

## The Crystal Ball - May 9 Releases

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Iron Man 2, David Chase from the Sopranos new film, the latest project from Oliver Stone. Mitch addresses all of these new endeavors that are coming down the pike in this week's Crystal Ball. At the theaters, &quot;Speed Racer&quot; and &quot;What Happens In Vegas&quot; are the big releases this weekend, and there's also a couple intriguing films coming to DVD. The summer blockbuster season looms. Mitch hits on it all in The Crystal Ball.



## News and Rumors

~ With the immediate and huge success of &quot;Iron Man&quot;, Marvel Studios have announced that &quot;Iron Man 2&quot; will come out in May, 2010. Other Marvel superhero movies will be &quot;Thor&quot; in June, 2010; &quot;Nick Fury&quot; (starring Samuel L. Jackson) in 2010; &quot;Captain America&quot; in May, 2011; &quot;The Avengers&quot; (Iron Man, Hulk, Captain America, and Thor) in July, 2011, and &quot;Ant-Man&quot;...sometime later. Ant-Man? I hear a shark warming up his vocal cords.

In light of that, you'll find another NEW feature in the Crystal Ball...a &quot;Blockbusters on the Distant Horizon&quot; section at the end, where you get to see what you'll be spending \$15 a ticket on in 2009 and beyond.

~ David Chase, the creative genius behind "The Sopranos", has signed a deal to write, direct, and produce his first feature film. Unfortunately, it's not about Tony and the boys, but will instead be an original drama. We'll keep our eyes open.

~ Will Ferrell must be looking for some type of comeback after the tanking of his awful basketball flick "Semi-Pro"...and the soon to tank comedy "Step Brothers". So it's back to the tried and true stuff...a sequel for "Anchorman". My personal opinion? America has just grown tired of seeing the exact same thing from Ferrell in every single film.

~ I finally think that Oliver Stone has lost it. For his upcoming bio-flick "W", Stone is making no effort at all to avoid controversy. In fact, he seems to be courting it. Now for a full disclosure, I'm not exactly one of the 29% of Americans that give President Bush a "favorable" rating...but this still looks like a hatchet job waiting to happen...and a bigger stinker than "Alexander".

~ Want to help out humanity, AND get a free pack of gum? Stride Gum has announced that it will give out a free coupon for one pack of its gum to a million people if they sign the [StopUweBoll.org](http://StopUweBoll.org) petition by May 14<sup>th</sup>

. Uwe Boll is pretty much acknowledged as the worst director in the movie business, making such stinkers "BloodRayne", "In the name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale", and "Seed". Uwe has said that if a million people sign the petition, he would quit film industry. We can only hope so.

~ On a positive note, Ellen Page has signed on to star as "Jane Eyre" in an adaptation of the famous Charlotte Bronte novel about an orphan who becomes a governess and falls for her master, Mr. Rochester, but later finds that he hides a dark secret.

## **This week's new movie releases:**

Looks like we might be seeing the first Bomb of the season, but I'll let you know for certain later this weekend.

The good news is that "Iron Man" is still being shown everywhere. If you haven't seen it yet; get there! If you have seen it...then seeing it again may beat the alternatives.

## **Speed Racer**

Starring: Emile Hirsch, Matthew Fox, Christina Ricci

Plot: Racing prodigy Speed Racer is being blackmailed by the head of a nefarious corporation to participate in The Crucible, and annual cross-country race that claimed the life of his brother years ago.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: Blow, Speed Racer, Blow! Yep...that's the early buzz on this one; all visual cotton candy with the same level of nutrients (plot). But I'll let you know for certain shortly. I look at it this way; with the Wachoski Brothers, anything is possible. Something as great as &quot;The Matrix&quot; or &quot;V for Vendetta&quot;...or something like &quot;The Matrix Revolutions&quot;.

