

LET'S BE FRANK

Frank may be the most twee film ever made

When I heard author Jon Ronson interviewed on NPR recently about *Frank*, the film based on his book, I was excited. Having seen trailers featuring Michael Fassbender wearing a papier-mâché head, I was tickled to learn from Ronson that the story was inspired by a real person — Frank Sidebottom, the English musician and comedian who led the band The Freshies as the '70s sank into the '80s. With Fassbender and Maggie Gyllenhaal on the roster, how could *Frank* be anything but a delightful whimsical romp?

The film may be “based” on Frank Sidebottom, but only the mask and not the man. Set in the here and now, the vapid-eyed head is a gimmick, a crutch, for a film that ultimately falls flat beneath the weight of indie clichés.

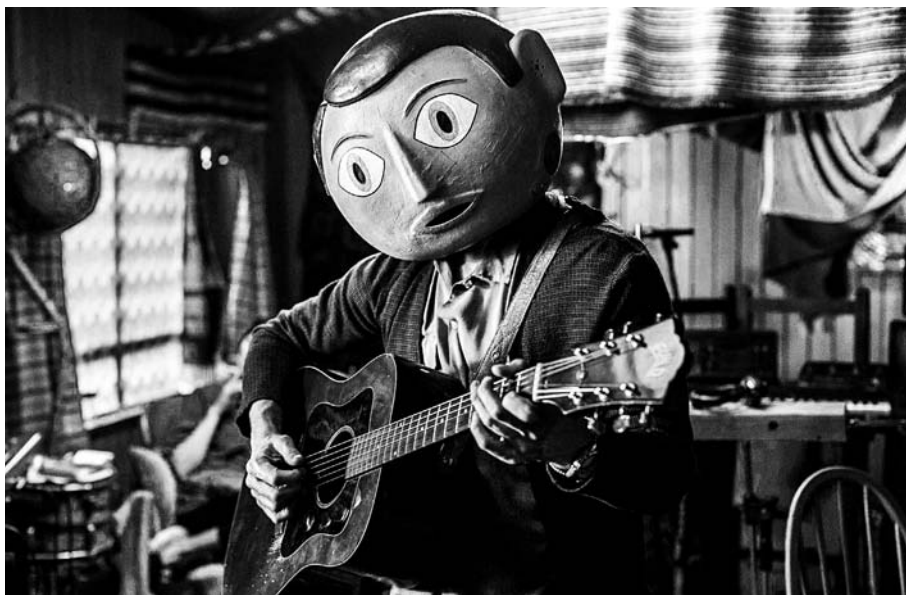
The opening scene does tickle. Jon Burroughs (played by Domhnall Gleeson and yes, that red mop is familiar — he was Bill Weasley in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows*) walks down a Dublin street while the audience is privy to his inner soundtrack — snippets of that elusive breakthrough song the “songwriter” is trying to coax out of his consciousness.

But then the tweets begin — Twitter logo, hashtags and all — as Jon documents his journey as a wannabe musician, and they continue to pop up like distracting gnats throughout the film.

After witnessing a darkly comic suicidal scene at the beach during one of these song sessions, the bumbling Jon falls ass-backwards into the band fronted by Frank, the unpronounceable Soronprfbs (worthy of *one* chuckle), and soon becomes the straight-laced keyboardist among a family of offbeats: the acerbically aggressive theremin

player Clara (Gyllenhaal), the tormented band manager Don (Scoot McNairy), the artsy French bassist Baraque (François Civil) and the aloof drummer Nana (Carla Azar). Eventually, this family will deliver Jon to South by Southwest — his holy grail.

But first, Soronprfbs holes up in a cabin to record an album in the fog-blanketed Irish countryside where Frank is more than a frontman; he is a masked guru, a messiah of creativity whose unconventional methods inspire devotion, envy, madness and lust in the other band



members. Therein lies the problem; director Lenny Abrahamson never fleshes out Frank or the others. The film tells us Frank is great, but it doesn't show us.

