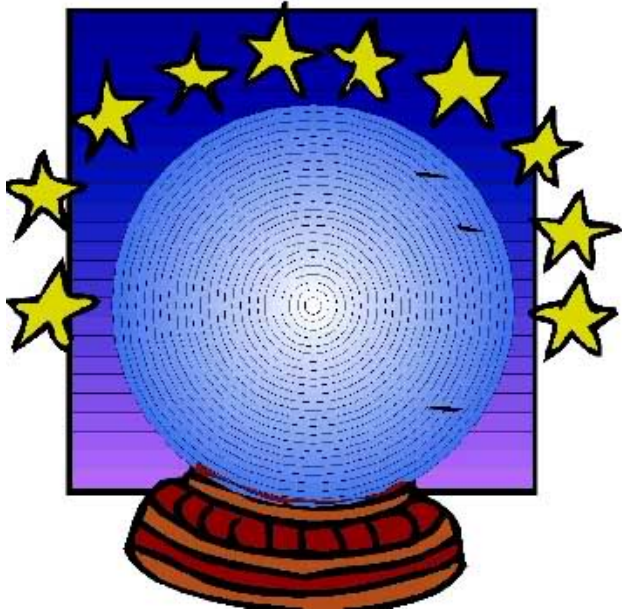


The Crystal Ball - June 15 Releases

Written by {ga=mitch}

Thursday, June 14 2007 7:00 PM -

The latest "Fantastic Four" film is the big release at the box office this weekend, and we're dispatching Mitch to see it this weekend so we can post his review next week. In this week's Crystal Ball, Mitch previews all the weeks new releases at the theaters and on DVD, and also updates us on all the intriguing projects and films coming out in the near future. Also, we'll be posting Mitch's review of "Oceans 13" in the next couple days ...



We've written a lot about the Cavs' magical season here at theClevelandFan.com, but allow me one brief comment.

Be Proud.

I enjoyed the ride, as they got one step further than I would have thought possible. Give the Spurs all the credit in the world, as they are the New England Patriots of the NBA...an organization to be respected and emulated.

I can't wait for next season to begin.

News & Rumors:

~ "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" has been seen somewhat as a box office disappointment in the US, as it looks like it will not be close to matching the \$423 million earned domestically by "Dead Man's Chest". But don't think that executives at Disney are worried, as the film is absolutely gonzo everywhere else, having just passed the half billion dollar world-wide mark faster than any other movie. That's good for them, because so far this year, the three big "Part Threes" of "Pirates", "Shrek", and "Spider-Man" have all seriously underperformed their respective second editions.

~ With the big Bruce Willis movie coming out in two weeks, we'll tie in his next off-beat role, as a twisted Desert Storm veteran who is the principal of the school that is the focus of the dark comedy "The Sophomore". It's being described as a teenage take of "Chinatown", with Mischa Barton playing a high society girl persuading a sophomore writer to investigate the theft of SAT exams at a local Catholic high school. Bruce's daughter Rumer will play the trouble-making sidekick to Barton. Yipi-Ki-Ay, Daddy!

~ I will definitely watch this Indie film, as it's just too perfect of a concept. Danny DeVito will star in "No Place Like Home" as a recently retired fireman whose plans for a nice, quiet life are upset by his unemployed 20 something sons still living at home, and his wife won't let him kick them out. So he kidnaps her to force the bums to fend for themselves. Hmmm...if my wife ever turns up missing...don't look at

me.

~ Screen Gems studio is planning to do a remake of the classic movie “The Big Chill”, using an African-American cast. It will be re-titled, but will still use the original Lawrence Kasdan script as the template, and like the first, music will play a big part of the film. Regina King is the only actor currently tied to the project. Hopefully they make the character played by Jeff Goldblum slightly less of an annoying jerk.

~ Husband and wife Paul Bettany and Jennifer Connolley will star together in a psychological thriller called “Born”. Bettany will play a clay-mation artist whose characters are acting out a nightmare that comes to life. Think “California Raisins with Chainsaws!”

~ Five days after the fact, and the buzz still hasn't died down on “The Sopranos” finale. Love it or hate it (and you all know [my opinion](#)), you have to admit that Chase has created something that will be remembered forever with his choice.

This week's new releases:

More Big Budget Sequels!!!

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer

Starring: Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba, Chris Evans, Michael Chiklis

Plot: The famed superheroes battle the enigmatic Silver Surfer, an emissary of doom for the planet. And speaking of Doom, think there's a chance that their old buddy Dr. Doom may make an appearance.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: This one is getting destroyed by the critics, who normally hate comic book heroes anyway, so I'm not sure how much to put into that. On the other hand, I thought the first FF was really weak, probably about a 1 ½ on my scale. I actually expect this one to be better, based on what I've seen and read, as it no longer has to deal with spending half the movie setting up characters and "how they got their powers", and can go straight to the action. In any case, the movie is only 87 minutes long, so even if it's not great...it should be relatively good popcorn entertainment.

Nancy Drew

Starring: Emma Roberts, Tate Donovan, Max Thieriot

Plot: While accompanying her father on a trip to L.A., a teenaged detective investigates a movie star's death.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: You have a daughter between the age of eight and eleven? Boy, do I feel sorry for you, as you're going to get drug to see this, which is about as cookie-cutter as you can get.

DOA: Dead or Alive

Starring: Jaime Pressly, Devon Aoki, Sarah Carter

Plot: A group of uniquely trained women are sent to an island for a fighting tournament

The BeerBuzz: Another video game turned into a movie. Think of it as a female version of “Doom” or “Mortal Kombat”...without all the “plot”, “character development”, and “intelligence” that went along with those two classics. But hey! How often do you have a movie whose title aptly describes how it will perform at the box office?

