

MOVIE REVIEW



AP Photo/Niko Tavernise

This image released by Lionsgate shows Keanu Reeves in a scene from "John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum."

In 'Parabellum,' John Wick is on the run again

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

Movies can be blessedly simple. As the first "John Wick" showed, all you really need is a car, a gun, a dead dog and Keanu Reeves. Who needs "kiss kiss" when you've got plenty of "bang bang"?

Alas, nothing in today's movie-land stays minor-key. Chad Stahelski's "John Wick" has quickly spouted into a three-and-counting series, the latest of which is "John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum." What was once a taut, minimalist action movie with an appeal predicated on low-expectations and leanness has grown into a franchise with a typically overcooked subtitle and de rigueur world-building (the film's press notes reference "the Wickian universe").

"Parabellum" finds Stahelski, Reeves' former stunt double who has directed all three films, moving further beyond Wick's hardboiled origins and into a more extravagant action thriller. In its ever-expanding fictional realm, "Parabellum" isn't so dissimilar from a

superhero movie, only one with way more blood, a much higher body count and, yes, righteously better action scenes.

It starts right where we left off with Reeves' uber-hitman. He's on the run in New York having violated the fiercely enforced rules of the High Table, an international assassin's guild that sets combat protocol for a vast criminal netherworld, including that no "business" should be conducted in the Continental, the Manhattan hotel presided over with panache by its manager, Winston (Ian McShane).

Ruthless as the world of John Wick is, it's a rigidly ordered one, full of slavish fidelity to a warrior code that's part samurai, part magician. There's a \$14 million bounty on Wick's head, just posted by the High Table, which has begun a soon-to-conclude countdown to make Wick "excommunicado." For every other bounty hunter, it's open season on John Wick. And in these films, one lurks down every alley; the ratio of regular person to hitman is, like, 2-to-1.

From the get-go, the visual landscape of "Parabellum" — a nighttime New York downpour with dashes of neon all around — is vivid, nearly turning Times Square into Hong Kong. With little time to go, Wick heads to where all hitmen go in times of need: the library. Beginning with the Rose Main Reading Room at the New York Public Library (where Wick, wielding a tome pulled from the stacks, fights a giant played by 76ers backup center Boban Marjanovic), "Parabellum" excels in its New York locations. Cinematography Dan Laustsen ("The Shape of Water") and production designer Kevin Kavanaugh ("The Dark Knight Rises") are the movie's most potent weapons.

With pursuers all around, Wick stealthily seeks out old associates for help, including Anjelica Huston, as a kind of ballet-and-wrestling instructor, and Halle Berry, who has a fiefdom in Casablanca and a few lethal dogs that severely test the bounds of "good boy." He appeals to them on the basis of old bonds that, he hopes, super-

sede the decrees of the High Table.

Along with returning co-stars Laurence Fishburne, Lance Reddick and McShane, "Parabellum" is well-stocked in top-flight character actors. No movie that includes Fishburne bellying "I am the Bowery!" isn't without its acting pleasures — including Reeves, himself, who has found in Wick a comfortable match for his spare style and powerfully still physical presence. Also added to the mix here is Asia Kate Dillon ("Billions"), as the Adjudicator, sent to arbitrate violators of the High Table's code.

"John Wick 3," a Lionsgate release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for pervasive strong violence, and some language. Running time: 131 minutes. Three stars out of four.

MPAA definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

DEAR ABBY

Serious girlfriend is surprised to learn man is still married

Dear Abby: I am currently dating someone, and although it hasn't been that long, so far everything has been great. We each have two children from previous relationships. We have discussed the topic of marriage, having a child of our own and have even considered adoption.

One day he told me he wanted to tell me something. He ended up saying that before going into the military years ago, he "had" to marry his ex. Problem is, although they have lived apart



JEANNE PHILLIPS
ADVICE

for three years, she isn't his ex. They are still married. He said they have no interest in being together and have both moved on. When I asked when he plans to divorce her, he said he hasn't had the financial capability to do so. I don't know how to take this news. Any advice? — **Thrown in Nevada**

Dear Thrown: You need more information. Has this man been supporting his ex all this time, or is she self-supporting? Who is supporting the children? How much money does he think he will owe her if they divorce?

I'm not familiar with the divorce laws in Nevada, but an attorney who is licensed to practice there will be. It would be very much worth your while to make an appointment with one to discuss what your boyfriend has told you. You should do it before becoming any more involved with him.

