

OPENING OR RETURNING:

Alvin and the Chipmunks: What's next? A live-action Care Bears movie starring Jason Lee? (He's in this and *Underdog*, for those not keeping track.) Those wacky little creatures with the high-pitched voices will surely cause him some trouble in this newest bit of family fare. With, um, David Cross. Now I'm confused. PG. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young: A 1974 performance at London's Wembley Stadium depicts the band in front of a huge audience. Part of the In-Concert series. Bijou LateNite.

I Am Legend: Will Smith does the all-by-his-lonesome thing in a New York City left not exactly empty after a manmade virus devastates the globe. During the day, he tries to find other survivors; at night, he tries to survive the creatures that are what's left of humanity. PG13. 100 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

I'm Not There: Portland filmmaker Todd Haynes' (*Far From Heaven*) unconventional Bob Dylan movie is one of the year's most anticipated – and, for the most part, highly praised. Different actors, including Cate Blanchett, Heath Ledger and Christian Bale, play incarnations of Dylan over the decades. "One of the most inventive and joyous movies of the year," said *Salon*. R. 135 min. Bijou. ★★★★★☆ (12/6)

IMMI Fest: Two classic silent films show with live soundtracks from the Knotty Ensemble and guests during the Improvised Music and Moving Image Festival: *Phantom* (1922), 9:30 pm Dec. 14; and *Phantom of the Opera* (1925), 8 pm Dec. 15. DIVA. \$5, \$3 stu.

Omega Man: Charlton Heston is the last man on earth in this 1971 adaptation of *I Am Legend*, which screens (nicely timed with the new version!) as part of the Heckler's Movie Night series. PG. 98 min. 7 pm Dec. 19, Wandering Goat. Free.

Resident Evil: Extinction: Alice (Milla Jovovich) is still trying to get rid of that pesky zombie-making virus. For this third film in the series, Alice gets new friends (we suspect they replace those zombified last time out) including *Heroes'* Ali Larter and singer Ashanti. R. 95 min. Movies 12.

What Would Jesus Buy?: Dubbing itself "The movie Santa doesn't want you to see," *WWJB?* follows Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir across the country in a biodiesel bus as they spread the word about consumerism. While it's entertaining to a point, this documentary peters out as it continues, and doesn't pay enough attention to personality and character. PG. Bijou. **See review this issue.**

Films open the Friday following EW publication date unless otherwise noted. See archived reviews at www.eugeneweekly.com

CONTINUING:

American Gangster: Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe face off in the story of 1970s driver turned drug lord Frank Lucas (Washington) and the cop investigating Lucas and his unexpected rise to power. Directed by Ridley Scott. R. 157 min. Movies 12. VRC Stadium 15. ★★★★★☆ (11/8)

August Rush: Keri Russell and Jonathan Rhys Meyers star as a musical young couple whose loveborn encounter produces a child. Orphaned "by circumstance" (says the description), the boy (Freddie Highmore) grows up to become a musical prodigy. PG. 113 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Bee Movie: Not much looks all that sweet about this animated comedy, in which Jerry Seinfeld voices a recent bee college graduate who learns, to his shock, that humans have been stealing bees' honey for ages and ages. With the voices of Renee Zellweger and Matthew Broderick. PG. 90 min. Cinemark.

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead: Sidney Lumet's new film is being hailed as a return to form by many, but there's something unsatisfying in the bleak tale of two brothers whose attempt at robbery goes terribly, devastatingly wrong. Stars Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke and a raging, quiet Albert Finney. R. 117 min. Bijou. ★★★★★☆ (11/29)

Beowulf: Robert Zemeckis, working from a screenplay by Roger Avary and Neil Gaiman, directs this version of the story of the warrior Beowulf, with Ray Winstone in the title role and Angelina Jolie as Grendel's mother. Reviews are good, but it still looks like a video game. PG13. 114 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. 44211 (11/21)

Black Sheep: If you can see this film's image of an evil sheep trying to bite someone's ear off and not laugh, you're made of stronger stuff than I. When a genetically altered lamb is released into a New Zealand farmer's flock, the sheep turn into vicious flesh-eaters. Also, one of the characters has a sheep phobia. With effects by WETA Workshop. Ooh, neat! R. 87 min. Bijou LateNite.

Bourne Ultimatum, The: "I remember everything," says Matt Damon's Jason Bourne in this film's action-packed trailer. Director Paul Greengrass and the major players (Joan Allen, Julia Stiles) return to the series' satisfying third installment, which finds Bourne hunting down his past in stunning locations. PG13. 111 min. Movies 12. ★★★★★☆ (8/9)

Dan in Real Life: Poor Dan (Steve Carrell) is an advice columnist with a passel of daughters whose life is further complicated when he falls for his brother's girlfriend (Juliette Binoche). Also, the brother is played by Dane Cook. PG13. 99 min. VRC Stadium 15.

Dragon Wars: The good: Dragons! In L.A.! The bad: The plot is a convoluted thing about magical powers, resurrected lovers and a dragon that will be able to ascend into heaven. Also, the biggest names in the cast are

Jason Behr (*Roswell*) and Robert Forster. But still ... dragons! In L.A.! Can it be better than *Reign of Fire*? PG13. 90 min. Movies 12.

