

COMING ATTRACTIONS

a guide to upcoming movies • previews written by jon arndt • page design by david wiegman



Film: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Kenneth Branagh, Richard Harris
Directed by: Chris Columbus
Rated: PG
Release Date: Nov. 15

Harry Potter, a young wizard and an idol to youngsters throughout the world, returns in this sequel to last year's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. In this film, Harry and pals Ron and Hermione return to Hogwarts Academy for the second year of education in magic. This film is supposedly darker and more sinister than the first. Every character in the original has come back for the sequel, and the plot has not changed yet. The major changes in the series are supposed to take place in the third installment, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, to be released summer of 2004.



Film: Die Another Day
Starring: Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry, Michael Madsen
Directed by: Lee Tamahori
Rated: PG-13
Release Date: Nov. 22

This latest installment of the ever-popular James Bond series once again has Pierce Brosnan filling in for the role of Bond. *Die Another Day*, the 20th Bond film, has many firsts for the Bond series. It is the first Bond film to cost more than \$100 million, due to costly explosions and state-of-the-art effects. It is also the first Bond film to feature an Oscar award-winning actress to be cast as a Bond girl. If you are a fan of the British spy series, you will want to be sure to check out this film which puts James Bond on a quest to reclaim his former title when his own people turn on him.



Film: Solaris
Starring: George Clooney, Natascha McElhone, Jeremy Davies
Directed by: Steven Soderbergh
Rated: Unknown
Release Date: Nov. 27

Another George Clooney/Steven Soderbergh collaboration? Is there any question this movie will be a success? The actor and director's collaborations in the past (*Out of Sight* and *Ocean's Eleven*) have both proven to be huge successes. This science fiction film takes place in the near future, and begins with the premise that Clooney is a psychologist sent out to investigate a deserted space station near the ocean world of Solaris. Upon arrival, Solaris' mysteries begin to disturb Clooney's character when he finds his dead wife still alive on the planet. As you can guess, much conflict follows.



Film: Adaptation
Starring: Nicholas Cage, Meryl Streep, Chris Cooper
Directed by: Spike Jonze
Rated: R
Release Date: Dec. 6

If anyone has seen *Being John Malkovich*, they know Spike Jonze's movies are a little different. He reunites with writer Charlie Kaufman for *Adaptation* to make a film that is well...extremely confusing. The movie is about Charlie Kaufman, a screenwriter struggling with writer's block, who has a twin brother that can write about everything that he can't. Kaufman (played by Cage) is trying to adapt a non-fiction book about an orchid collector and ends up writing himself into the script. This only begins to describe the plot, which is actually based on what happened to the real Charlie Kaufman.



Film: Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
Starring: Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellan
Directed by: Peter Jackson
Rated: PG-13
Release Date: Dec. 18

Frodo! Gandalf! Gollum! Unless you have been living under a rock this past year, you probably know that these are characters from the Lord of the Rings trilogy. The second part of this trilogy, *The Two Towers*, comes out just in time for the holidays. This second installment finds all the remaining characters from the first film (*Fellowship of the Ring*) broken up and fending for themselves. While Frodo and Sam try to destroy the ring in Mordor, we find the other characters entangled in a massive battle elsewhere. Director Peter Jackson boasts that it is everything the first film was, only better.



Film: Gangs of New York
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Cameron Diaz, Daniel Day-Lewis
Directed by: Martin Scorsese
Rated: R
Release Date: Dec. 20

In order not to have Leonardo DiCaprio compete against himself in *Catch Me if You Can*, Miramax pushed this film up five days. Is there really anything to worry about? Unless there is something terribly wrong with this movie, it should be a huge success. How can a movie starring such great talents like DiCaprio, Cameron Diaz, Daniel Day-Lewis and Liam Neeson and be directed by the truly great Martin Scorsese not be good? In *Gangs of New York* DiCaprio plays Amsterdam, a man committed to receiving vengeance on Bill "The Butcher" Poole who killed his father.



Film: Catch Me if You Can
Starring: Tom Hanks, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christopher Walken
Directed by: Steven Spielberg
Rated: PG-13
Release Date: Dec. 25

This film is based on the true-life story of Frank Abagnale Jr., a teenager in the 1960s who passed millions of dollars in bad checks and impersonated being a pilot, a doctor and a professor. Well-known buddies Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks teamed up once again to make this feature film come to life. Hanks plays the FBI agent who is after Abagnale, played by DiCaprio. Undoubtedly this movie will be a huge smash. Even though Spielberg hasn't had a big hit since *Saving Private Ryan*, there hasn't been a Tom Hanks movie in the past 15 years that hasn't demanded a large audience.



Film: Shanghai Knights
Starring: Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson
Directed by: David Dobkin
Rated: PG-13
Release Date: Feb. 7, 2003

In this sequel to the popular *Shanghai Noon*, stars Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson are reunited. Only this time they're not in the Old West. This time they are in 19th-century England investigating the murder of Chan's character's father. Once again, we are promised scenes of humor and action, but director Dobkin states that this sequel has a "deeper emotional core" than its predecessor. With Chan's style of slapstick humor and Wilson's dry sarcasm, audiences can expect to once again be rolling in their seats when watching these two on screen.