Dear Abby: I'm writing in the hope you'll print my letter and, with your response, raise awareness about male breast cancer. A male family member was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, and in addition to the issues everyone recently diagnosed with cancer goes through, there are

additional issues causing stress.

Because male breast cancer is so rare, all the pamphlets and information are aimed at women. As a result, my relative feels very alone. Besides family, he doesn't want anyone, including members of his church, to know his diagnosis because he's afraid of what they will think. Encouragement such as telling him his friends can offer additional support and prayers has gone nowhere so far.

Abby, can you share with your readers some information and resources for men with breast cancer? We would be very grateful. — **Caring Family Member**

Dear Caring: There is information about breast cancer in men online. If your relative will visit cancer.org and search on male breast cancer, he will discover an abundance of information on the subject. For suggestions about support groups, he should call the American Cancer Society's helpline: 800-227-2345. Your family member is not alone. I wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Dear Abby: I work two jobs and took time off from my second job so I could watch my four grandchildren for a week when their parents had to go out of state. They did call the 14-year-old daily, but never once called or spoke to me during that time. Am I being cranky or is that disrespectful? — **Feeling Like Dirt**

Dear Feeling Like Dirt: I don't blame you for being miffed. It was thoughtless and ungracious of them not to ask to speak with you for a minute. However, if they didn't respect you, I'm sure they wouldn't have left their precious children in your care.

WHAT TO DO

FESTIVALS

"Hermiston Art Festival"

•Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

•Downtown Hermiston
www.facebook.com/hermistondowntown

Free admission. A celebration of the arts, featuring a juried show and sale, art activities and musical entertainment.

A.C.E. Car Show & Downtown Activities

•Saturday, May 25; 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.

•Downtown Echo
www.facebook.com

Free. Features nearly two dozen vehicle classes (registration begins at 9 a.m.; show from noon-4 p.m., with awards) Event also feature firemen's breakfast, volleyball tournament, vendor booths, concession fundraisers for sports teams, and The Wasteland Kings dinner & concert (6 p.m., \$35).

The Mini CROC

•Saturday, May 25; 8 a.m.

•Begins at Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, Mission

www.cyclependleton.com

\$60. Pendleton On Wheels presents a one-day Century Ride of the Centuries supported ride (44-mile, 78-mile or 100-mile) to Cabbage Hill and beyond. Registration includes evening dinner/social event at OMG! Burgers & Brews, Pendleton. (info@cyclependleton.com).

"PEO Garden Tour"

•Saturday, June 8; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

•Six gardens in the Hermiston area

\$15. View gardens at 6 locations. Tour brochure includes information about the gardens. Tickets can be purchased at Cottage Flowers and Kopacz Nursery, both in Hermiston. (541-667-3690).

ART, MUSEUMS & AUTHORS

Pendleton Underground "Comes to Life"

•Saturday, May 18; 9:15 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

•Pendleton Underground Tours, 31 S.W. Emigrant Ave.
www.pendletonunderground-tours.org

tours.org

\$50/21-and-older. Reservations required for 2-hour tours that feature live actors in the Pendleton Underground. (541-276-0730).

Meet the Authors Day

•Saturday, May 18; 10 a.m.

•Heritage Station Museum, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton
www.heritagestationmuseum.org

Free. Features a handful of local and regional authors, including Susan Badger Doyle, Bette Lynch Husted, Peg Willis and Stu Campbell. Others may be added. Museum store carries many of their publications.

"Inspired By The Collection"

•Monday-Thursdays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday-Saturdays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

•Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave.
www.pendletonlibrary.weebly.com

Free. Exhibit features 12 local artists drawing inspiration from items in library's collection. Runs through June 27.

"Dream Oregon"

•Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

•Joseph Center for Arts and Culture, 403 N. Main St., Joseph
www.josephy.org

Free. Curated by Anna Vogel, provides a visual tour of Oregon through photography, painting, sculpture and illustration. "Dream Oregon" book available for \$15. Runs through June 18.

"Open Regional Exhibit"

•Tuesday-Fridays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.

•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
www.pendletonarts.org

Free. Features works of adults and teenagers. Gallery visitors may vote for Jacqueline Brown People's Choice Award. Runs through May 25.

"BMCC Student Art Show"

•Monday-Thursdays; 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

•Betty Feves Memorial Gal-

lery, BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.

www.bluecc.edu

Free. Visitors can vote for people's choice award. Gallery also open by appointment by calling 541-278-5952. Runs through May 30.