Enchanted: Beautiful princesses! Handsome princes! And ... midtown Manhattan? Amy Adams (*Junebug*), James Marsters (*X-Men*) and Patrick Dempsey (*Grey's Anatomy*) star in this fairy tale in the real world, which follows Princess Giselle (Adams) after a wicked witch banishes her from her magical kingdom. Why does this Disney flick look so charming? PG. 107 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Fred Claus: So what if Santa had a brother? Who happened to be the opposite of the saintly gift-giver: a repo man? That's the basic premise of this film, but the reason people will see it, I suspect, is for Paul Giamatti in a Santa suit getting in a fight with Vince Vaughn. PG. 116 min. VRC Stadium 15.

Golden Compass, The: An only slightly above average film – mostly on account of the fantastic casting – based on Philip Pullman's utterly brilliant novel. In a world much like our own, everyone has an animal companion who's part of themselves, and one little girl (newcomer Dakota Blue Richards) is the key to saving not just her own world, but countless others as well. With Daniel Craig, Nicole Kidman, Sam Elliott and Eva Green. PG13. 113 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. **See review this issue.**

Good Luck Chuck: Chuck (Dane Cook) has a hex on him: every girl he dates finds true love with the next guy she dates. Enter Cam (Jessica Alba), a klutzy sweetheart Chuck falls for hard. Clearly, he's got to wiggle out from under his strange curse. R. 101 min. Movies 12.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix: The Ministry of Magic is in denial about the return of Lord Voldemort, Hogwarts get a nasty new teacher and Harry ... Harry's in one kind of trouble or another throughout the mostly successful and only slightly disappointing fifth HP film. It's not quite *Prisoner of Azkaban*, but it's getting there. PG13. 138 min. Movies 12. ★★★★★☆ (7/19)

Hitman: Timothy Olyphant, go back to *Deadwood*! No, kidding, kidding. But honestly, I'm not sure this videogame-based film about a professional assassin trying to find out who set him up (wait, does this remind anyone of Jason Bourne?) is the best place for you. R. 100 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Martian Child, The: John Cusack continues to drag his formerly youthful cinematic persona into adulthood with this film about a man who adopts a boy who claims to be from Mars. With Amanda Peet and the always-wonderful Joan Cusack. PG. 108 min. Movies 12.

Mist, The: I keep wondering what's next. *The Cloud? The Hailstorm?* Stephen King can make monsters out of anything, right? Frank Darabont directs this adaptation of a King short story about a creepy mist that hides even creepier creatures. R. 124 min. Cinemark.

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: This story about a magical toy store, its owner (Dustin Hoffman) and the young shop employee who might inherit it (Natalie Portman) is written and directed by Zach Helm, who also wrote last year's *Stranger Than Fiction*. G. 94 min. Cinemark.

No Country for Old Men: The latest from the Coen brothers is a near-masterpiece, an adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's acclaimed novel, and it's earning plenty of acclaim itself. The story involves a small-town sheriff, a deadly drug deal and a psychopathic killer (Javier Bardem). The reviewers say "intense," "searing," "an evil delight." R. 122 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. ★★★★★☆ (11/29)

Ratatouille: The latest animated film from Pixar is directed by Brad Bird (whose *The Iron Giant* is too often overlooked) and concerns a big-dreaming rat who wants to be a chef. When he makes a deal with a garbage boy, the culinary world of Paris gets far more than it ever imagined. G. 110 min. Movies 12. ★★★★★☆ (7/12)

Stardust: Matthew Vaughn (*Layer Cake*) takes a firm and steady hand to the many plot threads of this adaptation of Neil Gaiman's novel about a fallen star with an attitude and the many characters seeking her. Wicked and charming, sweet and sly, with a stellar cast and a superb sense of humor. PG13. 128 min. Movies 12. ★★★★★☆ (8/9)

Superbad: Judd Apatow and Seth Rogen both have fingers in this pie, as co-producer and co-writer, respectively. It's the story of two high school friends, Evan (Michael Cera, *Arrested Development*) and Seth (Jonah Hill), who are trying – well, in classic teen movie fashion, they're trying really hard to get laid. They're about to go off to college; what do you expect? R. 114 min. Movies 12. ★★★★★☆ (8/23)

This Christmas: For the first time in years, the whole Whitfield clan is heading home for Christmas – meaning there's got to be some drama and tension between siblings. "An overstuffed but satisfying Yuletide comedy-drama with a fine cast," said *Newsday*; that cast includes Delroy Lindo, Loretta Devine, Idris Elba, Regina King and Mekhi Phifer. PG13. 117 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

3:10 to Yuma: Russell Crowe and Christian Bale costar in this solid Western from director James Mangold (*Walk the Line*). Based on a short story by Elmore Leonard that was made into a film in 1957, the film follows a vicious outlaw (Crowe) and the Civil War vet (Bale) who's volunteered to get the thief to the train that'll take him to trial. R. 117 min. Movies 12. ★★★★★☆ (9/13)

Underdog: Jason Lee voices the titular canine, who finds himself superpowered after an incident in the lab of mad scientist Simon Barsinister (Peter Dinklage). Bad guys have plots, but Underdog has a spaniel to impress! Oh, and the day to save. PG. 84 min. Movies 12.

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