, when they uncover an alien plot to destroy the world, they decide to eradicate the danger for the safety of the world and, most importantly, their neighborhood. *The Watch* makes its cinema debut on **August 24th**.

KEITH LEMON: THE FILM

Is it possible that British entertainer Leigh Francis could be Sacha Baron Cohen Version 2.0?

After gaining some notoriety by creating cult TV satire *Bo' Selecta!*, Francis quickly moved in a different direction after said show's axing by creating a new string of shows centering around the character of Keith Lemon.

Yes, that's right - the host of *Celebrity Juice*, *Lemonaid* and other ITV2 programmes is actually a work of fiction. Believe me, I was as surprised as you might be right now.

But I digress...

His new-found credibility with viewers and audiences has led to Keith Lemon getting his own movie, not unlike *Ali G InDaHouse*, in which the rags-to-riches backstory of the Leeds entrepreneur is covered.

Having not seen any episodes of the BAFTA-

Keith Lemon ends up in bed with supermodel Kelly Brook in his very own film entitled *Keith Lemon: The Film*



winning *Celebrity Juice*, it's hard for me to truly dissect who Lemon really is or what his appeal is, but the hope is that after this film is released I'll be able to understand why.

And how can anyone not be curious to see it when the film has cameos galore from such celebrities as Kelly Brook (*Piranha 3D*), Verne Troyer (*Austin Powers*), Kevin Bishop (*Muppet Treasure Island*), David Hasselhoff

(*Baywatch*), and many more including (just name-checking from here on) Gary Barlow, Jedward, Emma Bunton, Fearne Cotton, Ronan Keating, Billy Ocean, Paddy McGuinness, Chris Moyle and Peter Andre.

If you're a fan of the character and his TV antics, then it's likely that you'll want to check out his antics in *Keith Lemon: The Film*, out in cinemas from **August 24th**.

SIMON PEGG

NICK FROST

THE FIRST POST
The OLD FAMILIAR
THE FAMOUS COCK
THE CROSS HANDS
The GOOD COMPANIONS
THE TRUSTY SERVANT
The TWO HEADED DOG
The Mermaid
THE BEEHIVE
The KING'S HEAD
THE HOLE IN THE WALL
THE WORLD'S END

A FILM BY EDGAR WRIGHT

2013

THE THREE STOOGES

This is yet another case of a comedy that spent years in development hell and is just now finally getting a release in cinemas (see how *The Watch* managed to make it on page 4).

Talk surrounding the new interpretation of the classic slapstick trio *The Three Stooges* started way back in 2000, and since then many actors ranging from the painfully obvious (Johnny Knoxville) to the most unlikely (Sean Penn?!?) have been attached at some point to play a member of the group.

But in the end, *There's Something About Mary* directors Peter and Bobby Farrelly (serving as directors here too) chose Sean Hayes (*Will and Grace*), Chris Diamantopoulos (*State of Mind*) and Will Sasso (*Life As We Know It*) to play the latest incarnations of Larry, Moe and Curly respectively.

One of the classic comedy trios of all time gets a modern-day take in *The Three Stooges*

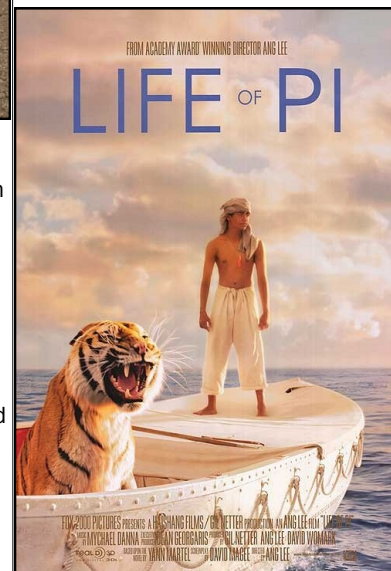
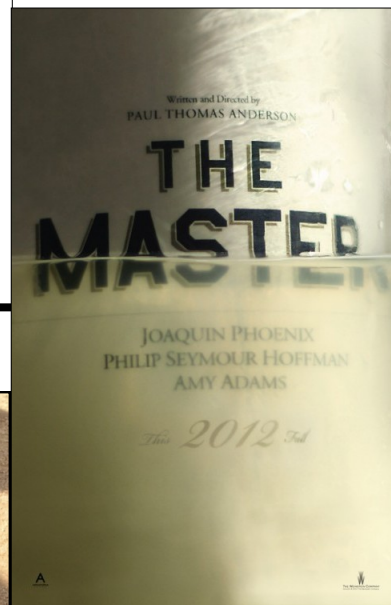


Other cast members brought on for this modern-day adaptation include Jane Lynch (*Glee*), Larry David (*Curb Your Enthusiasm*), Sofia Vergara (*Modern Family*), Jennifer Hudson (*Dreamgirls*) and, for some bizzare reason, the cast of *Jersey Shore*. It is only this last piece of casting that you should be somewhat afraid of during this flick.

