

This summer’s box-office

Nick Rusillo | Staff Writer



Since the Academy Award movies were released in late 2013 and early 2014, the array of movies released have been mostly dull, drab, and overall mediocre. However, the summer blockbusters are on the horizon and they’re looking as good as any other year.

Kicking off the list of movies coming this summer, is the new production of *Godzilla* featuring a star studded cast including Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Ken Watanabe, Bryan Cranston, and many others. Although there have been almost 30 productions from Toho Studios in Japan over the years, this is only the fourth American production, and the first since Roland Emmerich’s 1998 flop starring Matthew Broderick (which only grossed \$10 million for a reason). Good or bad, this will probably be the best looking Godzilla to date, as the movie probably utilizes the latest and greatest CGI technology to make the Jap-terrifying monster destroy Tokyo and New York with more precision than ever before.

Disney provides an untold story of Maleficent, the Mistress of All Evil in *Maleficent*. Set for release on May 30, this dark fantasy film tells the story of Sleeping Beauty from the perspective of the antagonist played by Angelina Jolie. Princess Aurora is played by Elle Fanning. The film will be available in 2D, Dis-

ney digital 3D, RealD 3D, and IMAX 3D.

On June 13th, the much anticipated sequel to *21 Jump Street*, *22 Jump Street* hits the silver screen. *21 Jump Street*, probably one of the best comedies of the last decade, warranted a sequel. Moving across the street, officers Schmidt and Jenko, played by Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum, go undercover at a local college. The sequel features many of the loved characters from the first movie such as: Capt. Dickson (Ice Cube), Eric Molsen (Dave Franco), and Mr. Walters (Rob Riggle).

The fourth installment of the Transformers series premieres on June 27th, 2014 (as if the first three weren’t awful enough). Directed by the disgraceful, “let’s see how many explosions I can make,” Michael Bay, *Transformers: Age of Extinction* sees an unfamiliar actor take the starring role as Mark Wahlberg plays Cade Yeager, a single father and struggling inventor. The movie does not feature Shia LaBeouf who starred in the last three Transformers movies, nor does it feature the eye-candy of *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* Rosie Huntington-Whitley.

On July 11th, the sequel to *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* hits theaters. Taking place a decade later, Caesar, the CGled ape

played by Andy Serkis (who also plays Gollum in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy), now has a wife, Cornelia, and a teenage son, River. Jason Clarke and Gary Oldman head out the cast of human survivors who reach a short-lived peace with Caesar and the newly genetically evolved apes. The two sides however are brought to the brink of war that will determine who will emerge as Earth’s dominant species.

*The Expendables 3* debuts August 15th. The first two Expendables featured nothing but nonstop, senseless action loaded with a cast of action movie stars. The testosterone- pumped films are amazing no matter how bad they are, and the third movie can only be just as good as the previous two, if not better, with the cast this time around. Returning Expendables this time around are Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li, Dolph Lundgren, Randy Couture, Terry Crews, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Joining the action film gods listed above for *The Expendables 3* are: Harrison Ford, Wesley Snipes, Antonio Banderas, Mel Gibson, Kellan Lutz, Kelsey Grammer, Ronda Rousey, and Victor Ortiz.

Almost every week sees a release of a promising movie and hopefully moviegoers will see more than one commendable film this summer.

Graduate goes international

Nora Elbermawy | Entertainment Editor

Most graduating seniors look forward to a new start. Whether it be at a college or university, vocational school, or even taking a break; our very own David Newman, class of ‘14, has taken this idea of beginning to a whole other level.

This August, Newman plans to hop on a plane across the Atlantic to Welkenraedt, Belgium as part of a youth exchange program. Sponsored by the rotary club of Florida, he plans to advance in language courses and expose himself to a new culture.

The rotary youth exchange, founded in the 1920s, caters opportunities of a lifetime to nearly 8,000 students a year. The international headquarters is shaped by foundations in every state and is dispersed between rotary clubs in various districts within that state. With the motto “service above self”, this organizations main mission is to work towards peace and understanding in the world by volunteering and helping communities locally and internationally.

According to Newman, despite the lengthy six month application review, the actual completion is rather simple; consisting of various conferences, a session of questioning, and a review of high school transcripts.

“I’m still in the process right now,” he says “I’m learning who my [host] family is and I just found out what school I’m going to. I’m learning piece by piece.”

Enrolling in the St. Joseph Institute in Belgium, Newman has been preparing himself with programs such as Pimsleur, a virtual language course he uses to study French and Dutch.

Although the institute is a private high school, he does not mind his enrollment after graduating in the United States. He views this opportunity as a second



David Newman

chance and a shot to meet new people.

“My family is really excited for me,” he says, “I’m actually the fourth of my brothers to do this.”

The experience from his three older brothers has not only eased the worries of his parents but provided insight for Newman himself on the possibilities to be.

With two of his brothers gaining experience in Japan, and another in Brazil, there still lies mystery in being assigned to Belgium.

“I’m the only one going to Europe, so they [his family] don’t know what to expect,” he explains “and I don’t know what to expect because I’ve never been there.”

As his time to leave Miami approaches, Newman and his soon-to-be family come into closer contact. “My host cousin is telling me about what there is to do around Belgium, places to go,” he explains.

Not only would he like to experience a new type of schooling, but he aspires to continue his passion for sports such as lacrosse and soccer by joining a team.

His family is preparing as well. While Newman begins his journey in Belgium, his family will be hosting a 16 year old exchange student from Thailand, Wichira Hiddles, who will be attending Killian this coming year.

In Summer of 2015, Newman plans to return with an overall better understanding of the world and enroll in a post-secondary institute to study physical therapy as well as international business and relations. He also hopes to encourage as many kids as he can to participate in the youth exchange program.

“If you ever get a chance to do this, do this,” he says.