

OF MOTHERS AND MONSTERS

Australia's *The Babadook* spooks with a tale of motherhood in peril

Who — or, rather, *what* — is the Babadook? And why is it that, once you let the Babadook in, you can never get rid of it?

First and foremost, *The Babadook* is an Australian horror film by writer-director Jennifer Kent, a former actor who apprenticed with Danish filmmaker Lars von Trier during the making of his 2003 film *Dogville* before going on to make her own short film, *Monster*, upon which *The Babadook* is based.

The story, which draws on Victorian horror themes of domestic strife and loss of identity as well as from classic scary movies like *Let the Right One In* and *Rosemary's Baby*, is fairy-tale simple: A struggling single mother, Amelia (the excellent Essie Davis), is losing her grip on life. Seven years ago, her husband was killed while driving her to the hospital while she was in labor. Her son, Samuel (Noah Wiseman), is a precocious but impulsive child with a wild, sometimes violent imagination. As Amelia struggles to make ends meet at her hospice job, Samuel's isolation and unruly behavior further isolate him, turning him into a "problem child" at school.

One night, Samuel grabs a previously unnoticed book from the shelf for his bedtime reading. As Amelia reads from *Mister Babadook*, a sinister threat takes hold of mother and child: The pop-up storybook, about an insidious shadow creature who stalks the darkness, seems to immediately insinuate itself into the fabric of their lonely



ESSIE DAVIS AS AMELIA

lives. *The Babadook* seeks a kind of murderous spiritual possession, a flowering of darkness like some evil Id, as it warns, "The more you deny, the stronger I get."

With *The Babadook*, Kent has created a smart, rich, layered horror film that is at once genuinely spooky and emotionally resonant. She taps a primal vein of parental anxiety — can I protect my child? And, worse, can I protect my child against my own darkest impulses? — and then brilliantly literalizes that fear, turning a kid's fable about a demonic presence into a meditation on self, shame and the way the suppression of our deepest nature can turn us into monsters.

As a besieged mother paralyzed by grief and slipping into insanity, Davis is a marvel; her transformation channels Jack Nicholson's plunge into madness in *The Shining* —

though, unlike Nicholson's comically gruesome Jack Torrance, Amelia remains a sympathetic figure, a symbol of motherhood imperiled. Wiseman is a fine young actor whose portrayal of the fierce confusion of childhood is terrifying and heartbreaking.

More and more these days, horror films have become the domain of objectified violence and funhouse irony, where regurgitated, unsubtle plots do little more than fulfill expectations of easy titillation that explode in bloody chaos or shatter into sophomoric meditations on good and evil. *The Babadook*, however, is the antithesis of genre trash. This is a sophisticated and psychologically astute thriller that burrows under the skin, relying less on shock than on atmosphere, until all hell breaks loose. (*Bijou Metro*)

BIJOU Showtimes
Dec 19 - 25
492 E. 13th Ave.
bijou-cinemas.com

THE HOMESMAN Fri-Sun 12:50, 3:25, 6:05, 8:45
Mo-Wed 3:25, 6:05, 8:45

THEORY OF EVERYTHING Fri-Sun 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00
Mo-Thu 2:40, 5:20, 8:00

THE IMITATION GAME Thu 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30

Showtimes and info: 541-686-2458

BIJOU METRO 43 W. Broadway
bijou-cinemas.com

Ninkasi Brewing presents THE BABADOOK
Fri-Su 12:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:30, 10:00
Mo-Wed 2:50, 4:00, 7:15, 9:30
Thu 12:40, 2:50, 4:00, 7:15, 9:30

BIRDMAN Fri-Sun 12:45, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40
Mo-Wed 3:20, 6:00, 8:40
Thu 12:45, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40

CITIZENFOUR Fri-Sun 12:00, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30
Mo-Thu 1:30, 4:40, 7:30

DEAR WHITE PEOPLE Fri-Sun 2:30, 5:00
Mo-Thu 5:00, 10:00

THE TALE OF PRINCESS KAGUYA Fri-Sun 1:00 (dub), 6:15 (subtitles)
Mo-Thu 1:45 (dub), 6:15 (subtitles)

RARE EXPORTS: A CHRISTMAS TALE Mo-Thu 9:10

Bijou Classic Series presents QUENTIN TARANTINO:
DJANGO UNCHAINED Dec 19-21
NATURAL BORN KILLERS Jan 9-11
FROM DUSK TILL DAWN Jan 16-18
INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS Jan 23-25
KILL BILL: VOLUME I Jan 30-Feb 1
...and many more!