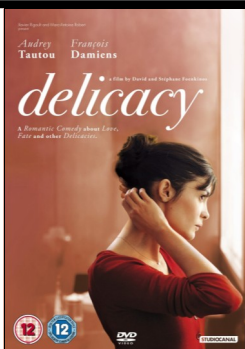
Paying homage to the original, the film is divided

into three different half-hour segments, which see the dim-witted antics of orphan brothers Larry (Hayes), Moe (Diamantopoulos) and Curly (Sasso) as they try to save the orphanage where they grew up.

Strictly for anyone who enjoys people getting bonked on the head for laughs, *The Three Stooges* opens on **August 24th**.



STILL SHOWING: JULY



Delicacy

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 06/08/12



Jo Nesbo's Headhunters

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 13/08/12



Elfie Hopkins

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 13/08/12



This Must Be The Place

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 13/08/12

While the weather has been, for lack of a better word, rubbish (I was unlucky enough to be witness to some of the floods that scattered the country), it provided a good excuse to head on over to the cinema during July. Thankfully, there were plenty of options throughout to keep us from going completely bored.

The first ones out of the gate on the 6th included the first superhero film of the month, a reboot of the web-slinging superhero

The Amazing Spider-Man (to read my review, see page 8); Bobcat Goldthwait's dark satire of American pop culture *God Bless America*; and a look inside the life of the popular singer Katy Perry in the self-titled *Katy Perry: Part Of Me*.

Things picked up on the 13th, as just in time for the Olympics we got a re-release of the classic British sports film, the Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire*; our favourite prehistoric animals embarked on a sea-faring adventure in *Ice Age: Continental Drift* (for my review, see page 8); Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer and Matthew

McConaughey got their kit off to please the ladies in male-stripper flick *Magic Mike* (for my review, see page 9); and Steve Carell teamed up with Keira

Christian Bale's Batman returned for the final showdown for Gotham City in Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight Rises*



Knightley to tie up loose ends before an asteroid destroys the Earth in *Seeking A Friend For The End Of The World*.

None of those films even prepared audiences for the cinematic juggernaut that got released on the 20th. The final entry into Christopher Nolan's acclaimed Batman franchise, *The Dark Knight Rises*, was the big one to watch that week, with other films wisely steering away from that film on the same date. But was it any good? See my review on page 8 to find out.

By the way, I do want to take a moment to pay tribute to the families and friends of the victims of the horrific tragedy that occurred in Colorado at a midnight screening of this film. What the guy did was a horrific crime against nature and humanity,

and I hope he gets what he deserves. But for now, I pay respect to those who have lost loved ones and pray for quick and satisfying resolution.

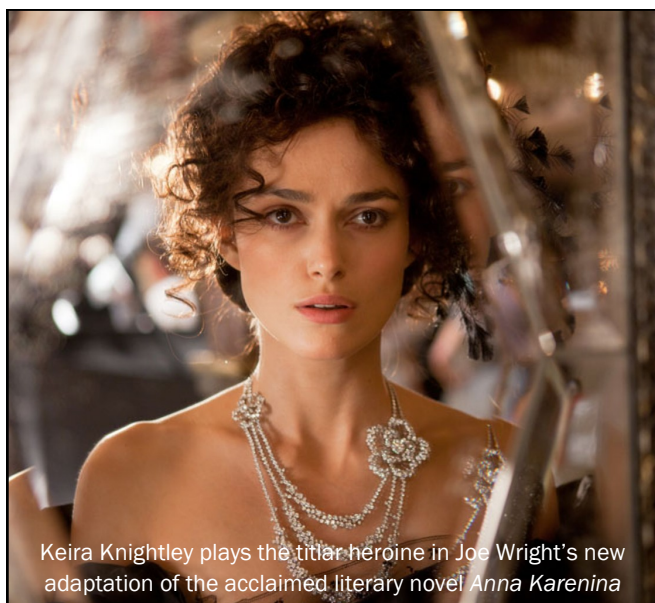
But while Batman's dominance over the film community and the start of the London Olympics prove to be a problem, that didn't stop US box office success *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* from being released on the 27th. So, that's all that can be said about July. A fairly muted month, possibly due to Olympic preparations, but what we got was a bunch of films that managed to stand their own ground and make an impact on many a moviegoer.

