

BIJOU CINEMAS
Starts 492 East 13th 686-2458
Friday, 12/21! <http://bijou-cinemas.com>

Give Bijou Gift Certificates for the Holidays!

James Gandolfini Susan Sarandon
Kate Winslet Christopher Walken
a film by John Turturro
Romance & Cigarettes
5:05, 7:15 & 9:25 Nightly
Sun Mat 2:55 (12/24: 5:05 & 7:15)

Crazy, old classic Christmas cartoons!!
Prizes & surprises!
CARTOON CLUB Sun Mat 12:45

We have new ways to save money & see movies!
20 admission card: only \$100
20 SENIOR admission card: only \$50
"Inventive and very unusual account of the life and times of Bob Dylan." Directed by Todd Haynes
Christian Bale Cate Blanchett
I'M NOT THERE
5:30 & 8:15 Nightly Sat & Sun Mat 2:30 (12/24: 5:30 only)
Next week: MARGOT AT THE WEDDING

BIJOU LATENITE \$4 FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Starring FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS
Jemaine Clement!
In-Concert Latenite SEASON 3
CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG
Features CSNY from September 1974, Wembley Stadium, London. Behold the band at their PEAK before a massive 250,000 English audience. Pro-Shot video, razor sharp sound! NOT TO BE MISSED!
Eagles vs Shark 11:35 fri, sat & sun Sat Mat 3:05 11:00 fri, sat & sun

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Artistic Director, Eugene Opera

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SHOWTIMES FOR FRI 12/21 THRU MON 12/24 ONLY
SEE WEBSITE FOR TUES 12/25 THRU THURS 12/27

NATIONAL TREASURE: THE BOOK OF SECRETS PG
12:00, 1:05, 3:15, 4:20, 6:30, 7:35, [9:45, 10:45]
*DIGITAL SHOWTIMES

PS I LOVE YOU PG13
12:55, 4:05, 7:05, [10:10]

SWEENEY TODD THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET R
10:50, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, [10:30]

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR R
11:40, 12:50, 2:20, 3:30, 5:00, 6:20, 7:45, [9:00, 10:25]

WALK HARD, THE DEWEY COX STORY R
11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:10, [9:50]

I AM LEGEND PG13
11:10, 12:25, 1:10, 2:00, 3:25, 4:00, 4:50, 6:15, 7:15, 7:40, [9:05, 10:05, 10:45]

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS PG
11:45, 1:00, 2:15, 3:20, 4:45, 5:50, 7:15, [8:15, 9:45, 10:40]

THE GOLDEN COMPASS PG13
12:35, 1:35, 3:35, 4:35, 6:35, 7:30, [9:35, 10:35]

ENCHANTED PG
11:25, 2:10, 5:05, 7:45, [10:30]

AUGUST RUSH PG
11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:50, [10:25]

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN R
10:55, 1:50, 4:55, 7:40, [10:45]

[] NOT SHOWING MON 12/24

\$1 MOVIES 12 \$1
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SHOWTIMES FOR FRI 12/21 THRU MON 12/24 ONLY
SEE WEBSITE FOR TUES 12/25 THRU THURS 12/27

WE OWN THE NIGHT R
11:25, 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, [10:05]

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM G
11:35, 2:00, 4:20, 7:10, [9:25]

HITMAN R
11:40, 2:10, 4:30, 7:20, [9:40]

BEE MOVIE PG
11:20, 12:10, 1:50, 2:35, 4:05, 5:00, 6:50, 7:35, [9:15, 10:00]

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE PG13
12:15, 3:45, 6:55, [9:55]

RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R
12:00, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, [10:15]

AMERICAN GANGSTER R
12:05, 3:40, 7:00, [10:25]

3:10 TO YUMA R
11:30, 2:25, 7:05, [9:50]

UNDERDOG PG
12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:45, [9:20]

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13
12:30, 4:15, 7:15, [10:10]

DRAGON WARS PG13
12:25, 2:40, 4:50, 7:30, [9:45]

[] NOT SHOWING MON 12/24

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
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SWEENEY TODD (R) - ID REQ'D (1025 120 420) 725 1015
P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG-13) (1010 110 415) 710 955
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1020 115 405) 705 940
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 205 500) 740 1010
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (1015 1045 1115 105 140 210 410 440 510) 645 715 745 920 950 1020
OC & DA: ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) Fri. (1110) 720 Sat. (215) 945 Sun. (1110) 945
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) Fri. (1040 145 215 425 455) 650 945 Sat. (1040 1110 145 425 455) 650 720 Sun. (1040 145 215 425 455) 650 720
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D 915 PM
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (950 1250 350) 640 930
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (945 1245 345) 635 925
ENCHANTED (PG) (955 1255 355) 655 935
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1035 135 435) 735 1025