Frank's brief music interludes are charming and every shot is beautifully composed; yet self-consciously so, contrived like a hipster album cover. The film never goes past the glossy twee surface. Even in its commentary on the ubiquity of social media and the link between mental illness and art, *Frank* never really takes off its mask. ■

A MOST WANTED MAN

In what would become his final film role, the late Philip Seymour Hoffman inhabits a classic fictional persona, that of the downbeat institutional man. As Günther Bachmann, a career spy heading an anti-terrorism unit in Hamburg, Hoffman — who died in February of a heroin overdose — puts an ingenious modern spin on the existential anti-hero who, against all odds and caught up in a tangle of lies and deceit, tries to do the right thing. As a staunch, debauched and aging spy bitten by failure but driven by fractured hope, his performance is a masterpiece of subtle emotion and thwarted desire, and an unlikely but somehow apt swan song for the greatest actor of his generation. (*Bijou Metro*)

BOYHOOD

Over 12 years of making *Boyhood*, director Richard Linklater filmed his cast for a few days here, a few days there, capturing moments in the childhood of a boy named Mason — played throughout by Ellar Coltrane — and his family. The film flows so neatly from one moment to the next, from childhood bike rides to terrible stepfathers to high school girlfriends to the stumble into adulthood, that it's easy to forget what a risky endeavor the whole thing was. Nearly every scene in *Boyhood* is beautifully true to the moment it depicts, whether that moment involves teenage boys posturing toughness or a dad making his daughter cringe with a talk about condoms. Every year, Linklater and his actors did something beautiful. As a whole, the movie is observational, natural, likable — a ballsy project made life-sized by the mundane. (*Bijou Art Cinemas*)

BIJOU Showtimes
Aug 29-Sep 4
492 E. 13th Ave.
bijou-cinemas.com

BOYHOOD	Fri-Sun 12:50, 4:15, 7:45 Mo-Thu 4:15, 7:45
Woody Allen's MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT	Fri 1:10, 3:30, 6:10 Sat-Sun 1:10, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 Mo, Tu, Th 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 Wed 3:30 Wed 7:00 (\$10/no passes)
FOREVER WILD	Wed 7:00 (\$10/no passes)

Showtimes and info: 541-686-2458
43 W. Broadway
bijou-cinemas.com

A MOST WANTED MAN	2:45, 7:45
FRANK	Fri-Sun 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 Mo-Thu 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
CALVARY	Fri-Sun 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15 Mo-Thu 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15
LAND HO!	Fri-Sun 12:30, 5:30 Mo-Thu 5:30
THE ONE I LOVE	Fri-Sun 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mo-Thu 2:20, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00

Party Downtown presents Bijou Metro Classic Series:
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AS ABOVE, SO BELOW (DIG) (R) 11:50, 2:25, 4:05, 7:50, 10:25	HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY, THE (DIG) (PG) 12:50, 3:45, 7:05, 10:05
CHEF (DIG) (R) 4:45, 10:10	IF I STAY (DIG) (PG-13) 10:55, 1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15
EXPENDABLES 3, THE (DIG) (PG-13) 11:55, 3:35, 7:00, 10:00	INTO THE STORM (DIG) (PG-13) 7:50, 10:20
FRANK MILLER'S SIN CITY DAME TO KILL FOR (3D) (R) 3D PRICING: \$3.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 11:40, 5:10, 10:30	LET'S BE COPS (DIG) (R) 11:25, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25
FRANK MILLER'S SIN CITY DAME TO KILL FOR (DIG) (R) 2:15, 7:45	LUCY (DIG) (R) 11:15, 2:00, 4:55, 7:55, 10:15
GHOSTBUSTERS (1984) (DIG) (PG) 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 9:50	NOVEMBER MAN, THE (DIG) (R) 11:00, 1:40, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05
GIVER, THE (DIG) (PG-13) 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:50	PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE (DIG) (PG) 11:05, 1:50, 7:35
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (3D) (PG-13) 3D PRICING: \$3.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 11:30, 1:00, 4:00, 5:25, 8:50, 10:00	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (3D) (PG-13) 3D PRICING: \$3.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 6:10, 8:45
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (DIG) (PG-13) 2:30, 7:00	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (DIG) (PG-13) 12:45, 3:30, 7:30, 10:10
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 (DIG) (PG) 11:45, 2:20, 5:00	WHEN THE GAME STANDS TALL (DIG) (PG) 12:55, 3:40, 7:10, 9:55

