

## FILM SHORTS

Reviewers: Bob Grimm and Juan-Carlos Selznick.

### Opening this week

#### Beautiful Boy

Based on the twin memoirs—*Beautiful Boy* and *Tweak*—by real-life father and son, David and Nic Sheff, about their respective struggles with the son's addiction to meth. Starring Steve Carell, Timothée Chalamet and Maura Tierney. Pageant Theatre. Rated R.

#### Escape Room

Six strangers are forced to band together and use their wits to survive an exceedingly elaborate—and deadly—escape room. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

### Now playing

#### Aquaman

Jason Momoa takes his superhuman physique from *Game of Thrones* to the title character in this film adaptation of DC Comics' half-human/half-Atlantean heir to the underwater kingdom of Atlantis. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

#### Bumblebee

The sixth film in the *Transformers* film series revolves around the bot Bumblebee and the teen girl who becomes its partner in defending Earth from the Decepticons. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

#### Fantastic Beasts:

##### The Crimes of Grindelwald

Film two in the planned five-film series written by J.K. Rowling returns us to the Wizarding World and the further adventures of magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) and his nemesis, dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp). Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13.



#### The Favourite

See review this issue. Cinemark 14. Rated R —J.C.S.



#### Green Book

Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen start in this feel-good movie about race relations in America that goes light on the grit and heavy on the sentiment. Based on a true story, it starts off with Tony Lip (Mortensen), an Italian-American bouncer who gets a gig as a driver and bodyguard for Dr. Don Shirley (Ali), a black classical pianist who is touring the Deep South. It's a road movie, with Tony driving and Don sitting in the back seat. The two use the book of the movie's title—a guide offering a listing of safe havens for black travelers in segregated Southern states—to find places where Don can find shelter and eat. Things get ugly when Don tries to do such mundane things as buy a suit or eat in a restaurant where he's been hired to play. Tony steps in for his boss during these racially charged episodes, and occasionally cracks a few skulls. As his eyes are opened to the realities of life for Dr. Don, Tony learns lessons about loving people no matter the color of their skin and perhaps about how to drop fewer racial slurs before the credits roll. Cinemark 14. Rated R —B.G.

#### The Grinch

Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* gets the 3-D CGI treatment with Kenan Thompson, Rashida Jones, Pharrell Williams and Benedict Cumberbatch (as the Grinch) voicing the characters. Cinemark 14. Rated PG.

#### Holmes & Watson

Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly star as the title characters in this comedic take on the famous crime-solving duo. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

#### Mary Poppins Returns

Rob Marshall (*Chicago*, *Into the Woods*) takes on another movie musical, this one an update

Due to holiday deadlines, film listings might not be current. Please check with theaters for up-to-date information.



#### Mary Queen of Scots

Ends tonight, Jan. 3. See review this issue. Pageant Theatre. Rated R —J.C.S.

#### Mortal Engines

A big-screen adaptation of Philip Reeve's fantasy novels about a steampunk vision of the London of the future. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

#### The Mule

Clint Eastwood directs and stars in this real-life story about a 90-year-old World War II veteran who was caught transporting cocaine for a drug cartel. Also starring Bradley Cooper, Diane Wiest, Michael Peña and Laurence Fishburne. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

#### Ralph Breaks the Internet

In this sequel to the 2012 animated feature *Wreck-It Ralph*, the soft-hearted giant (voice of John C. Reilly) and the cast of video-game characters have broken free of their arcade machine and head for new adventures across the internet-gaming world. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.

#### Second Act

Jenny from the block tricks her way into a Madison Avenue gig and is forced to prove that "street smarts equal book smarts." Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13.



#### Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

No movie adaptation has captured the rush of reading an exciting comic book like this blast of energy from directors Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey and Rodney Rothman. They go for broke with a seamless mixture of visual styles—hand-drawn and computer animated—and the story is pretty great, to boot. Teenager Miles Morales (voiced by Shameik Moore) is bitten by a strange spider and then, with his new-found powers in effect, crosses paths with the original Spider-Man, Peter Parker (Chris Pine). Turns out a portal from a parallel universe has opened up, allowing a whole fleet of different Spider-Verse characters to come into his orbit—the older Peter B. Parker (the invaluable Jake Johnson), Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld), Spider-Ham (a mishmash of Spidey and Porky Pig voiced by John Mulaney), Peni Parker (Kimiko Glenn) and her robot and, best of all, Nicolas Cage as the black-and-white Spider-Man Noir. So, Miles is one of many heroes with Spider powers tasked with battling bad dudes. *Spider-Verse* is surely one of the best movies of the year and the best *Spider-Man* movie to date. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG —B.G.

#### Vice

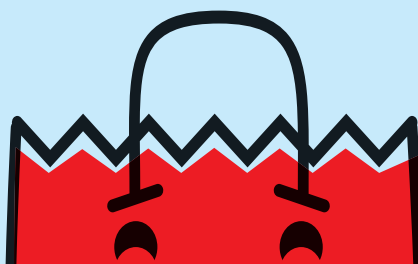
The latest from writer/director Adam McKay (*The Big Short*, *Anchorman*, *Step Brothers*) takes on the larger-than-life character of Dick Cheney (played by Christian Bale), who, during his tenure as vice president to George W. Bush (Sam Rockwell), reshaped the office into one with unprecedented power. Also starring Amy Adams, Steve Carell and Tyler Perry. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

#### Welcome to Marwen

Robert Zemeckis (*Back to the Future*, *The Polar Express*) directed and co-wrote this dramedy inspired by the real-life story of Mark Hogancamp (played by Steve Carell), a man who, after getting severe brain damage following an attack by a group of men, seeks therapeutic refuge in the building of a one-sixth scale World War II-era Belgian town in his back yard. Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13.

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