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CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1215 240 505) 730 955
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) - ID REQ'D (1140 210 445) 740 1005
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★ (1110 1200 140 230 410 515) 645 750 920 1025
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (1150 220 455) 720 940
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1115 150 420) 655 930

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NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★ (1030 130 430) 730 1030
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1100 150 415) 700 1000
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (1120 200 440) 720 1010
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1040 120 410) 650 940

Times For 12/21 - 12/23 ©2007 www.REGmovies.com



Not a scene from a new Alien film: Will Smith in *I Am Legend*

I Am Doubt

Will Smith film can't survive Will Smith

I AM LEGEND: Directed by Francis Lawrence. Written by Mark Protosevich and Akiva Goldsman. Cinematography, Andrew Lesnie. Music, James Newton Howard. Starring Will Smith. Warner Bros. Pictures, 2007. PG-13. 101 minutes. ★★☆☆☆

I began to worry early in *I Am Legend* when the animals, not the human, were getting all the best parts. Deer stampe through the streets of New York. Lions knock them over like bowling pins. It might look like New Urbanism by way of the book of Genesis, except for the fact that Robert Neville (Will Smith) is the city's only resident. Three years after a deadly viral outbreak, Neville is all that remains of the good guys. Darkness belongs to the bad guys, seething hordes of light-sensitive zombies whom Neville presumes ate the few survivors immune, like Neville, to the virus known as KV. As far as Neville knows, he's the last man standing. Thus the fate of mankind, as well as *I Am Legend*, falls squarely on the shoulders of Will Smith, who plays Neville with a cool, flinty resolve that to me is the undoing of the picture.

It's the *Castaway* problem: To appear credible and sympathetic, an actor in isolation for the better part of a movie must understand loneliness and despair, conditions to which nobody in the world is immune. Many didn't favor *Castaway* as much as I did. But *Castaway* did get something right: Tom Hanks' belly in the yellow-orange glow of the bonfire on the beach. That soft belly is to convince you Hanks won't survive the night. By contrast, consider Will Smith's Neville. He's not only a military colonel, he's a brilliant virologist; he's not only a scientist, he's immune to the virus; he's not only immune, he has the swagger of an action hero; and it's this last part I have problems with. Don't blame the book: In the 1954 novel by Richard Matheson, Neville is a factory worker struggling with depression at world's end, his ordinary qualities giving the book universal appeal. Blame Akiva Goldsman, whose screenplay departs from the book so geomet-

rically that the title, originally a reference to Neville's "legend" among the undead as a killer, is by comparison sadly ironic. To Goldsman, a character must be *conspicuous* to be likable, a tendency he's been demonstrating since *Batman & Robin*, which might be called an accidental zombie film.

Smith's performance, already handicapped by the screenplay, manages to evoke occasional upwellings of sympathy. But Smith seems tight and uncomfortable in post-apocalyptic New York. Call it what you will — charisma, angles, range — Smith doesn't have it in *I Am Legend*. Smith is successful when he's up against a stodgy but self-satisfied cadre of elder doubters, as he was in *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Ali* and *Men in Black*. He does ambition, not self-doubt, and doubt is what is needed for *I Am Legend* to survive in this age of apocalyptic offerings like *28 Days Later*. Late in the film, Neville is still saying "I can fix this." I beg your pardon? The zombies have the metabolism of great white sharks and, even worse, the disposition.

More interestingly, the zombies also have the ability to learn. Part of the enjoyment of *I Am Legend* is the cat-and-mouse game between the undead and Neville, who traps the creatures to run experiments. Director Francis Lawrence (*Constantine*) does an inspired job of creating an urban environment sliding back into nature's grip. Times Square is a weedlot. The world appears to have ended around Christmas, as evidenced by the wreaths and tinsel strewn about. Inspired touches can be found everywhere, perhaps none more so than the perfect weather, which contrasts with the violence and mayhem at night. There's a thrilling car chase between Neville and a herd of deer, the only interspecies car chase I can recall. There are also, this being a zombie picture, shocks and scares aplenty. But *I Am Legend* also wants to be a character study, and in that respect, the film is a disappointment.

I Am Legend is now playing at Cinemark and VRC Stadium 15.

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