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AND SO IT GOES (DIG) (PG-13) 11:00, 1:25, 7:20	MALEFICENT (PG) 11:00, 1:20, 3:35, 7:25, 9:40
BLENDED (PG-13) 11:25, 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:35	NEIGHBORS (R) 11:30, 2:00, 4:20, 7:30, 10:05
DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG-13) 11:35, 3:45, 7:05, 10:00	RIO 2 (3D) (G) 11:10, 1:40, 4:10
DELIVER US FROM EVIL (2014) (R) 10:55, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10	TAMMY (R) 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:40, 10:15
EDGE OF TOMORROW (PG-13) 11:05, 1:35, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55	TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION (PG-13) 6:55, 10:25
FAULTY IN OUR STARS, THE (PG-13) 10:50, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30	TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION (3D) (PG-13) 3D PRICING: \$2.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 6:55, 10:25
MALEFICENT (3D) (PG) 3D PRICING: \$2.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 4:50, 10:20	X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (PG-13) 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40

*Visit cinemark.com for restrictions that apply.

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IMAX: ISLAND OF LEMURUS: MADAGASCAR 3D (G)
Fri. - Sat. 12:20 PM 2:00 PM

IMAX: GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 3D [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★
Fri. - Sat. 4:25 PM 7:15 PM 10:05 PM

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW [CC, DV] (R)
Fri. - Sat. (12:40) 4:55 7:35 10:00

GHOSTBUSTERS (PG) Fri. - Sat. (1:40 2:15) 5:10 7:45 10:20

NOVEMBER MAN [CC] (R) Fri. - Sat. (1:55 2:35) 5:15 7:50 10:30

IF I STAY [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (2:10) 4:10 7:25 10:10

FRANK MILLER'S SIN CITY DAME TO KILL FOR [CC, DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (1:45 AM) 4:45 PM 10:05 PM

FRANK MILLER'S SIN CITY DAME TO KILL FOR 3D [CC, DV] (R) ★ Fri. - Sat. (2:20 PM) 7:30 PM

WHEN THE GAME STANDS TALL [CC, DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (12:15 3:50) 7:00 9:45

THE GIVER [CC, DV] (NR) Fri. - Sat. (1:30 2:10) 4:35 7:05 9:35

THE EXPENDABLES 3 [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (12:30) 4:05 7:20 10:15

LET'S BE COPS [CC, DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (12:05) 4:30 7:40 10:25

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (1:35 2:05) 4:40 7:10 9:40

HUNDRED FOOT JOURNEY [CC, DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (12:00) 4:00 6:55 9:55

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (1:50 3:55) 6:45 9:35

LUCY [CC, DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (12:25) 4:15 6:50 9:50

CHEF [CC, DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (12:35 3:45) 6:45 9:25

ALBANY 7 Next to Fred Meyer

NOVEMBER MAN [CC] (R) Fri. - Sat. (12:00) 4:30 7:30 10:10

IF I STAY [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (1:30) 4:20 7:10 9:45

WHEN THE GAME STANDS TALL [CC, DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (1:10) 4:00 6:50 9:35

THE GIVER [CC, DV] (NR) Fri. - Sat. (1:00 PM)

THE EXPENDABLES 3 [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (3:30 PM) 6:30 PM 10:00 PM

LET'S BE COPS [CC, DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (1:50) 4:40 7:40 10:15

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (1:35 PM) 6:40 PM

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES 3D [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (4:10 PM) 9:20 PM

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. 7:00 PM

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 3D [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1:00 PM 3:50 PM) 9:55 PM

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FRANK MILLER'S SIN CITY DAME TO KILL FOR [CC, DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. 4:30 PM 10:00 PM

FRANK MILLER'S SIN CITY DAME TO KILL FOR 3D [CC, DV] (R) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1:30 PM) 7:20 PM

THE EXPENDABLES 3 [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (1:00 3:55) 6:50 9:50

LET'S BE COPS [CC, DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (1:15) 4:15 7:00 9:45

BOYHOOD (R) Fri. - Sat. (1:45 PM) 5:15 PM 9:00 PM

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