



CHRIS EVANS AND KO AH-SUNG

THE ICE-AGE EXPRESS

All aboard director Bong Joon-ho's *Snowpiercer* for an exquisite, apocalyptic ride

Last week, a friend wanted to know if she should see *Snowpiercer*. The easy answer is “Yes.” The longer, glibber answer was, “Did you want a sci-fi movie about class warfare? Then yes.”

She replied, “Isn’t that what all sci-fi movies are really about?”

Oh, if only. For every *Children of Men*, we get a handful of movies that think not at all what the future might actually hold beyond laser pistols and bug-like aliens. We get a toothless *Ender’s Game* that doesn’t know whether it wants to be for kids or adults, or *Star Trek: Into Darkness*, which is enjoyable enough in the moment but evaporates into fluff and pretty faces the moment you step back into daylight.

expert they need to get through the train’s countless locked doors.

This expert, Namgoong Minsu, is played by *The Host*’s Song Kang-ho with cagey, wry old-warrior wisdom, in excellent contrast to everyone else’s battered fury or grandiose righteousness. Despite fancy translation tech, Minsu confides only in his wide-eyed clever daughter, Yona (Ko Ah-sung). Thus teamed up, our heroes make their bloody, violent and surreal way through the train. (Tilda Swinton, as the enigmatic train leader’s bonkers minion, is a glorious piece of work.)

The train sets make for stunning, compact, ingenious fight scenes, and one particular action sequence was so unsettling I was cringing in my seat. That’s a good thing in a movie like this: Something so brazen and beautifully made should make you uncomfortable, excited, shaken and maybe, in the end, optimistic. Or angry. Either will work. ■

And then we get *Snowpiercer*, which distills the ugliness of the world and packs it into one long train. Based on a French graphic novel, the film is directed by Bong Joon-ho, of the smart 2007 monster movie *The Host*. In *Snowpiercer*, Earth has sunk into a manmade ice age; punishment, on the train that carries the scraps of humanity, uses the bitter cold outside in gruesomely creative ways.

Curtis (Chris Evans), who lives in the filthy, overcrowded back of the train, has clearly been planning a revolt for some time. He’s a reluctant leader, but with the help of his mentor, Gilliam (John Hurt, his character certainly named for the director of *Brazil*), and a handful of friends (including Octavia Spencer and Jamie Bell), he releases from cryogenic storage the security

IDA

Director Pawel Pawlikowski’s stark, elegant and deeply unsettling film tells the story of a novitiate nun (Agata Kulesza) in 1960s Poland who, upon meeting her troubled alcoholic aunt (Agata Trzebuchowska), learns of her family’s dark past during the Nazi occupation. *Ida* is shot in stunning black-and-white, and each scene is meticulously composed for maximum emotional impact by the cinematography team of Ryszard Lenczewski and Lukasz Zal. The story, which moves quietly but briskly toward an inevitable fate, is masterfully told, without a false note struck. But it is the performances of Kulesza and Trzebuchowska that make this one of the finest films of the year so far; the tragic dynamic they form around the ghosts of the past will haunt you for days. (*Bijou Metro*)

OBVIOUS CHILD

Obvious Child is, as you may have heard, an abortion comedy. But that’s not exactly true: It’s not About Abortion, in the afterschool-special, other-movies-I-shall-not-name way. It’s about Donna Stern (Jenny Slate), a twentysomething comedian by night and bookstore employee by day. Bawdy and genuine, Donna is a character so messily, perfectly balanced between vulnerability and humor that we’re always laughing with her, not at her; there’s no cruelty in writer-director Gillian Robespierre’s deft, intelligent and honest brand of comedy. *OC* is a quiet movie, in a way; no one needs saving, and everyone’s going to be OK. But it feels like a big film all the same. (*Bijou Metro*)

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JERSEY BOYS [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (11:50 AM) 6:40 PM
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 [CC,DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (11:55) 4:15 6:45 9:20
22 JUMP STREET [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (12:40) 4:20 7:05 10:25
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ALBANY 7 Next to Fred Meyer

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DELIVER US FROM EVIL [CC,DV] (R) Sat. (1:15) 4:20 7:25 10:10
EARTH TO ECHO [CC] (PG) Sat. (12:30 3:00) 6:30 9:15
TAMMY [CC,DV] (R) Sat. (12:15 3:30) 7:00 10:05
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BEGIN AGAIN (DIG) (R) 10:30, 1:30, 4:20, 7:55, 10:30
CHEF (DIG) (R) 10:15, 1:05, 4:00, 7:35, 10:20
DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (3D) (PG-13) 10:05, 10:50, 11:40, 1:20, 3:00, 4:40, 5:30, 6:15, 8:00, 9:40
DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (DIG) (PG-13) 12:30, 2:10, 3:55, 7:10, 8:55, 10:25
DELIVER US FROM EVIL (2014) (DIG) (R) 10:20, 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:50
EARTH TO ECHO (DIG) (PG) 10:35, 1:25, 4:10, 7:15, 9:45
EDGE OF TOMORROW (DIG) (PG-13) 10:55, 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
FAULT IN OUR STARS, THE (DIG) (PG-13) 10:10, 4:15, 10:25

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 (DIG) (PG) 11:00, 2:00, 4:50, 7:25, 10:10
JERSEY BOYS (DIG) (R) 1:10, 7:20
MALEFICENT (DIG) (PG) 10:40, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:20
TAMMY (DIG) (R) 6:20, 7:40, 9:00, 10:35
TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION (3D) (PG-13) SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 1:40, 5:20
TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION (DIG) (PG-13) 11:45, 3:25, 7:05, 9:05
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AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 (PG-13) 10:45, 1:15, 2:45, 4:15, 5:45, 7:15, 8:45, 10:15
BLENDED (PG-13) 11:25, 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25
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DIVERGENT (PG-13) 10:50, 12:25, 2:00, 3:35, 5:10, 7:05, 8:40, 10:05
FROZEN (2013) (PG) 11:05, 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40

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LOVE SURVIVOR (R) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:35
MILLION DOLLAR ARM (DIG) (PG) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30
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