"Different Places in Her Heart"

•Monday-Saturdays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., regular hours

•Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
www.tamastlikt.org

\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths. Features the artwork of Ellen Taylor. Exhibit runs through June 15.

MUSIC

Terry Robb

•Saturday, May 18; 7 p.m.

•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton

No cover. All ages. Award-winning blues guitarist.

The Machine

•Saturday, May 18; 8 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

Chance Hayden Trio

•Thursday, May 23; 7 p.m.

•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton

No cover. All ages. Portland group brings lively jazz-funk and soul.

Sam Densmore

•Thursday, May 23; 7-9 p.m.

•40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton

No cover. Oregon folk rocker recently released single "Damn the Consequences" from his upcoming EP "Black Velvet Unicorn."

Notorious 253

•Friday, May 24; Saturday, May 25; 8 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

Chris Baron

•Thursday, May 30; 7-9 p.m.

•40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton

No cover. The Portland-based

singer-songwriter performs alternative and folk rock.

Raucous

•Friday, May 31; Saturday, June 1; 8 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

NIGHT LIFE

Wine Tasting Event

•Saturday, May 18; 6-8 p.m.

•Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, 565 W. Hermiston Ave.

\$15. Feature a variety of wines, hearty appetizers and entrees. Benefits Catholic Daughters Scholarship Fund. (Kristi Smalley, 541-571-0997).

Saturday Night Trivia

•Saturdays; 9 p.m.

•Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston

Free. Show what you know for fun and prizes.

THEATER, STAGE, FILM & LECTURES

Sensory Friendly Movie

•Saturday, May 18; 10:30 a.m.

•Hermiston Stadium 8 Cinema, 355 W. Theater Lane
www.facebook.com/arcofumatillacounty

\$5.50. In conjunction with The Arc Umatilla County, sensory-friendly screening of "Pokemon: Detective Pikachu" with lights up a little and volume down.

"Toy Story"

•Saturday, May 18; 2:15 p.m.

•SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman
www.visitsage.com

\$3/person, includes popcorn. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Concessions available with cash purchase.

"Private Lives"

•May 18-19; 7:30 p.m.

•May 19; 2 p.m.

•BMCC Bob Clapp Theatre, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton
www.cctpendleton.com

\$15/adults, \$10/students. The College Community Theatre production features Noel Coward's comedy. With passion, laughter, romance, anger and love, it sets the stage for a battle of the sexes.

(541-278-5953).

"Almost, Maine"

•May 18; 7 p.m., closing night

•Hermiston High School auditorium, 600 S. First St.

\$5/adults, \$4/senior citizens, \$2/students. HHS production weaves together a series of short plays as the romantic comedy explores love and relationships. Due to mature content, show is recommended for ages 12-and-older.

HOT TICKETS

Wildhorse concerts: Paquita la del Barrio (July 26, \$49-\$139) at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Tickets for the 21-and-older shows via Wildhorse Gift Shop or www.wildhorseresort.com

Jackalope Jamboree: (American Aquarium, Shane Smith & the Saints, Carson McHone, Tyler & The Train Robbers and more) June 29, Happy Canyon Arena. Tickets (\$35 to \$100+) via www.jackalopejamboree.com

Pendleton Whisky Music Fest: (Post Malone) July 13, Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. Tickets (\$99 to \$195) via www.pendleton-whiskymusicfest.com

Umatilla County Fair main stage performers **Tracy Byrd** (Aug. 6); **Jackson Michelson** (Aug. 7); **The Georgia Satellites** (Aug. 8); **Latino Night-bands TBA** (Aug. 9); **Sugar Ray** (Aug. 10) (free/general admission, \$12/reserved, \$20/premium) www.umatillacounty-fair.net (541-567-6121).

Wheatstock Music Festival. (Reckless Kelly, headliner) Aug. 17, Quantum 9 Arena, Helix. Early bird tickets (\$20) via www.wheatstock.org

Round-Up Happy Canyon Kick-off Concert: (Trace Adkins) Sept. 9, Happy Canyon Arena. Tickets (\$46 to \$150) via www.pendletonroundup.com

Want to get your event listed in our calendar? Send information to community@eastoregonian.com, or c/o Tammy Malgesini, 333 E. Main Street, Hermiston, OR, 97838.