

The Crystal Ball - June 13 Releases

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Thursday, June 12 2008 7:00 PM -

Two big theater releases today, and the trusty Mitch will be reviewing both of them for us here at The Cleveland Fan. He's off to see "The Incredible Hulk" tonight, and we'll run the review in the morning. And we will have Mitch's reviews of M.Night Shyamalan's new one, "The Happening" up early next week. Mitch sneak previews both films, as well as all the week's theater and DVD releases in this Friday's edition of The Crystal Ball.



After a well needed week off from reviewing...sorry, I just couldn't handle the prospect of sitting through another lame-assed Adam Sandler exercise in bathroom humor...it's back in the saddle as there are two movies coming out this week that have definitely sparked our interest.

This same feat will be duplicated in two weeks when both "Wall-E" and "Wanted" come out on the same day.

News and Rumors

~ Now I have YET to destroy M. Night Shyamalan's latest crapfest...er...movie (that will probably happen Tuesday), but that doesn't mean I can't beat the rush and start trashing his next project, a live-action film based on the Nick fantasy/martial arts cartoon "Avatar: The Last Airbender", aimed for a 2010 release. This is not to be confused with James Cameron's "Avatar". Nor

should it be confused with entertainment.

~ Direct Jon Favreau and star Robert Downey Jr have expressed concern over Paramount and Marvel Studios decision to rush into a sequel to "Iron Man". Favreau is worried that the rushed schedule will make for a bad movie. Let's hope the studio heads stop being blinded by dollar figures and actually LISTENS to them.

~ Sony is attempting to bring a live-action/animated big screen movie of "The Smurfs". I think I just threw up a little bit in my mouth.

~ Ben Stiller and Reese Witherspoon will team up for Cameron Crowe's next film. The untitled project will begin filming in January. Details are a bit sketchy at this point on the comedy/drama. Let's hope Cameron's recaptured the magic from "Almost Famous"...and then we can forget about "Vanilla Sky".

~ Jon Voight has joined the cast of "24" for next season. Voight will play Jack Bauer's nemesis for the season; the evil mastermind behind all the terrorist activities Jack battles throughout the "day". The character will be introduced in the 2 hour "prequel" movie in September.

This week's new movie releases:

There's a 1,000 lb Green Monster that has just squashed the 400 lb Gorilla sitting in the room.

The Incredible Hulk

Starring: Edward Norton, Liv Tyler, Tim Roth

Plot: Geneticist Bruce Banner takes flight in order to understand, and hopefully cure, the condition that turns him into a monster. Complicating things is the military trying to track him down and control him as a weapon.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: This is not a sequel...as they are proceeding with this movie as if Ang Lee's 2003 stinker "Hulk" never happened. Wise move #1. Wise move #2 was casting Norton. I'll let you know tomorrow if it works out.

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The Happening

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Zooey Deschanel, John Leguizamo

Plot: A family is on the run after a natural disaster threatens the entire planet

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: M. Night has got steadily downhill in every movie he's made since starting out so well with "The Sixth Sense". Seriously...every single damn movie has been worse than the one before, culminating with 2006's abysmal "Lady In the Water", which received a 1/2 football rating from me. There is only one spot lower he can go...so we'll see if this one gets Spergeoned, or he starts the slow climb back to respectability. I'll let you know.

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New DVD Releases for Tuesday, June 17th

Last week had the good releases. This week?
Guess again.

Fool's Gold - Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey, and the entire tanning bed manufacturing guild brings to you this true piece of fools gold, in the form of the spacey McConaughey playing a loser enlisting his ex-wife's help in finding some lost treasure. Compared to this, the "National Treasure" movies are Oscar worthy.

Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins - Martin Lawrence as a black Dr. Phil coming back home to visit the family he tries to ignore in real life. My best advice? Ignore this movie.

Be Kind, Rewind - I will probably have to check out this little indie film starring Jack Black and Mos Def. Black plays a man whose brain becomes magnetized, and he unintentionally erases every tape at his friend's video store. In order to satisfy the store's most loyal renter, and aging woman at the onset of dementia, the two men set out to remake the lost films.

Calendar Watch

Next week; [*Get Smart*](#), [*The Love Guru*](#)

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

[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 11th -

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

[The Dark Knight](#) - July 18th -

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 18th -

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

th

- I want to believe this won't be as lame as the first X-Files movie. We'll see

[Tropic Thunder](#) - August 15th

- 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 15

th

- First ever animated Star Wars project from Lucasfilm Animation.

[*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.

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
26th - 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
31st - Guy
Ritchie hopefully back
in form for another
tale of London
gangsters. Gerard
Butler, Thandie
Newton, Tom
Wilkenson, 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
21st - 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
refuges in striking

back at the
Germans. A major
early Oscar
contender

Revolutionary
Road - December

19th -

Leonardo

DiCaprio and

Kate Winslet as a

young couple

raising a family in

a Connecticut

suburb during the

mid 1950s. Sam
Mendes
("American
Beauty")
directs the
"Titanic"
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 (movies
that would seem
to be big hits...as
soon as they get
made).**

Watchmen - March 6, 2009 - The screen version of what is arguably graphic novelist Alan Moore's greatest work.

*X-Men Origins:
Wolverine* - May
1, 2009 - Hugh
Jackman goes it
alone as the
adamantium
enhanced
anti-hero. With

Live Schreiber
as Sabertooth,
and Ryan
Reynolds as
Deadpool.

Star Trek - May
8, 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, 2009 - Tom

Hanks and Ron
Howard
follow-up to
"The
DaVinci
Code"

Terminator 4 - May 22, 2009 -
Christian Bale as John Conner as the franchise moves into the apocalyptic future.

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

Public Enemy - July 1, 2009 -
Johnny Depp as John Dillinger.
Co-starring Christian Bale,
and directed by Michael Mann

*The Taking of
Pelham 123- Au
gust 7, 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 - Decemb

er 18, 2009 -
James
Cameron's
sci-fi/CGI
extravaganza.

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-Shall-n
ot-Be-Named

Lincoln - 2010 -
Steven
Spielberg directs
the biographical
film of the 16
th

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"
; "10,000

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"

and the start of
LOTR.