COMING SOON
FORCE MAJEURE PORCO ROSSO
BOYHOOD PONYO
FOXCATCHER OSCAR NOMINATED SHORTS
A GIRL WALKS HOME MR. TURNER
A MOST VIOLENT YEAR LEVIATHAN

REGAL CINEMAS
(CC, DV) = Personal Closed Captioning and Descriptive Devices Available Upon Request
Bargain Shows In () ✓ No Bargain Night Specials
★ Pass / Discount Restrictions Apply

VALLEY RIVER CENTER STADIUM 15
Delta Hwy. between I-5 & Beltline
Crown Club Members \$5.50 Tuesday
3D up-charges/holidays excluded

IMAX: HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES 3D [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. 12:30 3:45 7:00 10:15

ANNIE [CC, DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1100 150) 440 730 1020

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB [CC, DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1145 215) 445 715 955

WILD [CC, DV] Fri. - Sat. (1125 210) 500 745 1025

HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1200 315) 630 945

HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES 3D [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1245 315) 600 915

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1140 305) 640 1000

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS 3D [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1215 335) 710 1030

TOP FIVE [CC, DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (1115 220) 455 725 1010

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 [CC, DV] (R) ★ Fri. - Sat. (205 PM) 735 PM

THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR [CC, DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1110 135) 410 635 910

HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY, PART 1 [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1135 330) 645 940

DUMB AND DUMBER TO [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (1120 AM) 450 PM 1035 PM

BIG HERO 6 [CC, DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (1105 145) 425 705 950

INTERSTELLAR [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (1150 AM 340 PM) 740 PM

GONE GIRL [CC, DV] (R) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1155 310) 625 1005

ALBANY 7 Next to Fred Meyer

ANNIE [CC, DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1215 315) 645 930

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB [CC, DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1235 350) 700 940

HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1200 PM) 1045 PM

HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES 3D [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1130 300) 400 630 720 1000

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1145 AM) 1020 PM

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS 3D [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (330 PM) 700 PM

HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY, PART 1 [CC, DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1245) 420 730 1010

BIG HERO 6 [CC, DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (1225 300) 620 910

9TH ST. CINEMAS 4 541-928-7469
Behind Skippers 9th St
Crown Club Members \$5 Tuesday
3D up-charges/holidays excluded

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB [CC, DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1130 1200 200 235) 430 510 710 740 945

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 [CC, DV] (R) ★ Fri. (120 420) 725 1000
Sat. (120) 420 725 1000

DUMB AND DUMBER TO [CC, DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. 1010 PM

BIRDMAN [CC, DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (100 355) 650 940

Times For 12/19 - 12/20/2014 www.REGmovies.com

Great Harvest Bread Co.

BUY ONE LOAF OF BREAD & GET ONE LOAF OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE
THROUGH 12/24/14 • NOT VALID WITH OTHER OFFERS OR DISCOUNTS

CHRISTMAS SPECIALTY LOAVES
STOLLEN, PANETTONE & CHOCOLATE BABKA

2564 WILLAMETTE ST • 541-345-5398 • EUGENEBREAD.COM

CINEMARK

\$3.50* SENIOR MONDAY

CINEMARK 17
Gateway Mall
Beltline @ Gateway

ANNIE (2014) (DIG) (PG)
10:35, 1:35, 4:25, 7:25, 10:15

BIG HERO 6 (DIG) (PG)
10:45, 1:30, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS (3D) (PG-13)
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
10:10, 1:45, 3:30, 5:15, 8:45, 10:25

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS (DIG) (PG-13)
11:45, 7:00

HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES (3D) (PG-13)
SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00
UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS
10:00, 10:50, 11:40, 1:20, 3:00, 4:40, 5:30, 7:10, 8:50, 9:40, 10:30

HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES (DIG) (PG-13)
12:30, 2:10, 3:50, 6:20, 8:00

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 (DIG) (R)
10:40, 1:25, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10

HUNGER GAMES: THE MOCKINGJAY, PART 1 (DIG) (PG-13)
10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15

INTERSTELLAR (DIG) (PG-13)
11:30, 3:35, 7:35

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB (DIG) (PG)
10:00, 10:30, 11:35, 1:00, 2:15, 3:40, 4:50, 6:25, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20

PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR, THE (DIG) (PG)
10:00, 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

PK (DIG) (NR)
10:55, 3:05, 7:00, 10:25

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING (DIG) (PG-13)
10:05, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05

WILD (DIG) (R)
10:25, 1:10, 3:55, 7:20, 10:10

*Visit cinemark.com for restrictions that apply.

CC Assistive Listening & Captioning System Avail

DAVID METRO THEATER
TIX \$6 | SUN | \$2 | \$2 | MATINEE | \$1 OFF STUDENT
ALL AGES BEFORE 7PM
762-1700 | 180 E. 5TH AVE
DAVIDMETROTHEATER.COM

THUR DEC 18 - WED DEC 24

SKELETON TWINS 5:15

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS 5:15

BEGIN AGAIN 7:05*

MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT 7:05

22 JUMP STREET 8:55*

CHEF 8:55*

*NO SHOW 12/22 • *NO SHOW 12/24

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE ANY AMOUNT