

The Crystal Ball - May 1 Releases

Written by {ga=mitch}

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It's Mitch Season. After his winter of discontent at the theaters, we will dispatch the trusty Mitch to the theaters 13 times in the next 13 weeks to review all the spring's hottest movies for us. And what a start ... as Mitch will hit the theaters this weekend to see "Iron Man", which is getting ridiculously good reviews. Look for Mitch's thoughts on it in the next couple days here on our front page. In the meantime, it's The Crystal Ball.



And it begins.

13 weeks, and at least 13 movie reviews coming out over the blockbuster season. 'Bout stinkin' time.

News and Rumors

~ Confirmation of two different rumors reported here earlier. Guillermo del Toro will be directing the Peter Jackson produced films for "The Hobbit", and Sir Ian McKellen will be portraying Gandalf once again. 2011 and 2012 release dates...which is the only part of this that bothers me, having to wait that long.

~ Haven't seen much from Mel Gibson lately, other than his own personal projects, so to me, this is good news. He's signed on to star in "Edge of Darkness" for "Casino Royale" director Martin Campbell. The film is based upon a 1985 BBC miniseries, and will be adapted for the screen by "The Departed" scriptwriter William Monahan. The story concerns a police investigator whose activist daughter is killed. Plunging into the case, he uncovers widespread corruption that lead to his daughter's death.

~ I wrote last week of the casting of the female lead for "The Da Vinci Code" follow-up, "Angels and Demons". This week, another cast member is announced as Ewan McGregor will be in the film, playing a powerful Vatican insider assisting Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks).

~ An interesting blurb about TheClevelandFan's favorite mob boss. James Gandolfini will star with David Rasche ("United 93") and former child star Anna Chlumsky ("My Girl") in the BBC Films' political satire "The Loop". Rasche will portray an undersecretary of state, Chlumsky will play a State Department official, and the former Tony Soprano will play a General.

~ Nicole Kidman will play Dusty Springfield in a biopic of the singer's life. Why do we need this? What next? A biography of Rick Dees doing "Disco Duck"?

This week's new movie releases:

It looks like this will be the start of a pattern for the Summer.

Only two new movies to be released most weeks. One will be a big budget spectacle, and the other some form of comedy, which will do about 1/10th the business of the blockbuster.

Iron Man

Starring: Robert Downey, Jr, Gwyneth Paltrow, Terrence Howard.

Plot: A boozy, celebrity arms dealer is captured in Afghanistan, where he comes up with the plan of creating a super-suit to enable him to help mankind.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: The early buzz on this is incredible. I'm hearing that Robert Downey, Jr. could actually be the first actor in a comic book movie to receive Oscar consideration. Now I personally won't believe it until I see it, but that's some very high praise indeed. I know that last week I predicted this movie will end up being #3 at the box office this year. It could even end up at #2 (I don't think anything will be able to beat out "The Dark Knight";.

I'll let you know in a day or two what I think of it.

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Made of Honor

Starring: Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan, Kevin McKidd

Plot: A rakish yuppie comes to the realization that he's in love with his best friend...only to have her announce her engagement to another man the day he was going to tell her...and she asks him to be her maid of honor.

[*View Trailer*](#)

The BeerBuzz: What? Hugh Grant wasn't available? At the same time, it looks like McKidd, my former favorite grouchy Centurion from HBO's "Rome" will play the exact same part at Dempsey did in "Sweet Home Alabama"; the nice

fiancé who will ultimately have to step aside as he's not really the "right guy";

My Estimated Rating: Kelly Holcomb (2 footballs)

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New DVD Releases for Tuesday, April 29th

First Sunday - Ice Cube and Tracy

Morgan as bumbling petty criminals who decide to rob a neighborhood church. Beyond Stupid

P.S. I Love You - Major Chick Flick Alert! Gerard Butler dies, but not in the glorious manner that he did as Leonidas in "300";. Instead, he leaves behind all of these letters to his wife (Hilary Swank), telling her how she needs to go to Ireland and start living again. I predicting half a box of Kleenex will be used by my wife...and at least 8 shots of Tequila by me.

Over Her Dead Body - A Minor Chick Flick Alert! Awful movie about a nagging woman who is killed on her Wedding Day (Hilarious!), and comes back as a ghost to haunt the fake medium who is falling in love with the bereaved husband-to-be.

