

The Crystal Ball - July 18 Releases

Written by {ga=mitch}

Thursday, July 17 2008 7:00 PM -

Well, by far the biggest box office release of 2008 is today as "The Dark Knight" hits theaters all across America amid lofty praise, stellar reviews, and sky high expectations. You know The Mitch Man will be at the theaters this evening to review it for us, and we will run that piece on Sunday afternoon. Mitch hits on "The Dark Knight" and all of the week's other theater and DVD releases in this Friday's edition of The Crystal Ball.



I hear there is a movie coming out today that might be of interest. I'll see if I can dig up any information about it before next week.

News and Rumors

~ Not to immediately contradict my sarcastic opening line, but today Christian Bale has announced that he would do a third Batman movie...but only if director Christopher Nolan agrees to come back as well. Back up the Brinks truck, boys.

~ The first teaser trailer is out for Alan Moore's ["Watchmen"](#);

. It's out on March 9

th

. Make plans accordingly.

~ Staying with the comic book theme that's probably going to dominate this weekend, the Wachowski Brothers are planning to make a movie about Plastic Man? And they want Keanu Reeves to star? You know...I didn't think it was possible for M. Night Shyamalan to make a worse movie than "Lady In the Water" until I saw "The Happening". I also wouldn't have thought that the Wachowskis could make anything worse than "Speed Racer"...looks like I could be wrong there as well.

~ Rumors are out that Quentin Tarantino is about to round up both Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio for his next project, "Inglorious Bastards". It's a WWII drama about a group of soldiers facing death by firing squad who are given a chance to go on a suicide mission. No, it's not a remake of "The Dirty Dozen"...but it sure sounds like it. But the triumvirate of Tarantino, DiCaprio, and Pitt is just too intriguing for me to disparage it at this time.

~ Sopranos star Michael Imperioli finally has a new gig. He will co-star in the upcoming television series "Life on Mars" as the partner to series star Jason O'Mara. The twist is that O'Mara's cop character is from the year 2008...but he somehow time travels back to 1973 New York City.

This week's new movie releases:

There actually is more than one movie being released this weekend. Not that anyone in the typical demographic of TheClevelandFan.com would have any interest in the other two whatsoever.

The Dark Knight

Starring: Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Maggie Gyllenhaal

Plot: If you need me to explain this one to you...you are officially labeled "hopeless"

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: By the time you read this, the film will

have already pulled in about \$75 million. The critics and the fanboys are all heaping their praise on this one, and I completely stand by my prediction that this will be the Box Office Champion of 2008, blowing Indiana Jones and Iron Man right out of the water. The review will be up later this weekend.

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Mamma Mia!

Starring: Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Amanda Seyfried

Plot: In an attempt to figure out her father's identity, a bride-to-be invites three likely candidates to her wedding on a Greek Island. Oh, and they sing all of these songs by ABBA.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: Of course I cannot review this movie on pain of death after my wife caught wind of my review of [Sex and the City: Where Testosterone Goes to Die](#). Needless to say, this is some serious counter programming to "The Dark Knight"...although I'm not sure about using the word "serious" when talking about a movie that is going to be this bad. This whole concept of basing a Broadway Musical and then a movie off a bunch of songs from a crappy 70s band is just too hard for me to fathom.

My Estimated Rating: Mike Phipps (1/2 football)

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Space Chimps

Starring: the voices of Andy Samberg, Stanley Tucci, and Jeff Daniels

Plot: Ham III, the grandson of the first chimp astronaut, is blasted into space by an opportunity seeking Senator.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: Another attempt at counter programming, but the difference is that this kiddie movie really, really stinks. If the kids are too young for Batman, and insist on seeing a movie this weekend...take them to "WALL-E", "Kung Fu Panda", or "Kitt Kitridge"...anything but this.

My Estimated Rating: Spergeon Wynn (zero footballs).

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New DVD Releases for Tuesday, July 22nd

Very light week this coming Tuesday, as only one film that was released nationwide is coming out.

21 - Pretty good movie, even if the tale they tell is nowhere close to the actual events that transpired when a bunch of MIT braniacs took their overdeveloped cerebral cortexes to Vegas to count cards. No matter, Kevin Spacey rules as the mastermind behind the eye candy.

Calendar Watch

Next week; [*X-Files 2: I Want to Believe*](#),
Step Brothers

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

[*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 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 12th - 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.

[Miracle at St. Anna](#) -
September 26
th

- Spike Lee's tale of a a
battalion of black American
soldiers who became trapped
in a Tuscan village during
WWII.

Body of Lies - October 10th -
Russell Crowe and Leonardo
DiCaprio in Ridley Scott's
spy tale of intrigue in the
Middle East.

Max Payne - October 17th -
Mark Wahlberg stars in the
adaptation of the video
game about a DEA agent
out to avenge the deaths of

his family.

Pride and Glory - October
24th -

Edward Norton and Colin Farrell in a story about a family of prominent NYC cops who are shaken to their core when a scandal is uncovered.

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 7
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.

The Day the Earth

Stood Still -

December 12

th

- Keanu Reeves in a

remake of the
classic 1951 sci-fi
film.

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

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 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
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-* Aug
ust 7, 2009 -
Denzel
Washington, John
Travolta, and
James Gandolfini
in a remake of the

classic 1974 film
about a hijacked
subway car.

Shutter Island - O
ctober, 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). With
Sienna Miller as
Maid Marion.

Avatar - December
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 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

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