

Opening This Week — Weekly Movie Previews

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Django Unchained (R for profanity, nudity, ethnic slurs and graphic violence) Jamie Foxx stars as the title character in Quentin Tarantino's revenge-tinged Western about a slave-turned-bounty hunter's search for his wife and slave owners with



Jamie Foxx stars as Django

whom he wants to settle a score. Cast includes Christoph Waltz, Kerry Washington, Leonardo DiCaprio and Samuel L. Jackson.

Les Misérables (PG-13 for violence, mature themes and suggestive material) Musical drama, set in Paris in the wake of the French Revolution, revolving around a ruthless policeman's (Russell Crowe) relentless pursuit of an ex-con (Hugh Jackman) wanted for a parole violation after serving 19 years for the theft of a loaf of bread. With Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Eddie Redmayne, Helena Bonham Carter and Sacha Baron Cohen.

Parental Guidance (PG-13 for rude humor) Generation-skipping comedy about a couple of old-fashioned grandparents (Billy Crystal and Bette Midler) who meet their match babysitting three grandkids (Bailee Madison, Joshua Rush and Kyle Harrison) whose helicopter parents (Marisa Tomei and Tom Everett Scott) are away on business. With Tony Hawk, Gedde Watanabe and Steve Levy.

Promised Land (R for profanity) Tale of

corporate corruption about a gas company advance team (Matt Damon and Frances McDormand) that downplays the ecological risks while duping small town property owners into leasing their drilling rights. Supporting cast includes Hal Holbrook, Rosemarie DeWitt and John Krasinski.



KAM'S CAPSULES

Movie Reviews by Kam Williams

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

Allegiance (R for pervasive profanity) Stop-loss drama about a National Guard Lieutenant (Seth Gabel) torn between his loyalty to the military and a member of his unit (Bow Wow) who went to care for a son with terminal cancer AWOL rather than redeploy to Iraq. With Aidan Quinn, Reshma Shetty and Malik Yoba.

Quartet (Unrated) Dustin Hoffman directs this musical drama set at a home for retired opera singers where plans for the annual concert celebrating Verdi's birthday are disrupted by the arrival of a pampered diva (Maggie Smith). Featuring Michael Gambon, Billy Connolly and Sheridan Smith.

Tabu (Unrated) Flashback flick about an ailing octogenarian (Laura Soveral) in Lisbon who becomes desperate on her deathbed to contact the ex-lover (Henrique Espirito Santo) from Mozambique with whom she'd shared an illicit affair many years earlier. With Teresa Madruga, Isabel Munoz Cardoso, Ana Moreira and Carloto Cotta. (In Portuguese with subtitles)

West of Memphis (R for profanity and disturbing violence) Justice-delayed documentary about a trio of Arkansas teenagers convicted of a triple murder they didn't commit who spent 18 years in prison before finally being freed recently with the help of DNA evidence. With commentary by Henry Rollins and Eddie Vedder.

Rush

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a restaurant. However, one hazard of the job for her is having to fend off the sleazy overtures of fellow messenger, Manny (Wole Parks), and of their equally-flirtatious dispatcher, Raj (Aasif Mandvi).

Nonetheless, this picture is more about action than romance, and the fun starts soon after Wilee accepts an assignment to transport an envelope designated "Premium Rush" from his alma mater to Chinatown. But before he even has a chance to leave campus, a gentleman (Michael Shannon) identifying himself as the Dean of Students asks permission to take possession of the parcel.

Wilee's suspicion is aroused when Dean Ackerman inexplicably goes ballistic when denied. And that concern escalates to fear when the guy starts frothing at the mouth and gives chase by auto, running lights and driving against traffic.

The plot thickens further when the pedal-pushing protagonist stops at the police station to report the attempted theft. There, he discovers that he's on his own because Ackerman, lo and behold, is ostensibly a crooked police officer with a hidden agenda and a pecuniary interest in hijacking the package.

Like a compelling cross of *Crank* (2006) and *16 Blocks* (2006), *Premium Rush* unfolds at a breakneck pace that doesn't give you a chance to pause and wonder whether what you're watching is even credible. But nothing else matters when such an urgent roller coaster ride, or should I say bike ride, manages to keep you on the edge of your seat for its dizzying duration.



The Big Apple is the congested setting for a Tour de Gridlock

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated PG-13 for violence, ethnic slurs and profanity.

In English and Mandarin with subtitles.

Running time: 91 minutes

Distributor: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment

DVD Extras: The Starting Line: Meet the Cast; and Behind the Wheels: Action, Stunts and Chases.

4 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE

BEST ACTOR HUGH JACKMAN BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS ANNE HATHAWAY BEST ORIGINAL SONG "SUDDENLY"

Rolling Stone
"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR."
Peter Travers

VOGUE
"A SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENT."
Adam Green

ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR INCLUDING ROLLING STONE - NEW YORK POST THE HUFFINGTON POST

11 CRITICS' CHOICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE BEST DIRECTOR - BEST ACTOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

4 SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST ENSEMBLE BEST ACTOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

HUGH JACKMAN RUSSELL CROWE ANNE HATHAWAY AMANDA SEYFRIED

Les Misérables
THE MUSICAL PHENOMENON

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