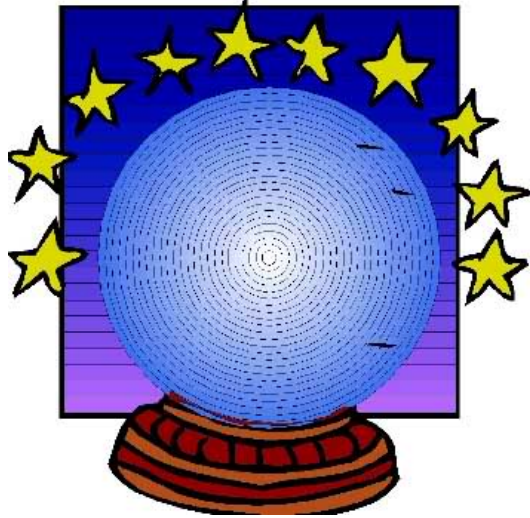


The Crystal Ball - April 28th Releases

Written by {ga=mitch}

Thursday, April 27 2006 7:00 PM -

Mitch gives his weekly take on the movies hitting the theaters, as well as DVD this weekend. In the event you're looking for a good flick to go see or rent this weekend, let The Crystal Ball be your guide.



There is an elephant sleeping in the room regarding this week's releases, so let's skip the frivolities and get right to it.

Title: United 93

Starring: David Alan Basche, Olivia Thirlby, Liza Colon-Zayas

[View Trailer](#)

Plot: Depiction of the one hijacked plane on 9/11 that didn't strike its intended target.

The BeerBuzz: Neither DJK nor I will be reviewing this film. We've discussed it, and it's just too soon, which is a feeling I think most of the country will have. There wasn't a movie specifically about the bombing of Pearl Harbor until 1970's "Tora, Tora, Tora!" (not counting a documentary from John Ford entitled "December 7th" released in 1943). There has never been a movie depicting the entire events surrounding the Oklahoma City bombing...just one TV movie in 1998 about one of the survivors.

I question whether people are ready for this and are wanting to go into a theatre and relive these horrible events, fully knowing how it turns out. Yes, plenty of WWII films were released between 1942 and 1945 that referenced Pearl Harbor. But those were films designed to act both as news, and as needed propaganda to prop up the war effort. This is different. We've seen the events time and time again on television, and it's also a reminder that things

are still very , very insecure in that regard.

For those of you that might still want to take a chance and go, I've done something I've never done for a Crystal Ball report before...I've actually scanned numerous reviews to get an idea of how good of a film it is...and it looks to be an excellent one. It appears that the British director Paul Greengrass has struck a perfect balance between dramatic fiction and the facts, and has handled it delicately and with the proper decorum and respect.

If you are on the fence, wanting to see it

if it is a good movie, but not wanting to be both depressed and disappointed...then my thoughts are that you should probably go.

I will get around to seeing it someday...but not in the immediate future.

And now, back to our regularly scheduled snideness and snarkyness.

Title: RV

Starring: Robin Williams, Cheryl Hines, Kristen Chenoweth

[View Trailer](#)

Plot: Stupid, zany Dad rents an

R.V. the size of a battleship and takes his dysfunctional family on a trip to the Rockies.

The BeerBuzz: If ever there has been a case of me going from the sublime to the ridiculous, it's right here with the first two movies I'm previewing. Barry Sonnenfeld once directed two great flicks

in row with “Get Shorty” and “Men In Black”. Since then, he’s given us “Wild Wild West”, “Men In Black 2”, and “Big Trouble”. Combine this with one of those over the top “Robin Williams as an idiot” performances like we saw in “Flubber” and “Father’s Day”, and you end up with something I wouldn’t watch at gunpoint.

Title: **Stick It**

**Starring: Missy Peregrym,
Jeff Bridges, Vanessa
Lengies**

[View Trailer](#)

Plot: A juvenile delinquent is sentenced to return to the gymnastics school. Conflicts arise because while she once was a champion level competitor, she quit before The Big Match.

The BeerBuzz: I guess this is supposed to be for gymnastics what “Bring It On” was for cheerleading. But according to my sister, who is at near stage mother maniacal fanaticism concerning it, gymnastics is far, far superior in regards to athletic skill (and if you

don't believe her, my nine year old niece will do a round off into your face). Whatever. From the previews, it looks like your standard "troubled teen comes back and teaches the uptight kids and parents to lighten up". It also looks like she introduces pole dancing techniques to

gymnastics...which is a little creepy considering the age of most of the girls.

Title: Akeelah and the Bee

Starring: Laurence
Fishburne, Angela
Bassett, Keke Palmer

[View Trailer](#)

Plot: A gifted young girl from the projects of south Los Angeles trains for the National Spelling Bee under the tutelage of a reclusive professor.

The BeerBuzz: “The Search for Bobby Fischer” meets “Finding Forester” meets “Bee Season”.

OK, I picked on the White Version (Richard Gere’s “Bee Season”) a few weeks back...so this

one gets the same
joke.

If you're the type
that gets all agog
when ESPN
televises the

spelling bees, get
yourself to the
theatre to watch
this...and then get
yourself a friggin'
life.

New DVD

Releases on Tuesday, May 2nd

**The Family Stone
– Warning!
Warning, Will**

Robinson!
Dangerous toxic
Estrogen ahead!
Ah yes, the old
“let’s take the
girlfriend/boyfriend
to see the wacky
family” chestnut.
Major Chick Flick

of the Week, but probably one most guys can tolerate.

Hoodwinked –
Animated kids

film with a twist.
Kind of an
“Aesop’s Fracture
Fairy Tales” on
steroids.

**Last Holiday –
Queen Latifah
plays a woman
who is told she
has only three or
four weeks to
live, so she
cashes in her**

401 (k) and goes
wild and crazy in
the Czech
Republic...certainly
my personal
choice for
paradise.
Actually a pretty

well reviewed
movie as an
amusing and not
insulting light
comedy.

**A Streetcar
Named Desire,
Night of the
Iguana, Sweet
Bird of Youth,
and Baby Doll –
A plethora of
Tennessee**

Williams classic
films for the true
movie fanatic.

Calendar Watch:

Next week: *Mission Impossible III, Hoot, An American Haunting*

The Upcoming Biggies:

Poseidon:

May 12
th

The DaVinci

Code: May 19^t
h

X-Men: The

Last Stand:

May 26

th

Click: June 23 rd

Superman
Returns:
June 30
th

*Pirates of the
Caribbean:
Dead Man's
Chest: July 7^t
h*

Miami Vice:

July 29

th

*Snakes On
a Plane!*
August 18
th

Casino

Royale

(007):

November

17th