

Arts & Entertainment

Kam's Kapsules: Movies Opening Friday, Jan. 29, 2016

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Fifty Shades of Black (R for crude sexuality, graphic nudity, coarse humor and pervasive profanity) Salacious spoof of *Fifty Shades of Grey* featuring Marlon Wayans as a kinky tycoon who seduces a naive college student (Kali Hawk) into a sordid, sadomasochistic relationship. With Jane Seymour, Mike Epps and Fred Willard.

The Finest Hours (PG-13 for intense peril) Seafaring tale of survival, set off the coast of Cape Cod in 1952, recounting the real-life ordeal of the crew of an oil tanker taking on water during one of the worst nor'easters ever to hit New England. Ensemble includes Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Ben Foster and Eric Bana.

Kung Fu Panda 3 (PG for action and mild rude humor) Latest installment in the animated franchise finds Po (Jack Black) joining forces with his long-lost father (Bryan Cranston) for an adventure aimed at preventing a supernatural



Kam Williams

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warrior (J.K. Simmons) from draining thousands of their powers. Voice cast includes Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie, Jackie Chan, Lucy Liu, Seth Rogen and Kate Hudson.

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

Everybody's Fine (Unrated) Bittersweet character study, set in Beijing, revolving around a recently-widowed retiree (Guoli Zhang) who is agonizing over his four children's (He Chen, Chen Yao, Shawn Duo and Ye Qianyun) failure to return home for the family's annual summer reunion. (In Mandarin with subtitles)

Jane Got a Gun (R for violence and some profanity) Natalie Portman portrays the title character in this Western, set on ranch in New



Still of Marlon Wayans, Mike Epps and Kali Hawk in *Fifty Shades of Black* (2016)

Mexico, about a woman who enlists the help of an ex (Joel Edgerton) in defending her family from the gang of outlaws that just ambushed her bullet-riddled husband (Noah Emmerich). With Ewan McGregor, Rodrigo Santoro and Boyd Holbrook.

Lazer Team (PG-13 for profanity, partying, sexuality, action, violence and teen smoking) Sci-fi comedy about four losers (Burnie Burns, Mi-

chael Jones, Gavin Free and Colton Dunn) called upon to save the planet

during an invasion by aliens from outer space. Support cast includes

Alan Ritchson, Irina Voronina and Alexandria DeBerry.

Rabin, the Last Day (Unrated) Assassination reenactment chronicling the final hours in the life of ill-fated, Israeli Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin. Co-starring Yitzhak Hizkiya, Pini Mittelman, Tomer Sisley, Ronen Keinan and Yogev Yefet.

Requiem for the American Dream (Unrated) Cautionary documentary featuring firebrand Noam Chomsky in which the MIT Professor bemoans the demise of the middle-class while reminding the masses that they're the only hope of restoring a functioning democracy.

Tracy Morgan: Back from the Edge and Returning to Stand-up

Former '30 Rock,' 'SNL' star talks about his first tour after a gruesome 2014 accident that killed a friend and nearly cost him his life

By Frazier Moore
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — A gruesome highway accident followed by months of pain and rehab. That's no laughing matter.

Not unless you're comedian Tracy Morgan, who's mining this ordeal for laughs with his "Picking Up the Pieces" stand-up tour. After its current warm-up phase, the tour officially launches Feb. 5 at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Indiana, and continues through May. Among other dates, he will perform three shows in New Jersey, including a New Brunswick theater about 20 miles from where the accident occurred.

"I'm in a good place in my life," says Morgan during a recent phone conversation. "When I first got back on the stage, I had to work on my confi-



PHOTO BY JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP FILE

In this Sept. 20, 2015, file photo, Tracy Morgan poses in the press room at the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. Morgan will officially launch his "Picking Up the Pieces" standup tour Feb. 5, 2016, at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Ind., continuing through May.

his first public appearance since the accident, Morgan sat clutching a

“You use things that happen in your life that weren't funny — tragedy turned inside out. If you don't laugh about it, you'll cry about it. And I'm tired of crying

dence. But I wasn't scared. I wasn't nervous. I was excited!"

It was June 7, 2014, when a Walmart truck slammed into the limousine Morgan was riding in. The crash killed a close friend and fellow comedian, and left Morgan with broken bones and brain damage. He was in a coma for two weeks.

"I was basically knocking on The Door," he says, but adds with undisguised gratitude, "I came back. That's the spirit moving me."

That was plenty impressive. But still it held no promise that Morgan, who has long scored laughs in concert, on "30 Rock" and "Saturday Night Live," would ever be able to perform again.

On the "Today" show last June, in

cane and, with a tear streaking down his cheek, acknowledged he wasn't "100 percent yet."

"When I'm there, you'll know it," he said. "I'll get back to making you laugh, I promise you."

He made good on that promise three months later with a surprise appearance on the Emmy telecast.

By then he had made good on a promise to himself to wed his fiancée, Megan Wollover, on his own terms: walking her down the aisle with no cane.

Then, in October, he returned triumphantly as guest host of "SNL," where he had been a cast member from 1996 to 2003.

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JOSEPH BROLIN GEORGE CLOONEY ALDEN EHRENREICH RALPH FIENNES JONAH HILL SCARLETT JOHANSSON FRANCES MCDORMAND TILDA SWINTON CHANNING TATUM

— WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOEL & ETHAN COEN —

HAIL, CAESAR!

LIGHTS. CAMERA. ABDUCTION.

PG-13

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STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES