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Courtesy photo  
 Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith form the dynamic duo of Agent J and Agent K in the upcoming Men in Black II, which opens Wednesday.

## Movies

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out this summer, including the cheesy "Halloween: Resurrection" and "One Hour Photo," it was hard to choose which to include. However, one thing is missing from the former two movies: They won't scare people nearly as much as M. Night Shyamalan's "Signs." Not only is Shyamalan a brilliant filmmaker, but the success of this movie could be imperative for his career.

After releasing the hugely popular "The Sixth Sense," one of the most surprising horror/suspense movies ever made, he failed to attract the same attention to his sophomore release, "Indestructible." For "Signs," audiences are looking for the same excitement and ending twist they saw in "Sixth Sense," and hopefully Shyamalan will deliver. Mel Gibson plays Graham Hess, a Pennsylvania farmer who discovers large crop circles on his farm.

Although the meaning of the crop circles is a well kept secret, the previews hint at an alien invasion of sorts. Joaquin Phoenix co-stars as Graham's younger brother. Like the mysterious endings in his movies, Shyamalan has kept plot specifics underground, adding to the anticipation of this horror release.

### 'K-19: The Widowmaker'

**Release date: July 19**  
 Harrison Ford gained media attention recently after the announcement of "Indiana Jones 4." Many Ford fans can't wait to see how he will continue cracking whips in his advancing age. This summer, however, viewers will have to settle with Ford playing a Russian nuclear submarine commander. Like many nuclear submarine films before it, K-19 is about a submarine crew who must avert a mistake — in this case a ship reactor meltdown — to avoid World War III. Ford plays the submarine captain and Liam Neeson plays his first mate. What makes this submarine movie different than all the others? Why, Harrison Ford with a Russian accent, of course!

### 'xXx'

**Release date: August 9**  
 There are two basic rules to judging a movie by its cover. First, never trust a movie with a stupid title. Witty and unusual titles are good, but when a movie is named after a porn rating in a desperate attempt to get giddy adolescents to show up, the situation is dire. Second, actor Vin Diesel only has two facial expressions: confused and really confused. Other than that, this movie will fulfill the need of many viewers to see three aspects of an action movie: guns, explosions and sex.

Diesel plays extreme sports player Xander Cage, who is hired by the government to investigate a terrorist organization called Anarchy 99. Samuel L. Jackson plays Gibbons, a government agent who hires Cage. The most interesting part of this movie will be seeing the chemistry between Samuel L. Jackson, an accomplished actor, and Diesel, who is as dynamic as a brick.

### 'Tadpole'

**Release dates: July 19 in Los Angeles and New York; July 26 in top-10 markets; August 2 in top-20 markets**

This drama/comedy won top ratings at the Sundance Film Festival this year. Not only does it have an original plot, but it will bring back memories from the days of "Three's Company."

Sigourney Weaver, who turned to art films after "Heartbreakers" in 2001, plays a stepmother to Oscar Grubman (Aaron Stanford). Grubman, a pretentious and intelligent 15-year-old, can speak fluent French and has a passion for Voltaire. On a break from boarding school, Grubman falls in love with his stepmother but ends up sleeping with her best friend, played by Bebe Neuwirth. John Ritter plays Oscar's overworked dad.

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## Martsch

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changes and seemed to lose their place from time to time. The problem was that they concentrated too much on the vocal aspects of the songs and not enough on the background guitar.

Audience member Eric Abbey felt that more practice would have

helped. "It was very raw and not well-rehearsed," he said. "I liked BTS better."

Aside from Martsch, Mike Johnson's deep, hypnotic voice made for a mellow and relaxing set. His low voice singing long drawn out notes gives his music a unique undertow that pulls you through the songs. He attributed his influences to other Northwest bands. "I'm influenced by

The Wipers and The Rats," he said. Johnson's solo album is scheduled to be released Aug. 20.

Ian Waters played a solid set but was nothing special. Doug Martsch was definitely the highlight of the show and well worth waiting through two hours of opening acts.

Chris Delissio is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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