

## The Crystal Ball - May 23 Releases

Written by {ga=mitch}

Thursday, May 22 2008 7:00 PM -

---

One mammoth box office release this weekend, as "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" hit the theaters ... and we've already posted Mitch's review of it. The Mitch Man has all kinds of good scoop in this week's Crystal Ball, including news on the new "24" movie coming out, and who's been casted in it. Mitch also gives us some updates from Cannes, news on the two "The Hobbit" movies Peter Jackson is taking on, and gives us this week's releases on DVD.



I think there was some sort of movie opening yesterday. Not sure it was a big deal or anything.

### News and Rumors

~ "24" News! The two hour prequel movie that will air in September will follow Jack Bauer as he battles an international crisis in Africa while a new president enters the White House. As noted earlier, Cherry Jones will play the President, Tony Todd ("Chuck") will play an African dictator, Eric Lively ("The L Word") will portray the president's son, and Gil Bellows ("Ally McBeal", "The Shawshank Redemption") will be a State Department officer.

~ I tend not to follow the news out of the Cannes Film Festival too

closely...because that place is just a little too pompous for my pedestrian tastes. But this is interesting. Looks like Steven Soderbergh's ego exercise "Che" may not even be distributed. The Benicio Del Toro starring film about the revolutionary leader clocks in at a butt numbing four and a half hours, and is all in Spanish with English subtitles. To add to that, the early critics have slammed it. Think "Alexander" level bad without the benefit of full nudity from Rosario Dawson (and 90 minutes longer).

Life imitates Art. This is the **exact** scenario that played out last season on HBO's "Entourage" with the Spanish language ego project "Medellin" being booed roundly at Cannes. Who knew Mark Wahlberg was psychic?

~ OK...so you get two reports from Cannes this week. The other is a good one, as Clint Eastwood's next directorial effort "Changeling" is getting early buzz as a major Oscar contender for next March, and star Angelina Jolie is getting rave reviews as well. The movie is a mystery

set in 1928 L.A., with Jolie's character's prayers being answered as her kidnapped son is returned. But was he really? John Malkovich co-stars.

~ More good news about the upcoming "Hobbit" movies. Earlier I mentioned that Ian McKellen is slated to return as Gandalf. Now word is coming out that Viggo Mortensen and Andy Serkis are in talks to reprise their roles as Aragorn and Gollum. Make it happen, Peter Jackson.

~ Stupid remake notes of the week: "Flash Gordon" and "Highlander". Gag. And then we can add to it another attempt to make a movie out of a video game, with Jake Gyllenhaal to star in an adaptation of "Prince of Persia".

~ Here is a switch. "Cloverfield" producer J.J. Abrams has revealed that there may not be a sequel to his camcorder shaking monster movie. Abrams states that he'd rather move on to another original project. He is now officially my hero.

~ And finally, a happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday today to Cleveland's own Drew Carey. I will never forget the episode of his TV show where Bernie Kosar showed up at his party looking for a bathroom, and Drew told him where he needed to go "in case you have to take a Modell". Classic.

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

Once again, only one movie is coming out this week. Look for this to be the biggest thing of the year (although I still maintain that "The Dark Knight" will make more money).

On the other hand, if you are lucky enough to be in Los Angeles, you could be among the mad rush of tens of

people clamoring to see "Postal", sure to be Uwe Boll's fourth entry into IMDB's Bottom 100.

## **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull**

Starring: Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett, Shia LeBeouf

Plot: Famed archaeologist/adventurer Dr. Henry "Indiana" Jones is called back into action to stop a Soviet plot to uncover and use ancient artifacts in order to take over the world.

[\*View Trailer\*](#)

The BeerBuzz: It will make a bazillion dollars. [Read the Review](#)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## ***New DVD Releases for Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>***

**Rambo** - When I first heard of Stallone doing another "Rocky" movie, almost a year before "Rocky Balboa" came out, I was full of dread...but it turned out I was wrong. That still didn't stop me from being full of dread when I first heard about Stallone doing another "Rambo" movie...and I was right about this one. It stinks.

**Grace Is Gone** - The week's winner of the category of "Best Movie to watch to become totally depressed with the world". John Cusack as a father having to deal with telling his young daughters that

their mother died while serving in Iraq. A movie to make you want to put Dr. Khevorkian on Speed Dial.

## ***Calendar Watch***

Next week; [\*Sex and the City\*](#), *The Strangers*

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

[\*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

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<sup>t</sup>

h

- 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: I Want to*

*Believe* - July 25<sup>th</sup> - I really want to believe that this movie won't be as lame as the first one.

*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  
slacker and a  
single mother 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  
Wilkinson, and  
Jeremy Friggin'  
Piven star.

*Quantum of  
Solace* -  
November 13  
th

- The next James  
Bond film, picking  
up shortly after  
the events

ending  
&quot;Casino  
Royale&quot;

*Australia* -

November 14

th

- Baz

Luhrmann's epic  
tale set in WWII  
Australia. With  
Nicole Kidman  
and Hugh  
Jackman. Think

&quot;Gone with  
the Wind&quot;  
with kangaroos.

*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.

*The Road* -  
November 28  
th

- Viggo

Mortensen as a  
man walking  
with his son for  
months across  
a ravaged,

post-apocalyptic  
landscape in  
search of  
civilization.

Charlize Theron  
co-stars.

# *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

*Revolutionary  
Road -*

December 19  
th

- Leonardo  
DiCaprio and  
Kate Winslet  
as a young  
couple raising

a family in a  
Connecticut  
suburb during  
the mid 1950s.  
Sam Mendes  
("Americ  
an

Beauty & the Beast  
directs the  
&quot; Titanic &  
quot; stars in  
their on-screen  
reunion.

*The Spirit* -  
December 25  
th  
- Frank Miller's  
next comic  
book  
adaptation,

done in the  
same style as  
&quot;Sin  
City&quot;.

**Blockbusters  
on the  
Distant  
Horizon (movi  
es that would  
seem to be  
big hits...as**

soon as they  
get made).

*X-Men  
Origins:*

*Wolverine* - M  
ay 1  
st  
, 2009 - Hugh  
Jackman goes  
it alone as the  
adamentium

enhanced  
anti-hero.

With Live

Schreiber as

Sabertooth,

and Ryan

Reynolds as

Deadpool.

*Star Trek* - M

ay 8

th

, 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* - Ma  
y 15  
th  
, 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.

*Transformer*  
s 2 - June 26  
th  
, 2009 - The  
next chapter  
of Robots In

# Disguise!

*Public*

*Enemy* - Jul

y 1

s

t

, 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* - Oct

ober, 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* - De

September 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.

*The  
Chronicles  
of Narnia:  
The  
Voyage of*

*the Dawn*

*Treader -*

May, 2010 -

The series

goes off in

a bit of a  
different  
direction,  
as those of  
you who

love the  
books  
already  
know.

*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-Sh

all-not-Be-N

amed

*Lincoln* - 20  
10 - Steven  
Spielberg  
directs the  
biographica

I film of the  
16  
th  
President  
(Liam

Neeson)

*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 &  
quot;,  
&quot; 10,0

00

B.C. &quot;)

remakes

the classic

1967 movie

about a  
miniaturize  
d 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;

t; and the  
start of  
LOTR.