

**Arts & Entertainment**

**Kam's Kapsules: Movies Opening Friday, Feb. 23**

**BIG BUDGET FILMS**

**Annihilation** (R for violence, profanity, sexuality and bloody images) Sci-fi thriller based on Jeff VanderMeer's best seller of the same name about a biologist (Natalie Portman) who volunteers to lead a secret mission into the same environmental disaster area where her husband (Oscar Issac) has disappeared. With Tessa Thompson, Gina Rodriguez and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

**Every Day** (PG-13 for profanity, underage drinking, suggestive material and mature themes) Adaptation of David Levithan's NY Times best seller about a 16-year-old girl (Angourie Rice) who falls in love with a ghost that inhabits a different body every day. Supporting cast includes Debby Ryan, Maria Bello and Justice Smith.

**Game Night** (R for profanity, sexuality and violence) Crime comedy revolving around a couple (Jason Bateman and Rachel McAdams) that invites some friends to play a murder mystery, only to have the party turn into a real-life whodun-



Kam Williams  
*Kam's Kapsules Movie Reviews*

it when the husband's brother (Kyle Chandler) gets kidnapped by what were supposed to be fake thugs. With Sharon Horgan, Billy Magnussen, Lamorne Harris, Camille Chen and Kylie Bunbury.

**INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS**

**Curvature** (Unrated) Sci-fi thriller about a scientist (Lyndsy Fonseca) who travels back in time after a mysterious phone call in order to stop herself from committing a murder. With Linda Hamilton, Glenn Morshower and Noah Bean.

**Did You Wonder Who Fired the Gun?** (Unrated) Justice delayed documentary investigating the events surrounding the 1946 killing of a Black man in an Alabama convenience store by the owner, the director's great-grandfather, a Ku Klux Klansman.

**Half Magic** (R for frontal nudity, profanity,

graphic sexuality and drug use) Heather Graham wrote, directed and stars in this battle-of-the-sexes comedy revolving around three BFFs' (Graham, Angela Kinsey and Stephanie Beatriz) dating and work woes. With Molly Shannon, Johnny Knoxville and Thomas Lennon.

**Hannah** (Unrated) Charlotte Rampling plays the title character in this intimate portrait of a housekeeper drifting between denial and reality in the wake of her husband's (Andre Wilms) being sent up the river. Featuring Stephanie Van Vyve, Simon Bisschop and Jessica Fanhan. (In French and English with subtitles)

**Hichki** (Unrated) Bollywood coming-of-age drama about a young woman (Rani Mukerji) with Tourette syndrome who turns her weakness into a strength en route to landing a teaching position at an elite prep school. With Supriya Pilgaonkar and Ivan Rodrigues. (In Hindi with subtitles)

**Mute** (Unrated) Futuristic sci-fi, set in Berlin in the 2050s, chron-



'Game Night'

icling a mute bartender's (Alexander Skarsgard) desperate search for his missing girlfriend with the help of a couple of U.S. Army surgeons (Paul Rudd and Justin Theroux) on a mission of

their own. Support cast includes Seyneb Saleh, Robert Sheehan and Noel Clarke.

**Survivors' Guide to Prison** (Unrated) Incarceration documentary

with practical tips for felons preparing for a stint behind bars. Featuring commentary by Danny Trejo, RZA, Ice-T, Susan Sarandon, Russell Simmons, Busta Rhymes and Q-Tip.

**FILM REVIEW:  
Chadwick Boseman Rises to the Occasion as 'Black Panther'**



'Black Panther'

By Kam Williams  
For The Skanner News

Chadwick Boseman has already made quite a career out of portraying a variety of prominent African Americans, from football star Floyd Little ("The Express"), to baseball great Jackie Robinson ("42"), to Godfather of Soul James Brown ("Get on Up") to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall ("Marshall"). The versatile actor's efforts have been appreciated by the NAACP which has seen fit to nominate him for five Image Awards.

Although Black Panther is a fictional character, the role is ostensibly of no less significance than the historical figures Chadwick has played in the past. That's because black kids have rarely had a superhero that looks like them to root for, even in Africa, where the Lord of the Jungle, Tarzan, was white, too.

Consequently, advance ticket sales for this Afrocentric origins tale have been through the roof, and I'm happy to report that audiences will not be disappointed. For, the film not only features a dignified protagonist and a socially-relevant plotline, but it's also a worthy addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise.

The picture was directed by Ryan Coogler ("Creed") who made the most of his \$200 million budget, between visually-captivating special effects and an A-list cast which includes Acade-

my Award-winners Forest Whitaker (for The Last King of Scotland) and Lupita Nyong'o (for 12 Years a Slave), Oscar-nominee Angela Bassett (for What's Love Got to Do with It), as well as Michael B. Jordan, Daniel Kaluuya and Sterling K. Brown.

At the point of departure, we learn that in ancient times the five tribes of Africa went to war over vibranium, a meteorite which imbues its holder with superhuman powers. Fast-forward to the present and we find T'Challa (Boseman) being summoned home to the fictional nation of Wakanda to assume the reins of power in the wake of the passing of his father, King T'Chaka (John Kani).

Complicating matters is the fact that a number of other warriors covet the throne and that a South African arms smuggler (Andy Serkis) is trying to get his hands on some vibranium. Not to worry. T'Challa has a capable CIA agent (Martin Freeman) and a trio of loyal females on his side in his 16 year-old sister (Letitia Wright), his ex-girlfriend (Nyong'o) and a two-fisted bodyguard (Danai Gurira).

What ensues is an edge of the seat roller coaster ride every bit as entertaining as any "Spider-Man," "Wonder Woman" or other superhero adventure. Simply 'Marvel'-ous!

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated PG-13 for pervasive violent action sequences and a rude gesture



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