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## What Happens in Vegas

Starring: Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher

Plot: Two losers get stinky drunk in Vegas, have sex, get married, and then hit a slot machine for \$3 million.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: "Starring Demi Moore's Boy-Toy" That takes two footballs off the rating right off the bat. And then we have his co-star, Cameron Diaz, who also knows all about boy-toys (Justin Timberlake), and almost nothing about choosing good scripts. And then there is Dennis Miller as a judge. Hell, the trailer isn't even that funny, unless the sight of a man standing on a stool and relieving himself in the kitchen sink tugs at your funny bone.

## My Estimated Rating: Tim Couch (1 ½ footballs)

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### **Redbelt**

Starring: Chiwetel Ejiofor, Tim Allen, Alice Braga

Plot: A Gulf War Vet enters the world of mixed-martial arts, and not only has to battle opponents, but corrupt promoters and sponsors.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: David Mamet is a great, if sometimes confusing, writer (&quot;Glengarry Glen Ross&quot;, &quot;The Spanish Prisoner&quot;, &quot;Ronin&quot;,

&quot;Heist&quot;), so I have some high hopes on this one, especially with the cast. Having Tim Allen playing a conniving slimeball sounds like some inspired thinking, and Ejiobar is always good. But I'm not sure how it will play so soon after the MMA movie aimed at the younger set, &quot;Never Back Down&quot;, tanked at the box office.

My Estimated Rating: Kelly Holcomb (2 footballs)

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## ***New DVD Releases for Tuesday, May 13th***

**The Great Debaters** - Denzel Washington's Golden Globe nominated film about a 1935 professor who inspired his students to be the first African-American debate team to challenge for the national

championship. A well told, if formulaic, underdog story.

**Untraceable** - Diane Ladd as an FBI agent tracking down a killer who gets his rocks off by webcasting his victims out to the world; with more poison being administered to them with every site visit. Think of the revenue we could unearth here at TheClevelandFan if we found a way to do that with Art Modell?

**Mad Money** - Incredibly lame comedy with Queen Latifah, Diane Keaton and Katie Holmes smuggling out money that is meant to be burnt at the Federal Reserve. Might be worse than a Uwe Bolle movie.

## ***Calendar Watch***

Next week; [\*The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian\*](#)

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

[\*Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull\*](#) - May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Spielberg and Ford team up one more time, with Cate Blanchett as the romantic interest, and Shia LaBeouf (&quot;Transformers&quot;) as Indy's son.

[\*Sex and the City\*](#) - May 30<sup>th</sup> - 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 &quot;Deadwood&quot;?

[You Don't Mess with the Zohan](#) -

June 6

th

- Adam Sandler as a former Mossad agent setting up shop as a hairdresser in New York City.

[Kung Fu Panda](#) - June 6<sup>th</sup> - Jack Black as the voice of a reluctant panda bear recruited by a team of Kung Fu masters.

[The Incredible Hulk](#) - June 13<sup>th</sup> -  
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<sup>th</sup> - 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<sup>th</sup> - 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<sup>th</sup> - 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 27<sup>th</sup> - Pixar's next masterpiece, about a garbage cleaning robot who dreams of the stars.

[Wanted](#) - June 27<sup>th</sup> - Look for this to make a box

office star out of James McAvoy (&quot;The Last King of Scotland&quot;, &quot;Atonement&quot;,) 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 4<sup>th</sup> - 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

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The big red cigar  
chomping demon with a  
bad attitude is back for  
more butt kicking.

*The Dark Knight* - July

19

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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<sup>t</sup>  
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- 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 25<sup>th</sup> -

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.

*Body of Lies* -

October 10

th

- Russell Crowe

and Leonardo

DiCaprio in Ridley

Scott's spy tale of

intrigue in the

# Middle East.

*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

th

- Daniel Craig

and Live

Schreiber as

Jewish brothers

in WWII

Russian,  
leading a band  
of refugees in  
striking back at  
the Germans. A  
major early  
Oscar

# contender

# Blockbusters on the Distant

**Horizon (movies that would seem to be big hits...as soon as they get made).**

*X-Men Origins:*

*Wolverine - Ma*

y 1

s

t

, 2009 - Hugh

Jackman goes

it alone as the

adamentium  
laced anti-hero.

