

The Crystal Ball - May 30 Releases

Written by {ga=mitch}

Thursday, May 29 2008 7:00 PM -

Not many new options at the theater this weekend if you are a male that isn't into cheesy horror flicks ... as "Sex & The City" and "The Strangers" are the two new releases of note today. Mitch ... he's being drug by his wife to go see Sarah Jessica (why the long face?) and the gals ... take a sec to wish him luck. He'll be the guy with the nose and moustache disguise on. In the News & Rumors this week, Mitch has some interesting news on names being bandied about to play the lead in Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit".



News and Rumors

~ Another week, another report about "The Hobbit". It seems that Peter Jackson and Guillermo del Toro have zeroed in on James McAvoy to play the lead role of Bilbo Baggins. Names as diverse as Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe and Jack Black have been mentioned for the role, but the director and producer are wanting the "Atonement" and "Last King of Scotland" star to take on the furry feet of the role played by Ian Holm in the LOTR trilogy.

~ It's been acknowledged for some time that Tobey Maguire will not be returning as Peter Parker in the next "Spider-Man" movie. So who will it be in the spandex? Rumors right now indicate it will either be Patrick Fugit (first seen as the 15 year old reporter in "Almost

Famous") or Michael Angarano...who was seen most recently by TheClevelandFan readers as Scott Wallace, the teenager Jack Bauer saved in the latest season of "24". Ironically, Angarano was also in "Almost Famous", playing a younger version of Patrick Fugit's character.

~ The plot from the next Terminator movie has been announced. The movie will be set in post-apocalyptic 2018. John Connor's faith in the future he was led to believe in has been shaken by the appearance of a stranger whose last memory is of being on death row. Connor doesn't know if the man has been sent from the past or the future, but the two of them must work together to spoil Skynet's planned final onslaught against humanity. I somehow get the feeling Skynet doesn't win out...not when they've already announced that Terminator 5 and Terminator 6 will also be made, starring Christian Bale.

~ Speaking of the Terminator, the former lead singer of the band Garbage, Shirley Manson, will be joining the cast of the excellent television series "Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles". This will be the Scottish singer's first acting gig.

~ This is bad news as far as I'm concerned. I was looking forward to the teaming of Clive Owen and Naomi Watts in the spy thriller "The International". The movie was supposed to be released in August. Now it's been pushed back until mid-February 2009. Unfortunately, that only can me one thing: It stinks. Bummer.

~ As most of you are aware, I'm not exactly enamored with sequels,

unless they are part of an ongoing series, such as "The Chronicles of Narnia" or the James Bond movies. So how do you think I reacted when I read this news? Elizabeth Berkley has joined the cast of a "S. Darko", a sequel to the 2001 cult hit "Donnie Darko". This one follows the adventures of Donnie's sister Samantha (played by Daveigh Chase, reprising her role from the first film). Berkley plays a speed-fread-turned-Jesus-freak. So do you remember Berkley more from "Saved By the Bell" or "Showgirls"? For me? I'll take full nudity over high school hijinx any time. In either case, nothing good can come of this.

~ Eddie Murphy and Brett Ratner will be doing "Beverly Hills Cop 4". Insert barfing emoticon here.

~ What's worse than movie sequels, as described above? Television series made from movies (the only exceptions being M*A*S*H and the aforementioned Sarah Connor Chronicles). Exhibit A: a television series adapted from the Oscar Winning film "Crash". Since many, many people disagreed with "Crash" winning the Oscar...this just stinks to high heaven of "bad idea".

~ And we close with a fond farewell to Harvey Korman. I see no better tribute than to post one of his memorable lines from "Blazing Saddles"

Hedley Lamarr: My mind is a raging torrent, flooded with rivulets of thought cascading into a waterfall of creative alternatives.

Taggart: God darnit, Mr. Lamarr, you use your tongue prettier than a twenty dollar whore.

So long, Harvey. Go do, the voodoo, that you do, so well.

This week's new movie releases:

Pop Quiz: If you are a guy...and you aren't into cheap horror flicks...what do you do?

Answer: Go see "Iron Man" or "Indiana Jones" again.

