

The Crystal Ball - July 4th Releases

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Happy Fourth of July! If you are like so many of us during this period of outrageous gas prices and are taking a "staycation" over the three day weekend, there are lots of options at the theater if you want to spend a couple of hours out of the heat. And as he does every Friday, Mitch fills us in on all the new releases at the theater and on DVD. Also, Mitch saw "Hancock" last night, and we should have his review up sometime this weekend.



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News and Rumors

~ Helena Bonham Carter is the latest casting addition to the new Terminator movie. Her role is being described as "small but pivotal". Perhaps in flashbacks as Sarah Conner?

~ Jim Caviezel and Ian McKellen will star in a remake of the cult favorite television series "The Prisoner". It will be a six part mini-series for AMC that will air next year. Caviezel will take on the Patrick McGoochan role of #6, a spy in the British secret service who is

kidnapped and sent to a mysterious island. McKellen will play #2, the Machiavellian leader in the strange little world. Loof for it to be adjusted to 21st Century issues like security and surveillance.

~ A sequel to "300"? I'm trying to figure this one out, as we all know the fate of King Leonidas at the end of the original. I'm suspecting that it might be a prequel...but I can't see anything coming close to the first.

~ I'm on record for thinking that Will Ferrell is a one-note hack whose single talent is playing the same character (a fool) in every movie he's in...but this could be good. Sacha Baron Cohen and Will Ferrell as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in a farce of the iconic Sir Arthur Conan Boyle characters.

~ Christian Bale says he will leave the Batman franchise if they try to introduce Robin. Nothing like visions of George Clooney and Chris O'Donnell in your head to come up with that statement.

This week's new movie releases:

Hancock (Opened on Wednesday)

Starring: Will Smith, Jason Bateman, Charlize Theron

Plot: A surly superhero grudgingly accepts the aid of a PR man to clean up his image.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: This is one of those films where the critics and the audience will disagree on its merits. And I can certainly see both sides, as I saw this movie on Wednesday. My review will be out shortly, and I'll touch on both sides of that argument. Bottom line? You'll like it, but you'll feel a bit guilty about doing so.

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Kit Kittridge: An American Girl

Starring: Abigail Breslin, Julia Ormond, Chris O'Donnell

Plot: A drama based upon the American Girl doll line, focusing on a young girl growing up in the Great Depression.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: The movie has been making a ton of money at the five theaters where it has been showing for the past few weeks prior to expanding nationwide this week. So if you have a 10 year old girl, this is what she's going to want to see this weekend. Good luck with that, Dad.

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New DVD Releases for Tuesday, July 8th

The Ruins - Now coming out with the "unrated release", which means you get to see even more disgusting gore as a group of stupid, but good looking Americans get tortured by evil things in some Mayan ruins.

Superhero Movie - Surprisingly, this was not from the same lame group that did "Date Movie", "Scary Movie", and "Epic Movie". No, this is from the even lamer group that did "Scary Movie 4".

Stop-Loss - The movie is actually supposed

to be pretty good, but like all the other movies about the War in Iraq...no one wants to watch it and get even more depressed.

Funny Games - Something completely original...at least for now a days: a very scary movie that doesn't have gore. Naomi Watts and Tim Roth play a couple held hostage by two psychotic young men who torture them mentally and emotionally, rather than with knives and hatchets.

Calendar Watch

Next week; [*Hellboy II: The Golden Army*](#),

Journey to the Center of the Earth, Meet Dave

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

[*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 25th

- 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^t

h

- 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^t
h

- 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
10th -
Russell Crowe and

Leonardo DiCaprio in
Ridley Scott's spy tale of
intrigue in the Middle East.

RocknRolla - October 31^s
t

- 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
14th - 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
("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 or
released).**

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
adamentium
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 - Jul

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

The Taking of Pelham 123- August 7, 2009 - Denzel Washington, John Travolta, and James Gandolfini in a remake of the classic 1974 film

about a hijacked
subway car.

Shutter Island - Oc
tober, 2009 -
Martin Scorsese
working once

again with
Leonardo
DiCaprio in this
mystery set in
1954.

Nottingham - Nove

mber, 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). With
Sienna Miller as
Maid Marion.

Avatar - Decembe
r 18, 2009 - James

Cameron's
sci-fi/CGI
extravaganza.
The C.I.A. should
take lessons about
secrecy from
Cameron, as he's
keeping info about
this film very much

to himself at this
time.

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-not-
Be-Named

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