COMING SOON: SEPTEMBER

Seems crazy to think that summer is nearly over already, but if it's any consolation we are definitely in for a packed September, with big film releases coming at us from all angles.

Our first crop of autumn films make their debut in cinemas on the 7th, including Joe Wright's reunion with actress Keira Knightley in a new adaptation of the classic book *Anna Karenina*; Karl Urban wears the mask (for the whole film!) in a bid to make people forget about the bad Sylvester Stallone version of the character Judge Dredd in, erm, *Dredd*; Shia LaBeouf and Tom Hardy are bootlegging brothers in crime flick *Lawless*; an acclaimed documentary chronicling the riches to rags of an American family during the recession in *The Queen of Versailles*; and Adam Sandler hopes to reunite with his son Andy Samberg in *That's My Boy*.

And if you thought that week was packed, wait til you see what we've got for the 14th - Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones get advice from sexual therapist Steve Carell in *Hope Springs*; the creators of *Coraline* are back with a new stop-motion 3D animated film in the form of *Paranorman 3D*; Joseph Gordon-Levitt makes his first



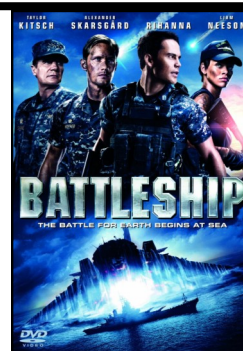
Keira Knightley plays the titular heroine in Joe Wright's new adaptation of the acclaimed literary novel *Anna Karenina*

appearance this month in courier bike action film *Premium Rush*; Ray Winstone and Ben "Plan B" Drew are coppers in rough-and-tough crime film *The Sweeney*; and Woody Allen is back with yet another ensemble cast in yet another beautiful European city in *To Rome With Love*. Following that on the 21st is the Victorian-era story of an inventor who comes up with a rather sensational way to satisfy the opposite sex in *Hysteria*; Brad Pitt is a point man for a hit man for yet another crime flick called *Killing Me Softly*; and Dakota Fanning is determined to live life to the fullest before she dies in the previously-delayed *Now Is Good*.

Rounding all of this off on the 28th are the following: Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis go head-to-head to win votes in political comedy *The Campaign*;

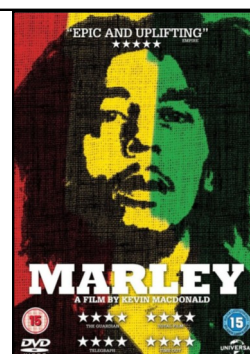
head-scratcher and Cannes favourite *Holy Motors* gets a release; Joseph Gordon-Levitt appears in his second film of the month as a man charged with killing his future self, who looks an awful lot like Bruce Willis, in sci-fi flick *Looper*; those zombies just won't leave poor Milla Jovovich alone in the fifth instalment *Resident Evil: Retribution*; and finally, Oliver Stone brings us his latest which happens to be - yep, you guessed it - another crime flick called *Savages*.

So, I wasn't lying about September being absolutely packed. We can just hope that these films can live up to their hype and deliver.



Battleship

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 20/08/12



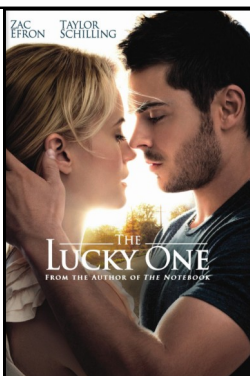
Marley

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 27/08/12



Outside Bet

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 27/08/12



The Lucky One

- Also available on Blu-Ray
- Released: 27/08/12

REVIEWS



THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

I think it can now be claimed that Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight trilogy (consisting of *Batman Begins*, *The Dark Knight*, and now this film) is perhaps one of the greatest trilogies to have ever been put on film.

After both previous films succeeded in winning over critics and audiences alike, a high amount of pressure was placed on this film to deliver the goods and thankfully we have a final piece of the puzzle which manages to tie up all loose ends and perhaps - without giving anything away - creating a few new ones left for other directors to tie up.

This is definitely Christian Bale's finest hour as the Batman himself and his real persona Bruce Wayne, with his voice not as silly and laughable as it was in *The Dark Knight*. As a man trying to move on from the events of the previous films, his being suckered back into the crimefighting ways of his superhero alter-ego proves too much for him and also his loyal butler Alfred, again played here by Michael Caine, which leads to a rift in one of the most enduring unofficial father-son relationships of recent.

