

Arts & Entertainment

Kam’s Kapsules: Movies Opening Friday, Dec. 21

WIDE RELEASES

Aquaman (PG-13 for action, violence and some profanity) Jason Momoa stars as the legendary DC character in this origins tale which finds the reluctant superhero forced to face his destiny as king of Atlantis in order to defend the underwater kingdom and the rest of the planet from his power-hungry half-brother (Patrick Wilsson). With Amber Heard, Willem Dafoe, Dolph Lundgren, Djimon Hounsou and Nicole Kidman.

Ben Is Back (R for drug use and pervasive profanity) Lucas Hedges plays the title character in this coming-of-age drama about a troubled teen



Kam Williams
Kam’s Kapsules Movie Reviews

who arrives home unexpectedly on Christmas Eve after running away from a drug treatment center. With Julia Roberts, Courtney B. Vance and Kathryn Newton.

Bumblebee (PG-13 for action and violence) Spinoff of the Transformers franchise revolving around the adventures of a young autobot (Dylan O’Brien) resuscitated by an 18 year-old (Hailee Steinfeld) after being found



‘Mary Poppins’

Augustana Lutheran Church
welcomes you
CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight Carol Services
“Stir Us Up, O Prince of Peace”
7 pm **Jazz/Gospel**
9 pm **Gospel/Jazz**
11 pm **Pipe Organ, Choir**
CHRISTMAS DAY Worship 9:30 am
A multicultural, multinational,
welcoming and affirming church
Rev. W.J. “Mark” Knutson
NE 15th & Knott 503-288-6174
www.augustana.org





SHOWTIMES

Week of
Friday, Dec. 21 through
Thursday, Dec. 27

MIRAI (MIRAI NO MIRAI) (PG) Fri-Thu: 4:50 INSTANT FAMILY (PG-13) Fri-Sun,Wed-Thu: 11:50, 7:00 Mon: 11:50 / Tue: 7:00 WIDOWS (R) Fri-Sun,Wed-Thu: 2:10, 9:00 / Mon: 2:10 Tue: 9:00 BOY ERASED (R) Fri-Sun,Wed-Thu: 11:35, 7:15 Mon: 11:35 / Tue: 7:15 THE NUTCRACKER FOUR REALMS (PG) Fri-Mon,Wed-Thu: 12:00	CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME? (R) Fri-Sun,Wed-Thu: 2:00, 9:40 Mon: 2:00 / Tue: 9:40 FIRST MAN (PG-13) Fri-Thu: 4:20 ELF (PG) Fri-Sun,Tue-Thu: 4:35, 9:30 / Mon: 4:35 HOME ALONE (PG) Fri-Sun,Wed-Thu: 2:20, 6:45 Mon: 2:20 / Tue: 6:45 \$4 adults, \$3 seniors (65+), \$3 kids (12-)
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7818 SE Stark St, Portland, OR 97215
503-252-1707 • AcademyTheaterPdx.com
Babysitting: Children 2 to 8 years old. Fri: shows starting between 3:30 pm and 8 pm. Sat - Sun: shows starting between 1 pm and 8 pm. \$9.50 per child for the length of the movie. Call to reserve a spot, no drop ins.



‘Bumblebee’

in a junkyard along the California coast. Cast includes John Cena, Angela Bassett, Len Cariou and Justin Theroux.

The Favourite (R for profanity, nudity and graphic sexuality) Olivia Colman portrays Queen Anne (1665-1714) in this biopic revolving around the bitter battle between the Duchess of Marlborough (Rachel Weisz) and a servant (Emma Stone) for the frail monarch’s friendship and affections. With Emma Delves, Faye Daveney and Paul Swaine.

Mary Poppins Returns (PG for mature themes and brief action) Emily Blunt assumes the title role in this musical sequel which finds the magical nanny reunited with the now-grown Michael (Ben Whishaw) and Jane Banks (Emily Mortimer) in the wake of a family tragedy. With Lin-Manuel Miranda, Colin Firth and Meryl Streep.

Second Act (PG-13 for

profanity and crude sexual references) Fish-out-of-water comedy about a 40 year-old sales clerk (Jennifer Lopez) who lands a dream job she isn’t qualified for with help of a doctored resume. Cast includes Milo Ventimiglia, Vanessa Hudgens and Charlyne Yi.

Welcome to Marwen (PG-13 for violence, profanity, mature themes, disturbing images and suggestive content) Fact-based drama about a transvestite (Steve Carell) left with amnesia after a violent, bias attack who tries to recover his memory by building a miniature World War

II village in his backyard. Support cast includes Janelle Monae, Leslie Mann, Diane Kruger and Eiza Gonzalez. (In English, French and German with subtitles)

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

Cold War (R for sexuality, nudity and profanity) Romance drama, set behind the Iron Curtain in the 1950s,chronicling the unlikely relationship of a celebrated musical director (Tomasz Kot) and an aspiring, young singer (Joanna Kulig) from a humble background. With Borys Szyc, Agata Kulesza and Cedric Kahn. (In Polish, French,

Russian, German, Italian and Croatian)

Swing Kids (Unrated) Musical drama, set at an American POW camp during the Korean War, revolving around a rebellious prisoner (Oh Jung-Se) who forms a tap dancing team with the help of a guard (Jared Grimes) who once worked on Broadway. Cast includes Ross Kettle, Hye-soo Park and Matthew Darcy. (In Korean with subtitles)

They Shall Not Grow Old (R for graphic images) World War I documentary, directed by Peter Jackson, featuring unseen footage and commemorating the centennial of the conflict.

FILM REVIEW: Barry Jenkins Directs Faithful Adaptation of ‘If Beale Street Could Talk’

by Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

In 1974, James Baldwin published “If Beale Street Could Talk,” a love story, set in Harlem, about a beleaguered Black couple’s pursuit of the elusive American Dream. Many critics consider the heartrending novel Baldwin’s best work, perhaps because of the way in which it humanizes an array of African American characters ordinarily marginalized and relegated to the shadows of society.

Now, Barry Jenkins, director of 2017’s Oscar-winning Best Picture, “Moonlight,” has brought a faithful adaptation of the revered classic to the big screen. The poignant coming-of-age tale co-stars Kiki Layne as 19 year-old Tish Rivers and Stephan James as her 23-year-old fiance, Fonny Hunt.

At the point of departure, the star-crossed lovers are already behind the proverbial 8-ball. Narrator Tish informs us that her beau, an aspiring sculptor, has recently been arrested for rape. Then, during a jailhouse visit, she



‘If Beale Street Could Talk’

lets him know through the frustrating glass partition that he’s going to be a father.

Fonny takes the news of the pregnancy in stride, which is more than can be said for his family, especially his disapproving mother (Aunjanue Ellis) and sisters (Dominique Thorn and Ebony Obsidian). Fortunately, Tish’s feisty mom, Sharon (Regina King), is up to the challenge of getting everybody to stop pointing fingers self-righteously in favor of focusing on the blessing of a baby that’s coming.

Meanwhile, Fonny’s impending trial looms large. For, despite an airtight alibi, he was ostensibly framed by a racist

See BEALE on page 7