

MARK RUFFALO
AND KEIRA KNIGHTLEY

ONCE MORE, WITH FEELING

Begin Again is a pleasant, musical rehash looking at the art of relationships

John Carney's *Once* (2007) was a lovely, intimate film, the story of two musicians whose romance played out artistically. *Once* is now a Broadway powerhouse, made a little tidier but no less affecting, and Carney is back with a movie that's almost *Once* again: two drifting, lovelorn souls brought together through musical collaboration.

Begin Again, though, has slightly sharper edges, and its heartbroken heroine an occasionally tarter tongue. In an opening sequence that loops back on itself from different perspectives, worn-out, bitter music-biz pro Dan (a bedraggled Mark Ruffalo) gets kicked out of the company he co-founded — in front of his sullen daughter (Hailee Steinfeld), no less. He makes his sodden, despondent way to a bar at which a very reluctant Gretta (Keira Knightley) has been badgered into playing one of her songs. Dan hears something other than simple acoustic guitar and plaintive vocals; he imagines an entire arrangement,

songwriting partner (played by an unexpectedly likable Adam Levine) has left her for the big time.

Both Dan and Gretta are essentially couch-surfing through rough patches of varying lengths. Their collaboration, more than their un consummated attraction, is what matters, and what works magic, pulling in other musicians, making something new and making it in a new way.

Begin Again is a quiet charmer and not without missteps — a night-in-New York sequence feels borrowed from some other movie, its musical choices and images oddly generic — but it works thanks to Carney's gift for complicated relationships, and his focus on the place where artistic and emotional connections layer on each other. Everyone in this movie seems to be a little bit in love, and never more so than when they're recording on a rooftop in the city, going gorgeously against the grain of how things are supposedly supposed to be done. ■

piano and drums and strings lifting the song into another realm. Dan introduces himself, and the resulting conversation essentially fills the rest of the film.

In some ways, *Begin Again* is a musical Cinderella story from another era, and its unsubtle critique of the music industry feels wedged in and already dated. But this Cinderella doesn't want to be a pop-star princess, and she comes with baggage of her own: Her ex-boyfriend and

LIFE ITSELF

Bombastic, charismatic and iconic through and through, Roger Ebert was the Muhammad Ali of film criticism, a man whose face and voice became synonymous with our modern pastime of going to the movies. *Life Itself*, despite its flaws, is a fascinating document of a complicated artist whose work was, by turns, righteously opinionated, accessibly populist and always, at bottom, disarmingly frank and humane. At the core of the film is Ebert's relationship with Gene Siskel, the rival *Chicago Tribune* critic who became his sparring partner on *At The Movies*, the beloved show that brought both men to global recognition. Their relationship is the stuff of deep drama, a clash of titans that crackles with antagonism, intellectual one-upmanship, wicked humor and the grudging love of brothers. (*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, affecting, intelligent and honest brand of comedy. *Obvious Child* 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*)

Unplug for EugFun!

SUMMER IN THE CITY 2014

3
AUG.

Sunday Jam: Dancin' in the Park
Local DJ's spin funk and soul in the sun!
Sladden Park, N. Adams & Cheshire
2:00–6:00 pm

6
AUG.

Downtown Dodgeball
Rock & Dodge
Theme: 80's Hairband
Kesey Square, 6:00–8:00 pm
Co-presented by Playground Sports
Team registration fee \$30

8
AUG.

Movie: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
Rated G, 144 minutes
University Park, 23rd & University St.
9pm-ish

Calendar & event details at EugFun.org



weekly



BIJOU Showtimes August 1-7
492 E. 13th Ave.
bijou-cinemas.com

YVES SAINT LAURENT	Fri-Sun 3:00, 5:30, 8:00 Mo-Thu 5:30, 8:00
CHEF	Fri-Sun 2:25, 4:50, 7:15 Mo-Thu 4:50, 7:15

Showtimes and info: 541-686-2458

BIJOU METRO 43 W. Broadway
bijou-cinemas.com

BEGIN AGAIN	Fri-Sat 12:00, 4:40, 7:00 Sun 4:40, 7:00 Mo-Thu 2:25, 7:00
THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL	Fri-Sat 2:20 Sun 9:20 Mo-Thu 4:45, 9:20
LIFE ITSELF	Fri-Sun 12:30, 6:00 Mo 6:00 Tu-Thu 2:00, 4:20
OBVIOUS CHILD	Fri-Sun 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:10, 9:15 Mo-Thu 3:00, 5:00, 7:10, 9:15
SNOWPIERCER	Fri-Mon 3:10, 8:30 Tu-Thu 6:50
VENUS IN FUR	Fri-Sun 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15 Mo-Thu 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

SIZZLE PIE presents Bijou Metro Classic Series:
Monster Blockbusters: ALIENS (1986)

Fri-Sat 9:15, Sun 1:45

Izakaya Meiji Company presents Special Anime screening:
DRAGONBALL Z: BATTLE OF GODS
Tue-Sun Aug 5-9 at 9:30pm

COMING SOON

BOYHOOD	MOOD INDIGO
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MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT	GOD HELP THE GIRL

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THUR AUG 1 - WED AUG 6

JASON BAYEMAN BAD WORDS 3:50 + 7:10*	ENEMY 3:50	REAL MEN DANCE CUBAN FURY 5:25
THE DOUBLE 7:10*	MOONRISE KINGDOM 5:25 + 8:50	UNDER THE SKIN 8:50

*NO SHOW 7/31

TONIGHT JULY 31 • 7:00PM
BLACK & WHITE PARTY



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