

Summer Movie Guide

Wild Wild West



Rita Escobar (SALMA HAYEK) with Special government agent James West (WILL SMITH).

**OPENS NATIONWIDE
JUNE 30TH**

Movie star Will Smith and acclaimed director Barry Sonnenfeld thrilled audiences with the summer hit 'Men in Black'. Now they're together again for Warner Bros. 'WILD WILD WEST', a fast-paced adventure sparkling with comedy, action and fantasy. Academy Award-honorees Kevin Kline and Kenneth Branagh, as well as the gifted and glamorous Salma Hayek, join Smith in starring roles in a retro epic that

mixes witty science fiction with hip-hop savoir faire - all set against a Western background.

Special government agent James West (Smith), long on charm and wit, and special government agent Artemus Gordon (Kline), a master of disguises and a brilliant inventor of gadgets large and small, are each sent to track down the diabolical genius Dr. Arliss Loveless (Branagh). Loveless is plotting to assassinate the President of the United States with the aid of his monstrously huge walking weapon-transport vehicle

called The Tarantula.

West and Gordon begin as competitors but soon pool their talents to become a wily team of operatives who trust each other...most of the time.

The beautiful and mysterious entertainer Rita Escobar (Hayek) complicates matters for the duo as she insinuates herself into their plans to capture Loveless.

Romance, humor, fantastic weapons and devices and hair-raising confrontations and escapes enliven their adventures as West and Gordon daringly outwit their enemies.

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BY KAM WILLIAMS
CONTRIBUTING REVIEWER

Star Wars: The Phantom Menace

Can you live up to the enormous hype? You can't get away from the unprecedented hoopla. Every magazine cover. Nightly news stories. Losers with no lives camping out at theaters for a month before the opening. Stroke of midnight feeding frenzies for Phantom Menace merchandise. May the sales force be with you. The first movie to have too much promotion. Enough already.

You might not know it, but there are other films being released this summer, over 130 of them. Let's take a look at the rest of the field.

Big Daddy June 25 • French farce where snobs compete to invite the dumbest guest to a dinner party. A premise with promise.

Wild Wild West July 2 • \$100 million remake of the '60's TV series. Will Smith as a federal agent in 1867? Don't laugh, his blockbusters (Men In Black and Independence Day) were also 4th of July weekend releases. Director Barry Sonnenfeld promises, "cool gadgets, cool stunts and girls with lots of cleavage." The cool cash combination.

American Pie July 9 • Comedy about four seniors who make a pact with each other to sleep with girls before the prom. Girls as objects, boys as latents. Originally too explicit, but edited down to a very hot R-rating.

Eyes Wide Shut July 16 • Director Stanley Kubrick's swan-song starring Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman and Leelee Sobieski. Second most anticipated film this year. The hush-hush plotline involves a

pair of sexually-obsessed shrinks. Tom and Nicole cavort naked in the trailer. Correction, she's wearing glasses.

The Blair Witch Project July 16 • Low-budget Shockumentary by three young filmmakers who disappeared from their campsite five days into an investigation of witchcraft in the hills of Maryland. No slashing, shrieking or splattered guts, yet a very creepy air.

Bowfinger July 23 • Eddie Murphy and Steve Martin yuck things up. Funny trailer, buy unfunny premise (ala Ed TV/Truman Show). Sounds like another bomb for these demolition experts.

The Haunting July 23 • Liam Neeson and Catherine Zeta Jones. One of those movies where the set is the star. With walls that grab, slippery spiraled staircases, come-to-life marble gargoyles, and blood-curdling shrieks. Psychologist uses remote, haunted house on hill to conduct an experiment on unsuspecting subjects.

Inspector Gadget July 23 • Action-comedy with Matthew Broderick as a crime-fighting sleuth with gizmos for appendages. Looks very funny.

Outside Providence July 30 • The Farrelly brothers' Rushmoresque follow-up to There's Something About Mary. Comedy about a troubled teen creating major mayhem at a New England boarding school.

Fight Club July 30 • Brad Pitt and Ed Norton start a club to pick fights. Helena Bonham Carter opposite Pitt.

Muppets From Space July 30 • Kermit and Miss Piggy take a planet.

I'm still recovering from The Muppets taking Manhattan.

Runaway Bride July 30 • Julia Roberts and Richard Gere directed again by Garry Marshall. Not exactly a sequel to Pretty Woman. One of those 'Wedding Interruptus' affairs as Roberts dumps her fiancée for investigative reporter, Gere.

Summer of Sam July 30 • Spike Lee's spin on 1977 serial killer, David Berkowitz, aka Son of Sam. With John Leguizamo, Mira Sorvino, Jennifer Esposito and Michael Badalucco, all ending in 'o'. Threatened with NC-17 rating, rumor has steamy Plato's Retreat orgy being edited down to steamy hot dog buns at Nathans.

Deep Blue Sea July 30 • Samuel L. Jackson, Thomas Jane and LL Cool J. Mutant sharks, bio-engineered with big brains for Alzheimer's research, escape. The sharks start hunting for humans, making this a horror flick.

The Iron Giant August 6 • 9 year old discovers 50 ft. tall robot in his yard. The robot is friendly, making this a wholesome family comedy.

White Boys August 6 • Iowa farmboy trying to be black makes transition from Whegro to hardcore gangsta rapper. Just funnin'.

Mystery Men August 6 • Parody of comic book superheroes with stellar cast including Ben Stiller, Jeanne Carofalo, Geoffrey Rush and Greg Kinnear.

Dick August 6 • Nixon and Watergate, from the fiction-

alized perspective of a pair of inadvertent teen accomplices. Pass.

Mr. Accident August 13 • Frightened porcupine Yahoo Serious wrote, directed and stars in a comedy about marketing nicotine-laced eggs to the unsuspecting public. I don't Yahoo.

The Wood August 13 • Taye Diggs, Omar Epps and Richard Jones. West Coast rap underscores the reflections of three hip-hoppers.

Illuminata August 13 • Period piece set in late 19th C., where actress (Susan Sarandon) seduces

struggling playwright (John Turturro). Shakespeare in Love-lite.

Dudley Do-Right August 20 • Brendan Fraser plays another Doofus, with Sarah Jessica Parker as the imperiled Nell.

Blue Streak August 20 • Martin Lawrence, in Nothing to Lose theme plays unlucky jewel thief.

That's The Way I Like It August 27 • '70s disco redux. Adrian Pang as a loser going nowhere in a dead-end job. He wins a disco dance contest, buys a motorcycle and goes everywhere in a dead-end.

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