New DVD Releases on Tuesday, June 19th

Unless you have young kids, there is nothing coming out this week on DVD to waste any time on.

Bridge to Terabithia – Two friends invent an imaginary world to cope with their real life problems. But then they discover a magical kingdom where they

are made King and Queen. Pretty well received fantasy movie that the kids will enjoy without making the parents wishing there were sharp objects nearby to use on their eyes and ears.

Reno 911: Miami – Truly stupid movie based upon a truly stupid TV show. The preceding message was brought to you by the Department of Redundancy.

The Abandoned – Above average horror flick about an adopted woman

returning to her native Russia to find out all about her past. She'll really wish she'd let it go.

Miss Potter – Another one of those movies that was released in NY and LA only last year in hopes of getting major awards. Rene Zellwegger takes on an English accent again to portray eccentric “Tale of Peter Rabbit” author Beatrix Potter in a film that only got ignored by the critics and the artsy crowds of those two cities, and was never released to other theaters. Rent only if you need help with insomnia.

Calendar Watch

Next week - [*Evan Almighty*](#), [*1408*](#),
A Mighty Heart

Upcoming Biggies (click on the hyperlink to view the available trailers).

Live Free or Die Hard – June
29th -

John McClane strikes again. If the movie lives up to the expectations set by the trailers, this should be a lot of fun to watch.

Transformers – July 6th –
Michael Bay (hack, spit)
tries to spin a former

children's cartoon into an "Independence Day" type Armageddon movie. As much as I hate to admit it...the teaser trailer looks good.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix —
July 11

th

– These movies keep getting darker and better as they go. Voldemort (aka “relative of Art Modell”) is back and targeting Harry and his friends for some nasty payback.

Hairspray – July 20th –
John Travolta in drag.
There are some things
I really don't need to
see. I'm predicting
right now that this will
be the biggest bomb of
the summer.

I Now Pronounce *You Chuck and Larry*

– July 20
th

- Kevin James and Adam Sandler as two straight Philadelphia firefighters who pretend to be a gay couple in order to

receive domestic partner benefits. Having seen the previews on the big screen last week, I can now say this may even be worse than “Hairspray”...except that it will still make a ton of money.

The Simpsons

Movie – July 27th -

ummmm...beeeerrr

rrr

The Bourne

Ultimatum —

August 3

rd

- Superspy Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) is back and looking for his roots.

Underdog –

August 3

rd

– Combination of animation and live action. Let's hope it's more "George of the

Jungle” than
“Scooby-Doo”.

The Invasion –
August 17

th

– Nicole Kidman
and Daniel Craig
in a sci-fi flick
about an alien
epidemic.

Shoot 'em Up –

September 7

th

– Clive Owen

and Monica

Bellucci

protecting a

baby from

sinister Paul
Giamatti. I was
so there
anyway, and
then I found out
that in one
scene Owen
and Bullucci

are having sex
while in a shoot
out. Totally
Awesome!

Eastern
Promises –
September 14
th
– Naomi Watts
as a London
midwife drawn

into the Russian
Mob, headed
by Viggo
Mortensen.

The Kingdom –

September 28

th

– Jamie Foxx,
Chris Cooper,
and Jennifer
Garner in a

story about an
American
team sent into
the Middle
East to
investigate a
terrorist attack

on Americans in Riyadh.

3:12 to Yuma

— October 5
th

— Russell
Crowe and
Christian Bale
in a remake of
a classic

Western with
Bale as a
farmer
volunteering to
escort a
criminal
(Crowe) to

Yuma by train,
with a battle of
wits ensuing.

Hitman – Oct
ober 12
th

– Deadwood's
Timothy
Oliphant
follows up his

portrayal as
the chief
villain in “Live
Free or Die
Hard” in this
action/advent
ure film where

he play...what
else...a
hitman. Look
for it to be in
the same vein
as “The
Transporter”,

and a hit
(heh...I kill
me).

The Golden
Age –
October 12
th
– Cate
Blanchett and

Clive Owen in
a follow up of
the award
winning
“Elizabeth”.

American
Gangster –
November 2
nd
– Denzel
Washington

as a heroin
kingpin from
the Vietnam
War era (he
smuggled it
back in the

body bags of
dead
soldiers) and
Russell
Crowe as the
investigator

on his trail.

Bee Movie —

November 2ⁿ

d

– Animated

flick with

Jerry

Seinfeld as

a bee who
files a lawsuit
against
mankind for
eating
honey.

*Lions for
Lambs –
November 9
th
– Robert
Redford*

directs
himself, Tom
Cruise
(yeck) and
Meryl Streep
in this

political thriller.

Beowulf –

November

16th

- Robert

Zemeckis

gets all

medieval on
us with a
motion
capture (like
“Polar
Express”)

adaptation
of the epic
poem.

*His Dark
Materials:
The Golden
Compass –
December 7
th*

– Major,
major push
from the
studios for
this big
budget

fantasy...de
signed to be
the first of a
franchise.

Nicole

Kidman and

Paul
Bettany
star.

I Am

Legend -

December

14

t

h

– Will Smith
in what is
basically a
remake of
the Chuck

Heston
apocalyptic
film “The
Omega
Man”.

Charlie
Wilson's
Ware – De
cember 25
th

– Tom
Hanks,
Julia
Roberts,
and Philip

Seymour
Hoffman in
an Oscar
contender
about the

charismatic
and
eccentric
Texas
Congressm

an who
orchestrated
the
funding of
the

Afghan's against the Soviet Union in the early

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