With Live  
Schreiber as  
Sabertooth,  
and Ryan  
Reynolds as

# Deadpool.

# *Star Trek* - Ma

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, 2009 - J.J.  
Abrams and a  
young cast  
reboot the  
franchise,  
going back to  
Kirk and

# Spock's days at Starfleet Academy.

*Angels and*

*Demons* - May  
15<sup>th</sup>,  
2009 - Tom  
Hanks and  
Ron Howard  
follow-up to  
&quot;The

# DaVinci Code&quot;

*Terminator 4* -  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>,

2009 -  
Christian Bale  
as John  
Conner as the  
franchise  
moves into the  
apocalyptic

future.

*Transformers*

2 - June 26<sup>th</sup>,

2009 - The

# next chapter of Robots In Disguise!

# *Public Enemy*

- July 1<sup>st</sup>,

2009 -

Johnny Depp

as John

Dillinger.

Co-starring  
Christian  
Bale, and  
directed by  
Michael  
Mann

# *The Taking of Pelham*

123- August

7<sup>th</sup>,

2009 -

Denzel

Washington,  
John  
Travolta, and  
James  
Gandolfini in  
a remake of

the classic  
1974 film  
about a  
hijacked  
subway car.

*Shutter*  
*Island* - October, 2009 -  
Martin  
Scorsese  
working once

again with  
Leonardo  
DiCaprio in  
this mystery  
set in 1954.

*Nottingham* -  
November,  
2009 - Ridley  
Scot and  
Russell  
Crowe

together  
again in a  
retelling of  
the Robin  
Hood  
legend, this

time through  
the eyes of  
the Sheriff of  
Nottingham  
(Crowe).

*Avatar* - Dec  
ember 18  
th

, 2009 -

James

Cameron's

sci-fi/CGI  
extravaganza  
a.

*Iron Man 2* -  
May, 2010 -  
Right on the  
heels of the  
success of  
the first one,

Marvel is  
quick to get  
Robert  
Downey Jr.  
back into his  
titanium suit.

*Thor* - June  
2010 -

Another  
Marvel  
superhero...  
but the  
Nordic God  
is about as

bland  
personality-  
wise as  
Superman,  
so we'll see  
how it goes.

*Harry Potter*  
*and the*  
*Deathly*  
*Hallows:*  
*Part I - 2010*  
*- The start of*

the End for  
the boy  
wizard and  
his battle  
against  
He-Who-Sha

Il-not-Be-Na  
med

*The Hobbit -*

2010 -  
Guillermo  
del Toro  
directs and  
Peter  
Jackson will

produce the  
prequel to  
&quot;Lord  
of the  
Rings&quot;.  
Ian

McKellen will  
return as  
Gandalf

*Fantastic*  
*Voyage* -  
2010 -  
Roland  
Emmerich  
(“The

Day After  
Tomorrow & q  
uot;, ,  
&quot; 10,00  
0  
B.C. &quot; ;)

remakes the  
classic 1967  
movie about  
a  
miniaturized  
sub and

crew  
operating on  
a scientist  
from inside  
his brain.

*The*  
*Avengers* -  
2011 - Iron  
Man, Hulk,  
Thor, and  
Captain

America  
open up a  
can of  
whoopass  
on bad guys  
everywhere.

*Harry Potter*  
*and the*  
*Deathly*  
*Hallows:*  
*Part II - 2011*  
*- The end of*

the line for  
what will be  
beyond  
doubt the  
most  
profitable

series in the  
history of  
film making.

*The Hobbit 2*  
- 2011 - del  
Toro and  
Jackson  
again, this  
time

covering the  
time  
between the  
end of  
Tolkien's  
book,

&quot;The  
Hobbit&quot;  
and the start  
of LOTR.