

# THE GUIDE

## Entertainment: Movies opening this week, now playing and special screenings.

### MOVIES

capsule reviews are by **KENNETH TURAN** (K.T.), **BETSY SHARKEY** (B.S.), **MARK O'LEIN** (M.O.) and other reviewers. Compiled by **OLIVER GETTYLL**.

### Openings

#### FRIDAY

**Above and Beyond** A documentary about a fighting group of Israeli pilots, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who aided Israel's 1948 war for independence. Directed by Roberto Grossman. (120) NR.

**Girlhood** In a tough Parisian suburb, a shy teenager changes her name, drops out of school and falls in with a gang of the spirited girls. With Zaira ni Brown, Anne Nyia and Lindsey Kamehoi. Written and directed by Céline Sciamma. In French with English subtitles. (130) NR.

**Jupiter Ascending** A house cleaner has her life turned upside down when she is saved from beauty hunters by a genetically engineered ex-military warrior and his robotic companion. With Channing Tatum, Mila Kunis, Jason Momoa and Eddie Redmayne. Written and directed by Lana Wachowski and Andy Wachowski. In 3-D and IMAX. (105) PG-13.

**Low, Rise** Two childhood best friends, Boaz and Alex, grapple with their unpredictable feelings for each other over the years. With Lip Collins, Sam Claflin and Sali Khatib. Written by Juliette Tashiri. Directed by Christian Ditter. (140) R.

**Mad as Hell** A documentary Omk Utku, host and founder of the Web site *"The Young Turks."* Directed by Andrew Nagler. (120) NR.

**One Small Hitch** On a flight home to Chicago for a family wedding, two childhood friends agree to a late-night engagement to make one day father-daughter. With Shane Macfarlane, Ashley Duff and Daniel S. Thrun. Written by Dede R. Lawson. Directed by John Burgess. (140) NR.

**Outland** In 19th-century China, two Crowders team up with the son and daughter of the deposed emperor to defend their ex-brother. With Nicolas Cage, Hayden Christensen and Yifei Liu. Written by James Demott. Directed by Nick Powell. (130) NR.

**Past the Light** A high school student runs for Congress to spread a message of love and community. With Cameron Palacios, Dulce Grager and Alexandria DeBerry. Written by Victor Hawkins. Directed by Malcolm J. Crowl. (100) NR.

**Seventh Son** The sole remaining warrior of a mystical order searches for a prophesied hero to help him vanquish a dark quest. With Jeff Bridges, Ben Barnes and Julianne Moore. Written by Charles Leavitt and Ross Katz. Directed by Sergei Bodrov. In 3-D. (140) PG-13.

**Spanish Squeeze Out of Water** A spy infiltrates the world of a film studio to uncover world to find an e-mail pirate. With Tom Hanks, Bill Pugh and Antonio Banderas. Written by Jonathan Ahdout and Glenn Berger. Directed by Paul Thirum. (110) PG.

**The Wolf** A bigger but unbalanced guy works a feisty bathtub factory before taking over from his talking partner after a date with his old crush goes deadly. With Ryan Reynolds, Anne Kendrick, Gemma Arterton. Written by Michael R. Perry. Directed by Marjane Satrapi. (140) R.

### Critics' Choices

**American Sniper** Director Clint Eastwood and star Bradley Cooper combine to tell the story of the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history and focus on the destructive inner pain that must be paid for inflicting violence. (K.T., Dec. 2) (24) R. **Reviews on Page E2 and E3.**

**Bleeders** Michael Keaton is something of a cross between a magick doctor and the emperor with no clothes — metaphorical until the fight-witty Timon Squareback. As a letter-day oddball superhero come to Broadway's proving ground for a rebirth, the Burning Man hitlines



Channing Tatum and Mila Kunis star in the sci-fi film "Jupiter Ascending."

are hysterically on point. Irony lurks in every shadow. Finally the film begins with a fiery object streaking toward Manhattan, where the highly agitated life of the actor Riggins (Channing Tatum) is the perfect spot for filmmaker Alejandro G. Iñárritu to build his epic. (R.S., Oct. 2) (130) R.

**Citizenfour** An advocacy documentary with a compelling *Vice* Ave. Post quality. Director Laura Poitras puts us in the room when NSA leader Edward Snowden and journalist Glenn Greenwald confer over eight days as they make decisions about what was to be published and why. (K.T., Oct. 24) (150) NR.

**Facelift** A brooding, brilliant, particularly American history of seduction, apoplexy, betrayal and murder directed by Bennett Miller, starring Steve Carell, Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo, and set in the under-the-radar world of Olympic wrestling. (K.T., Nov. 14) (130) R.

**Goodbye to Language** Disclaimer: Do not believe, including this one, discourage you in any way from seeing Jean-Luc Godard's "Goodbye to Language 3D." Yes, there is an air of fading beauty to it, especially for anyone looking for more conventional storytelling, but the film is also exhilarating, revealing and gives back more than you'd expect. (M.O., Jan. 2) In 3-D with English subtitles. In 3-D. (100) NR.

**The Imitation Game** The complex Benedict Cumberbatch-starring story of British mathematician Alan Turing is a labor of love to reanimate for our time, and this smartly edited, fast-paced film has made it to the big screen in a way that is both respectful and exciting. (K.T., Nov. 24) (150) PG-13.

**Into the Woods** With its soaring Broadway-style songs, this delectable, sweet, deceptively deep, fast-paced fairy tale has made it to the big screen in a way that is both respectful and exciting. (K.T., Nov. 24) (150) PG-13.

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**Song of the Sea** A wonder to behold, brought to you by the "Secret of Kells" team. This visually stunning animation masterpiece, steeped in Irish myth, folklore and legend, so subtly mixes the magical and the everyday that to watch it is to be wholly immersed in an enchanted world. (K.T., Jan. 9) (110) PG.

**The Theory of Everything** Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones are beautifully compatible as physicist Stephen Hawking and his then-wife Jane as they navigate the ebb and flow of 25 years of their relationship. A film that posits that the complexities of the universe are as nothing compared to the intricacies of the human heart. (K.T., Nov. 7) (140) PG-13.

**Two Days, One Night** It's strange to think of this new drama from Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardau as a thriller, but that's exactly what they've created. The clock is ticking on a factory worker (Marion Cotillard) who has two days and one night to try to persuade co-workers to give up a precious bonus that she can't return to a job eliminated while she was on medical leave. For all the excellent work Cotillard has done, this performance stands among her best, the absolute young woman's mother's hysteria, insecurity, depression and weariness down to the bone. (B.S., Jan. 9) In French with English subtitles. (120) NR.

**Whiplash** With an amazing Miles Teller on drums and a terrifically K.J. Sommers setting the tempo, "Whiplash" is a movie you feel as much as you see, and what you see is both exquisite and excruciating. Writer-director Damien Chazelle draws on his nightmarish memories of high school, an intense time when the aspiring jazz drummer was driven to nearly a self-harm attempt by a feared and feared teacher who forced a real talent and ambition to mold young minds. The question Chazelle poses is whether psychological pain is the price of greatness. (B.S., Oct. 1) (140) R.

**Wild** Opens high atop the Pacific Crest Trail with the sweeping beauty of a rugged land, unspoiled and untamed. The scene is breathtaking, serene, and broken by pain and plover by a scream. But in the result of Cheryl Strayed, portrayed by a wonderfully worn down and unweathed Reese Witherspoon, hiking too many miles in boots that don't fit. The screen, full of nature and frustration, forged by a life that doesn't fit either. It is in moments like these that director Jean-Marc Vallée's compassion for the human condition, Nick Hornby's memoir, and Witherspoon's raw, emotional nakedness gives meaning to that scream. (B.S., Dec. 2) (100) R.

**Winter Sleep** This drama from Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan requires, like the awards that bests the Capricorn, where his step siblings, Cheryl and her, in a while there are no wasted moments as he introduces the place and the players, lays out the field of battle. The central figure is Aydın (Hakan Altın), a famous stage actor now reduced to running his family's inn, with a cultured disdain for everything and everyone. Capricorn, a pitiful figure carved out of the story's rock formations, is the perfect place to examine entrenched issues, issues of economics, ethics, gender, aged emotion, key things constantly on edge. (B.S., Jan. 2) In Turkish and English, with English subtitles. (110) NR.

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current state of Russia's soul. (K.T., Dec. 2) In Russian with English subtitles. (120) R.

**The Loft** Five married guys sharing a loft in the city to carry out hidden affairs are alerted to find the dead body of an unknown woman there. With Karl Urban, James Marsden and Brad Pitt. Written by Wesley Strick. Directed by Erik Van Looy. (140) R.

**Mommy** It's been tempting for a while for film critics to label 29-year-old French Canadian filmmaker Xavier Dolan a whiz-bang talent, given his five features in the last five years. Dolan's character studies are so different and his new film is no exception. But in looking at a strained, explosive mother-son relationship — the same subject as his whip-hot-interesting debut film, "I Killed My Mother" — he seems to be demanding a career-growth get check. (Robert Abele, Jan. 2) In French and English, with English subtitles. (120) R.

**Mortel** It's hard to say clearly who the audience is for this tangy noir, but those who do find their way into the supremely slick action-mystery super-pace in a few weeks that not laughs, thanks largely to the deft — and deft — performance of Johnny Dappin in the title role. If the road of director David Keppel's made-for-TV movie as memorable as Dappin's avenging stylings. It's a mostly steep, well-tuned-out conceit. (Timothy O'Leary, Jan. 22) (120) R.

**Occur Nominated Shorts** Separate programs showcasing this year's Academy Award-nominated animated, feature and documentary short films. Multiple actors, writers and directors. NR.

**Plato's Reality Machine** A video-game enthusiast is led by a virtual class on a mysterious quest that leads to the New York City. With Trinity Kelly, Dan, Ed Rosenberg and Doug Boland. Written and directed by Myles Rosenz. (110) NR.

**Preservation** A hedge-fund manager's his unethical, self and his returned veteran brother go on a camping trip and find themselves threatened by an unseen menace. With Wynn J. Schmidt, Public Enemy and Aaron Abrams. Written and directed by Christopher DeWitt. (100) NR.

**Project Almanac** A brilliant high-school student and his friends uncover blueprints for a time machine and build one, with potentially dire consequences. With Jonny Weston, Sofia Huth-Holz and Ben Lerner. Written by Jason Harry Pages and Andrew Deutschman. Directed by Dan Berk. (140) PG-13.

**Salma** The first Hollywood production to put Martin Luther King Jr. front and center is a necessary film, even if it's not as powerful as some of his more memorable performances, especially by actor Cuba Gooding Jr. and vivid, compelling sequences. But it is also inconsistent and not always as strong as its strongest moments. (K.T., Dec. 26) (140) PG-13.

**Sill Alice** Losing your mind is a terrifying thing to watch, but the splendid acting in "Sill Alice" makes it worth the pain. Better than any other film of the night, a horror film for the times of us, it succeeds despite the fact it's about a man who's not a man.

**Strange Magic** The new animated musical fairy tale from the mind and the mind of George Lucas is a beautiful thing. What's missing in the magic. The tale's divided kingdom, a fairy world where a man (Ryan Reynolds) and a woman (Lily James) are the only ones who can see the world's magic. The world is a beautiful thing, but it's not a man who's not a man.

**Supremacy** When he and his family are taken hostage by a recently periled while imprisoned, an enemy whom must fight to free himself and his loved one. With Danny Glover, Joe Anderson and David Oyediji. Written by Edouard Adams. Directed by Dean Taylor. (140) NR.

**Suburban Gothic** An out-of-control man who can commune with spirits returns to his home town and teams up with a tough local bartender to stop a vampire. With Matt Smith, Greg Kinnear, Kat Dennings and Barbara Hershey. Written by Mark Linfield and Richard Bates Jr. Directed by Bates. (140) R.

**The Devil's Violin** A logic about the 19th-century Italian violinist and composer Niccolò Paganini. With David Garrett, David Harris and Judy Kuhlmann. Written and directed by Bernard Rose. (130) R.

**Lowlife** Black and redneck as well as impressively made, filled with mood-contrast and the power of the individual in the face of unchecked authority. This Cannes prize winner from Andrew Dosjaghy is dealing with nothing less than the

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