Calendar Watch

Next week; [*Speed Racer*](#),
What Happens in Vegas

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

[*The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*](#) - May 16th -
The same four kids from the

first movie return to Narnia...1300 years after their last visit in that enchanted land's time frame, to help restore the throne to the rightful heir.

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull - May 23rd - Spielberg and Ford team up one more

time, with Cate Blanchett as the romantic interest, and Shia LaBeouf ("Transformers") as Indy's son.

[Sex and the City](#) - May 30^t
h

- The movie version of the HBO series hits the big screen. Can we guys get

our share of this pie and
have a movie version of
"Deadwood"?

*You Don't Mess
with the Zohan* - June 6th
- Adam Sandler as a
former Mossad agent
setting up shop as a
hairstylist in New York

City.

Kung Fu Panda - June
6th -

Jack Black as the voice
of a reluctant panda
bear recruited by a team
of Kung Fu masters.

The Incredible Hulk -

June 13

th

- Looks to be much, much better than the Ang Lee stink-fest, with Edward Norton taking on the role of Bruce Banner.

The Happening -

June 13

th

- Latest M. Night Shyamalan thriller, starring Mark Wahlberg in a tale about a family on the run after natural disasters threaten the

entire planet.

Get Smart - June 20^t
h

- Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway, and Alan Arkin take on the roles of Maxwell

Smart, Agent 99 and The Chief. As much as I hate movie adaptations of television shows, this one has potential.

The Love Guru -

June 20

th

- Mike Myers
already catching as
much hell from India
as Sacha Baron
Cohen did from
Kazakhstan for
making fun of
cultures that don't

seem to have a
sense of humor.

[Wall-E](#) - June 27th -
Pixar's next
masterpiece, about
a garbage cleaning

robot who dreams
of the stars.

Wanted - June 27th
- Look for this to
make a box office
star out of James

McAvoy
(“The Last
King of
Scotland”,
“Atonement”
;) as he plays
a young man
brought into a
secret society of

assassins by a hot,
hot looking
Angelina Jolie.
Morgan Freeman
plays their boss.

Hancock - July 4th

- Will Smith as a hard-living superhero needing the use of a public relations professional (Jason Bateman) to repair his image.

Hellboy II: The Golden Army

- July 11
th

- The big red
cigar chomping
demon with a
bad attitude is

back for more
butt kicking.

The Dark Knight

- July 19
th

- Batman is back, and this time he's tracking the Joker, played by Heath Ledger. Most likely the box office

champion of
2008.

Mamma Mia! -

July 19
th

- Something for
the ladies to
attend while the
guys are busy
watching
Batman kick the
Joker's ass. A
musical

featuring the
songs of ABBA.
And my wife
wants us to go
see it. Sigh.

X-Files 2 - July 25th -

Little is known
yet about these
further
adventures of
Scully and

Fox...not even
the title.

Tropic Thunder
- August 15

th

- A group of actors shooting a big budget war movie are forced to become the

soldiers they
are portraying
in the film.

Stars Ben
Stiller, Jack
Black, and
Robert Downey

Jr, playing a
white actor
donning black
make-up to
"fit the
part".

The
International -
August 15
th
- Clive Owen
and Naomi
Watts in a

thriller about
an Interpol
agent's
attempts to
break up an
international
arms dealing

ring financed
by a high
profile bank.
(What can
Wachovia do
for you?)

Righteous Kill

- September

12

th

- Robert De

Niro and Al

Pacino

together again
as NY
detectives
working on a
case that may
be related to
both a serial

killer and a
man they
might have
wrongly
imprisoned
years before.

Eagle Eye -
September 26
th

- Shia

LaBeouf and

Michelle

Monaghan as

a mother and
son who
become
unwitting
members of a
terrorist cell
plotting a

political
assassination.

RocknRolla -

October 31

st

- Guy Ritchie

hopefully

back in form

for another

tale of
London
gangsters.
Gerard Butler,
Thandie
Newton, Tom

Wilkenson,
and Jeremy
Frackin' Piven
star.

*Quantum of
Solace* -
November 13
th
- The next
James Bond

film, picking
up shortly
after the
events
ending
"Casino

Royale"

Harry Potter

and the
Half-Blood
Prince -
November
21 st -
The sixth of

J.K.
Rowling's
seven books,
setting the
stage for the
two part

conclusion in
2010 and
2011.

Defiance -

December

19

t

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- Daniel

Craig and

Live
Schreiber as
Jewish
brothers in
WWII
Russian,

leading a
band of
refuges in
striking back
at the
Germans. A

major early
Oscar
contender