Sex and the City

Starring: Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon, and Kristin Davis

Plot: The girls from the HBO series are back in town and on the big screen, and dealing with Carrie's pending nuptials with Mr. Big.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: What can a guy say on a sports site that caters predominately to guys about a movie that is the antithesis of everything we stand for in Guy-Hood? So please, offer me your sympathy and support as I get drug to this film by my wife and daughter. I'll recap it for you in a few days.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Strangers

Starring: Scott Speedman, Liv Tyler, Gemma Ward

Plot: A couple cozied up in a vacation home are terrorized by three unknown assailants.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: Counter programming to the estrogen laced SATC and all the blockbuster adventures still raking in mega-bucks. Last year, the same attempt was made by taking some mainstream actors and putting them in a horror flick with the abysmal "Vacancy". That Luke Wilson/Kate Beckinsale film tanked...and so will this piece of crud.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

New DVD Releases for Tuesday, June 3rd

Another week of nothing worth adding to my Netflix Queue. However...this will improve next week ("The Bucket List", "Jumper" and "The Other Boleyn Girl")

Semi-Pro - Will Ferrell as a stupid, egotistical owner of a floundering ABA team trying to get

absorbed into the NBA. This movie completely tanked, giving me hope that the world has finally figured out what I've known for years: Will Ferrell cannot play anything but slight variations of the same character. That Old Spice is still running those disgusting "Jackie Moon" commercials during the NBA Playoffs is a complete mystery to me. At least Bud Light was smart enough to drop them.

Meet the Spartans - The latest in the line of movies by the same hacks started with "Scary Movie"....this time going (mostly) after "300". Carmen Electra and Hercules himself, Kevin Sorbo. Not to be enjoyed by anyone with an IQ higher than room temperature.

The Eye - Another bomb from early 2008, this one with Jessica Alba receiving a haunted eye

transplant. Hopefully next time they'll give her the eyes of someone that could recognize a good script.

Calendar Watch

Next week; [*You Don't Mess with the Zohan*](#) , [*Kung Fu Panda*](#)

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

[*The Incredible Hulk*](#) - June 13th - 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 13th - 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 20th - 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 20th - 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 19th
- 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 19th -
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 25th - I want to believe this won't be as lame as the first

X-Files movie. We'll see

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".

Star Wars: the Clone

Wars - August 15th -

First ever animated
Star Wars project from
Lucasfilm Animation.

Righteous Kill -

September 12th

- 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.

Burn After Reading - September 12 th

- The latest Coen Brothers' movie, with Brad Pitt joining Frances McDormand, George Clooney, Tilda Swinton and John Malkovich in a

dark comedy about
missing memoirs of a
CIA agent.

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.

House 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 "Casino Royale"

Australia -

November 14

th

- Baz Luhrmann's
epic tale set in
WWII Australia.

With Nicole

Kidman and Hugh

Jackman. Think
"Gone with
the Wind"
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
("America

n Beauty")
directs the
"Titanic&q
uot; stars in
their on-screen
reunion.

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

done in the
same style as
"Sin
City".

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

made).

*X-Men Origins:
Wolverine - Ma
y 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 - Ma y 8 t h

, 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
"The
DaVinci
Code"

Terminator 4 -
May 22nd,
2009 -
Christian Bale
as John
Conner as the

franchise
moves into
the
apocalyptic
future.

Transformers
2 - June 26th,
2009 - The
next chapter
of Robots In
Disguise!

Public

Enemy - July

1 st,

2009 -

Johnny Depp

as John

Dillinger.
Co-starring
Christian
Bale, and
directed by
Michael

Mann

The Taking of Pelham

123- August
7th,
2009 -
Denzel
Washington,
John

Travolta, and
James
Gandolfini in
a remake of
the classic
1974 film

about a
hijacked
subway car.

Shutter
Island - Octo
ber, 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.

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 biographical film of the

16

t

h

President

(Liam

Neeson)

The Hobbit
- 2010 -
Guillermo
del Toro
directs and

Peter
Jackson will
produce the
prequel to
"Lord

of the
Rings"
. Ian
McKellen
will return

as Gandalf

*Fantastic
Voyage -*

2010 - Roland Emmerich (“The Day After

Tomorrow &
quot;;,
": 10,00
0
B.C. ":)

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,
"The
Hobbit&quo
t; and the
start of

Written by {ga=mitch}

Thursday, May 29 2008 7:00 PM -

LOTR.