

The Crystal Ball - Aug 8 Releases

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Mitch made it up to Cleveland last week for his annual pilgrimage and we played a lot of golf, hit the Great Lakes Brewery, and watched the Browns practice at the stadium. As a result, it was the first Friday in two and a half years in which we didn't run The Crystal Ball. Have no fear though readers. Mitch is back. Talking Indiana Jones 5, Kevin Smith's latest project, and previewing all of this week's theatric releases.



Last week, I made my annual pilgrimage to Cleveland to check out the Browns...and Great Lakes Brewery...and the golf courses...

Consequently, I took a week off for The Crystal Ball.

What did I miss?

Not a damn thing.

"The Mummy 3" and "Swing Vote" came out, and they both stunk.

So what do we have this week? (Answer; "The Dark Knight" ending up as number #1 for probably the 4th straight week).

Hang on...things will get better next week.

News and Rumors

~ George Lucas has stated that if there is an Indiana Jones 5, it will be Harrison Ford returning as the geriatric archeologist, and not, as previously rumored, Shia LeBeouf. I can see it now: Indiana Jones and the Depends Caper.

~ Kevin Smith's next comedy "Zack and Miki Make a Porno" has eluded the kiss-of-death rating of NC-17, garnering an "R" rating. The film features Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks as two platonic life-long friends who decide to make a porno film together to pay some overdue bills. Jason Mewes (Jay in all the "Jay and Silent Bob" appearances) makes his comeback, in a very explicit sex scene with real life porn star Katie Morgan.

~ Looks like another collaboration coming between Tim Burton and Johnny Depp. This time, the eccentric filmmaker is looking to create a live action/CGI 3D version of "Alice In Wonderland", where it will be live action until Alice jumps down the rabbit hole. No indication of whether Depp will play the Mad Hatter, or just be providing his voice to various

characters.

~There are still rumors of another movie about Jason Bourne. But in the meantime, you can have Bourne star Matt Damon and director Paul Greengrass working together again in "Green Zone", based on the book "Imperial Life in the Emerald City"; Damon stars as a CIA agent on the trail of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Excellent cast with Jason Isaacs (Lucius Malfoy in the Harry Potter movies), Brendan Gleeson, Greg Kinnear, and Amy Ryan ("Gone Baby Gone) joining Damon.

Stupid Sequels and Remakes: A "Venom" spin-off is under consideration. A movie about Daffy Duck foil "Marvin the Martian" looks like it'll be made. Brent Ratner is looking to do a movie adaptation of the video game "Gods of War";.

This week's new movie releases:

Pineapple Express

Starring: Seth Rogen, James Franco, Gary Cole

Plot: A stoner and his supplier go on the run after the stoner witnesses a hit.

[*View Trailer*](#)

Another Judd Apatow produced movie (directed by David Gordon Green), and one that will certainly be better than "Walk Hard". This one is getting some really good buzz (pun fully intended). Rogen seems to be possessing the same goofy charm that made him so popular in "Knocked Up", and Franco is a blast, finally lightening up in a comedic role.

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Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2

Starring: America Ferrera, Alexis Bledel, Amber Tamblyn

Plot: The best friends are now through their first year of college, and reunite in a Grecian seaside town to locate their pair of missing, magical jeans.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: Evidently, most of the stars of this film, especially "Ugly Betty" star Ferrera, are none too happy to have to make this movie. Then why do it? Because when they weren't big TV stars, all of them signed on for the first, knowing the price was a contract that said they were obligated to make more than one if the studio demanded. Since the first was an inexplicable success, here they are. Hope they can get over it...but I won't be looking in to find out.

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New DVD Releases

If you thought the theatrical releases for the last two weeks were lame, take a look at the DVD releases...not just from this coming Tuesday, but from this past Tuesday as well.

Nim's Island - The country's hardest working 11 year old, Abigail Breslin, stars as a little girl on a magical island. Jodie Foster and Gerard Butler get roped into this film as well, which is aimed only at the Miley Cyrus crowd.

Smart People- This looks to be a great Netflix addition. Randy Quaid stars as a grumpy college professional under the care of Sarah Jessica Parker. Look for excellent co-starring turns from Thomas Hayden Church as Quaid's neer-do-well brother, and Ellen Page as Quaid's smart mouthed Republican daughter.

Calendar Watch

Next week; [*Tropic Thunder*](#), [*Star Wars: the Clone Wars*](#),
Mirrors, Vicky Cristina Barcelona

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

[*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 26th - Spike Lee's tale of a a battalion of black American soldiers who became trapped in a Tuscan village during

WWII.

[*The Express*](#) - October 3rd - A must for Browns fans, the biographical tale of Syracuse running back Ernie Davis, the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy.

[*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 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 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
28th - 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

12th - Keanu

Reeves in a remake of the classic 1951 sci-fi film.

Defiance - December

19th - 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".

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

**Blockbusters on
the Distant
Horizon** (movies
that would seem to
be big hits...as
soon as they get
made or released).

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