New additions include Anne Hathaway as the sultry Selina Kyle (never referred to as Catwoman) and the bulked-up Tom Hardy as the villain Bane (whose mask-protected voice makes it difficult for some lines to be fully audible but apart from that makes a terrifying bad guy).

Joseph Gordon-Levitt also has a large role as an optimistic cop, and it's fair to say—again, with no spoilers—that people will be talking about him again when they exit the cinema.

The story is as complex as we've come to expect from someone like Christopher Nolan, and like his other work it definitely requires at least a second viewing.

That is, however, a minor blip on the radar as *The Dark Knight Rises* stands as one of the best films of the year and certainly a fantastic conclusion to the best superhero franchise ever.

You done good, Mr. Nolan. You done good.



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Is it OK to say that I wasn't the biggest fan of Sam Raimi's original *Spider-Man* movies? Looking back on them now, it was a tad too contrived with no major conflict and Tobey Maguire as the web-slinging superhero himself really irked me the wrong way.

Thank goodness then that not only does this new reboot of the franchise—"And the award for Fastest Reboot of a Series goes to..." - excel in other areas where Raimi's films did not cover to extent, but also manages to shed light on newer and more gripping parts of the story.

Of course, it all starts again with Peter Parker (Andrew Garfield; more on him later), this time entirely focusing on his time in high school where he's picked on by the school bully, doesn't have many friends, you know the drill.

This is where some of the film's successes can be found: by placing the arachnid superhero in a high school age and environment, we in return get more personal conflict for our hero when he is forced to take on his own responsibilities if he is to save the day, a normal problem for teenagers in this modern society where nearly everyone in the age group has iPhones and/or Blackberries. It's a very real conflict for a very surreal superhero.

Garfield is definitely one of the most powerful incarnations of Peter Parker/Spider-Man on screen so far, bringing with his side order of teen angst and frustration a main course of wit and one-liner gold as the superhero which was severely missing from the previous series.

His chemistry with leading lady Emma Stone (herself a natural wonder) is sound, and even Rhys Ifans brings humanity to main villain The Lizard (whose CGI creation is one of the film's weaknesses; it seems too cartoonish for this new real take).

If Raimi's *Spider-Man* trilogy was like Burton and Schumacher's *Batman* films, than *The Amazing Spider-Man* is certainly Nolan's *Batman Begins*: a great origin with a lot of promise for the rest of the new trilogy.



ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT

In many ways, the *Ice Age* series shares many parallels with the *Shrek* series: the first film in both franchises were great, the second was on par with its predecessor (in *Shrek*'s case, even more so), but they both started to head downhill by the time of its third instalment.

While *Ice Age 3* was fun if somewhat forgettable, its newest entry in the form of the four-quel *Ice Age: Continental Drift* highlights that there's only so much one can milk out of a cartoon film series.

The addition of a more aquatic adventure than before can make for some exciting set pieces but it doesn't help to make the characters we've grown to like over the past ten years (that's not an estimate: the first film came out in 2002) any more developed than they originally were. If anything, they've become cardboard cutouts of themselves: Manny the Mammoth is still a caring family man, Sid the Sloth is still a moron, and Diego the Sabre-Toothed Tiger is still a wannabe badass. Then again, that's probably why they're still memorable characters to this day, and no-one wants to see them in any different way.

Naturally, for a tale on the seven seas, pirates are involved which is where the film starts to go downhill. There are some nice ideas thrown into these scenes (narwhals, anyone?) and some of the crew members (in particular an unintelligent seal voiced by Nick Frost) stand out as one of the best things about the movie, but it feels more like a desperate attempt to get in with the *Pirates of the Caribbean* crowd than bring in some originality into this century-old pirate stereotype.

Overall, while still a decent kid's animated flick, there are some big problems with the material like the story, its predictable nature and its inability to hide the fact that the *Ice Age* is starting to thaw hard.

Put this in the "strictly for the fans only" category.



STAR RATING SYSTEM

☆☆☆☆☆ JUST DON'T

☆☆☆☆☆ WORTH A LOOK

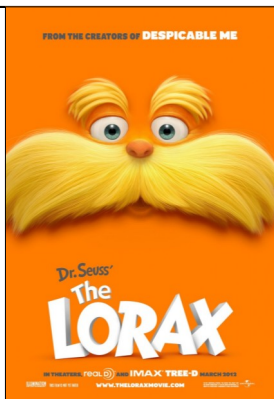
☆☆☆☆☆ I WOULDN'T

☆☆☆☆☆ RATHER ENJOYABLE

☆☆☆☆☆ MEH

☆☆☆☆☆ SEE IT NOW!

