



Frances McDormand in "Nomadland"

### **By Dana Simpson**

TV Media

#### "Nomadland" (2020)

Take this time during the pandemic to reflect on what life means to you and learn about the other ways people are living in America as "Nomadland" comes to Hulu on Friday, Feb. 19. Starring two-time Academy Award winner Frances McDormand ("Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," 2017) as Fern, a rural Nevada woman who lost her job, her house and her husband during the Great Recession and decided to get a new lease on life as a nomad. Packing her bags into a van and setting out across the country, Fern accepts whatever work she can find, earning funds to support herself and her nomadic life before moving on to the next town and a new job. Based on Jessica Bruder's acclaimed 2017 non-fiction book, "Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century," this visually stunning film explores the economics, physical struggles and emotional whiplash of living a nomadic lifestyle in today's day and age. Also featuring real-life nomads Linda May, Charlene Swankie and Bob Wells ("Without Bound -Perspectives on Mobile Living," 2014) as fictionalized versions of themselves, "Nomadland" was written, directed, co-produced and edited by award-winning Chinese filmmaker Chloé Zhao ("The Rider," 2017).

### "Logan Lucky" (2017)

Brace yourself for a big-time heist as "Logan Lucky" joins the Hulu roster on Monday, Feb. 15. From Steven Soderbergh, director of the Magic Mike franchise, and writer Rebecca Blunt (aka actress Jules Asner, "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back," 2001), comes the story of two down-on-their-luck brothers, Jimmy (Channing Tatum, "White House Down," 2013) and Clyde Logan (Adam Driver, "Marriage Story," 2019), who see no other solution to their misfortunes than to pull off a heist during a NASCAR race in North Carolina. Coming up with a plan to rob the Charlotte Motor Speedway of the large sums of cash coming in during the Coca-Cola 600, the Logan brothers turn to their sister, Mellie (Riley Keough, "It Comes at Night," 2017), and an unhinged incarcerated vault breaker named Joe Bang (Daniel Craig, "Casino Royale," 2006) for help. Together the group will attempt to reset their lives with their newly stolen fortune and prove to themselves that they are not the simpleminded buffoons that everyone took them for. This action comedy plays host to an all-star cast, including Seth MacFarlane ("Family Guy"), Sebastian Stan ("Captain America: The Winter Soldier," 2014), Hilary Swank ("Million Dollar Baby," 2004), Katie Holmes ("Batman Begins,"

2005) and Brian Gleeson ("Phantom Thread," 2017).

## "The Shape of Water" (2017)

If you are still feeling the Valentine's Day love from this past weekend, or perhaps if you're hoping to recapture it, why not switch over to Hulu on Wednesday, Feb. 17, and witness the unorthodox love story in the fourtime Academy Award-winning film "The Shape of Water"? Directed by the master of beautiful and horrific storytelling, Guillermo del Toro ("Pan's Labyrinth," 2006), and co-written by del Toro and Vanessa Taylor ("Divergent," 2014), this romantic, sciencefiction-infused film follows Elisa Esposito (Sally Hawkins, "Blue Jasmine," 2013), the lonely janitor of a scientific laboratory in 1960s Cold War-era America. When Elisa and her co-worker, Zelda (Octavia Spencer, "The Help," 2011), stumble upon a bizarre experiment in a top-secret area of the facility, Elisa becomes more deeply enamored with the strange amphibian-like man in captivity with every visit she makes to his pen. A gorgeous, heart-stopping account of each living creature's capacity for love, "The Shape of Water" also stars Michael Shannon ("Knives Out," 2019), Richard Jenkins ("Burn After Reading," 2008), Michael Stuhlbarg ("Boardwalk Empire") and Doug Jones ("Star Trek: Discovery").

Yaniv Shulman in "Catfish" **By Dana Simpson** 

# "Catfish" (2010)

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Be a fly on the wall for the beginning of a new relationship as "Catfish" joins the Prime lineup on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Described as "not based on a true story," "not inspired by true events" and "just true," this independent documentary film follows Yaniv "Nev" Shulman ("Nobody's Fool," 2018) as his brother and best friend, co-directors Ariel "Rel" Shulman ("Paranormal Activity 3," 2011) and Henry Joost ("Project Power," 2020), respectively, create a video chronicle of his budding cyber relationship with a young woman named Megan Faccio, whom he met online. Rel, Henry and the viewers get to know Megan through the same information as Nev: a series of Facebook photos, linked family member profiles and information shared via the internet and text message. While Nev appears delighted to have met Megan — a young woman whom he knows as an attractive dancer, artist and all-around sensitive soul — and after a short amount of time they begin to call each other by pet names through text and telephone calls, the film footage goes behind the scenes to tell another story — one much more

sinister. A real-life suspense thriller, "Catfish" exposes the dangers of today's society in the most eerily entertaining and terrifying way imaginable.

### "Sonic the Hedgehog" (2020)

Get supersonic with this film reboot of the classic Sega video game character in Paramount Pictures' action comedy "Sonic the Hedgehog." Coming to Prime on Thursday, Feb. 18, the partially animated live-action-adventure film follows Sonic (Ben Schwartz. "Parks and Recreation"), a super speedy, blue, alien hedgehog, as he works to make Earth his new home. Taking up residence in a garage belonging to an ordinary man named Tom (James Marsden, "27 Dresses," 2008), Sonic and Tom forge an unlikely bond as they try to fight off and escape the sinister Dr. Robotnik (Jim Carrey, "Bruce Almighty," 2003) and his technologically advanced army of minions and drones trying to take over the world. Also starring Tika Sumpter ("Mixed-ish"), Natasha Rothwell ("Insecure"), Adam Pally ("Dirty Grandpa," 2016) and Lee Majdoub ("The 100"), this family-friendly film was directed by "Where the Wild Things Are" (2009) animation developer Jeff Fowler.

### "The Warrior Queen of Jhansi" (2019) Find your inspiration and learn to

fight for what you believe with the action-packed film "The Warrior Queen of Jhansi," coming to Prime on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Considered to be one of the fiercest feminists and national figures of her time, this film tells a version of the story of Lakshmibai (portraved by Devika Bhise, "The Man Who Knew Infinity," 2015), the Rani of Jhansi, who defended her Indian state from the British East India Company during a mutiny in the mid-19th century. Sometimes referred to as the Joan of Arc of India, the young queen trained women to fight as warriors in a vicious army against the colonial strong-arming of Queen Victoria (played by Johdi May, "The Last of the Mohicans," 1992) and her monarchy, the British government and their East India Company. Through many legends — spoken, filmed, written or otherwise -Rani Lakshmibai remains a symbol of strength, feminism, commitment and leadership in India and all over the world today. Directed by Swati Bhise ("A New Christmas," 2019), "The Warrior Queen of Jhansi" also stars Rupert Everett ("My Best Friend's Wedding," 1997), Milind Gunaji ("Devdas," 2002), Derek Jacobi ("Gladiator," 2000) and Arif Zakaria ("My Name is Khan," 2010).

