

FILM SHORTS

Reviewers: Bob Grimm and Juan-Carlos Selznick.

Opening this week

Gold Pursuit

Norwegian director Hans Petter Moland does an American remake of his own 2014 film, *In Order of Disappearance*. This one stars Liam Neeson as a snowplow driver-turned-vigilante as he hunts down the drug dealers and crime boss responsible for his son's death. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

I Want to Eat Your Pancreas

English-dubbed version of the anime adaptation of the 2014 novel of the same name by Yoru Sumino. Cinemark 14. Not rated.



The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part
See review this issue. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG —B.G.

Oscar-Nominated Shorts (2019)

Short films nominated for this year's Academy Awards. Visit pageantchico.com for info on show times for the three different genres—animated, live-action and documentary. Pageant Theatre. Not rated.

The Prodigy

Is a boy's behavior a sign of genius or something far more sinister? Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

Valley Girl (1983)

Put on your skinniest tie and get in the mood for this year's New Wave Prom (Feb. 15 at Chico Women's Club) with this cult classic of the era starring Nicolas Cage (with an appearance by The Plimsouls!). One showing: Saturday, Feb. 9, 10 p.m. Pageant Theatre. Rated R.

What Men Want

A decades-old Mel Gibson flick gets the gender-flip treatment here, when Taraji P. Henson stars as a sports agent who finally gets a leg up on the boy's club of her profession when she somehow gains the ability to hear men's private thoughts. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

Nowp laying

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. Rated PG-13.

Glass

The third film in writer/director M. Night Shyamalan's *Unbreakable* trilogy (which includes previous entries *Unbreakable* and *Split*) pits a hero with superhuman strength (Bruce Willis) against two "supervillains"—a dangerously unstable man with 24 personalities (James McAvoy) and a genius mass-murderer with brittle bones (Samuel L. Jackson). Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.



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.

If Beale Street Could Talk

Director Barry Jenkins (*Moonlight*) has adapted James Baldwin's 1974 novel about a young woman living in Harlem who falls in love, gets engaged and pregnant and then has to fight for the freedom of her fiancé who was arrested for a crime he didn't commit. Pageant Theatre. Rated R.



The Kid Who Would Be King

A modern day, bullied kid pulls a sword out of a stone and is tasked with saving the world. This is writer-director Joe Cornish's attempt to capture the youthful, magical wonder of *Harry Potter* and mix it with the legend of King Arthur. While he doesn't completely fail, an overall drab directorial style keeps this fantasy film from being a true crowd-pleaser. It does feature a pretty good performance from Louis Ashbourne Serkis as Alex. He's a little overwrought in some of the film's more emotionally demanding parts, but he hits the right notes when it comes to Alex's heroic proclamations after he procures Excalibur from a big rock in the middle of a construction site. While Cornish showed a scrappy ingenuity with his only other directorial feature—the relatively low-budget *Attack the Block* (2011)—the overall effect of this haphazard adventure is surprisingly dull, even with much more money to spend on special effects and action. I will say that there's a good central message about making nice with your classmates despite differences. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG —B.G.

Miss Bala

Gina Rodriguez plays an American who, while trying to survive and save a friend in trouble, has to work with both sides in a dangerous fight between a Mexican drug cartel and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Cinemark 13, Feather River Cinemas. 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 Spidee 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. Rated PG —B.G.

They Shall Not Grow Old

This documentary by *Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson was created using archival footage of British servicemen during World War I, and applying color and 3-D, as well as sound effects and voiceovers to create a more immersive experience. Cinemark 14. Rated R.

Still here

A Dog's Way Home

Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.

Escape Room

Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13.

The Upside

Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

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