REVIEWS



DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX

The first thing you may notice is that it's entirely in rhyme,
A tribute to Dr. Seuss when he was in his prime.

For this is The Lorax, and I have to say,
Is it any good at all? The answer's nay.

This movie sucks, it's just a piece of corporate pandering,
And this is just one of the many things that deserve a slandering.

Its environmental message is way too preachy,
And its phone-in voice acting just sounds screechy.

Its unneeded musical numbers made me want to crawl up and die,
Seriously, I think the songwriters simply got high.

I will admit, however, that the animation is nice,
And looks appropriately cartoonish, if one can be precise.

But my main beef with this film is that there's no real story,
If you count out, of course, Dr. Seuss' original glory.

It's predictable, it's corny, it's contrived beyond belief,
And it's about as funny as a green-coloured leaf.

My overall opinion is that The Lorax is just bad,
There's no real fun for adults to be had.

This is strictly for the young'uns, but it's important to know
That if you don't want to be bored, avoid this dull show.

There's probably a lot more to be said with plenty of time,
But seriously, you know how difficult it is to make things rhyme?



MAGIC MIKE

Thankfully, this is far from being the male equivalent of Showgirls.

But while the camp classic will perhaps be remembered for being exploitative, far-fetched and just downright silly, Steven Soderbergh's film goes beyond all that and manages to deliver an engaging character-driven piece.

But I can't go any further without mentioning the actual male stripping itself. There is a LOT of man-flesh here, ladies will be pleased to know, but the full-frontal stuff is well hidden (which, as a straight man, is fine with me) and there's often more female nudity than there is male. The scenes in the "Xquisite" strip club where our main characters work are played for laughs - one literally has a Tarzan theme with one dancer swinging on a vine - which again is the best way to approach it in an overly-serious film like this. It shows how much of a performance it is to the female customers and to the performers themselves, and serves as a nice alternative to the darker realities that the film undertakes later on outside the club.

Channing Tatum, whose earlier days as a male stripper served as the basis for the film, continues his astounding year after showing romantic and funny sides in The Vow and 21 Jump Street respectively, and gives a great central performance as the lead stripper convincing himself there's more to him than his night job. Matthew McConaughey also stands out in a role that actually gives him reason to take his shirt off as the charismatic manager of the club. I've never been that much of an Alex Pettyfer fan - personally, I think he's very much a "I'm sexy and I know it" person and doesn't look like a nice guy in real life - and even though he's a major focus in this film, he just didn't do it for me here. Interesting character, though, and nicely ambiguous conclusion for him.

So, it appears that not only does Magic Mike make male strippers look decidedly human, but also that they're good material for an enjoyable flick like this one.



STAR RATING SYSTEM



JUST DON'T



I WOULDN'T



MEH...



WORTH A LOOK



RATHER ENJOYABLE



SEE IT NOW!

UK Film Release Dates

AUGUST

2ND

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
- The Flowers of War
- Ted
- Undefeated

10TH

- 360
- Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry
- The Dinosaur Project
- Jo Nesbo's Jackpot
- Love Bite
- Step Up 4: Miami Heat 3D

17TH

- The Bourne Legacy
- Brave
- The Expendables 2
- Take This Waltz
- The Wedding Video

24TH

- The Imposter
- Keith Lemon: The Movie
- Shadow Dancer
- The Three Stooges
- The Watch

31ST

- A Few Best Men
- Berberian Sound Studio
- The Possession
- Total Recall

SEPTEMBER

7TH

- Anna Karenina
- Dredd
- Lawless
- A Night in the Woods
- The Queen of Versailles
- That's My Boy

14TH

- Hope Springs
- Paranorman 3D
- Premium Rush
- The Sweeney
- To Rome With Love

21ST

- Hysteria
- Killing Them Softly
- Now Is Good

28TH

- The Campaign
- Holy Motors
- Looper
- Resident Evil: Retribution
- Savages

All release dates are
correct as of time of
press.

OCTOBER

5TH

- The Knot
- Liberal Arts
- The Perks Of Being A Wallflower
- Sparkle
- Taken 2

12TH

- Argo
- Hit and Run
- Hotel Transylvania
- On The Road
- Pusher
- Ruby Sparks

19TH

- Beasts of the Southern Wild
- Frankenweenie
- Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted
- Paranormal Activity 4
- Pitch Perfect

26TH

- Skyfall
- Stitches
- Tempest

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