

FILM SHORTS

Reviewers: Bob Grimm and Juan-Carlos Selznick.

Opening this week

Alita: Battle Angel

Robert Rodriguez (*Sin City*) directs this film adaptation of Yukito Kishiro's Japanese cyberpunk manga series, *Gunnm*, featuring a cyborg heroine named Alita (Rosa Salazar) who was rendered for the big screen using CGI technologies developed for James Cameron's *Avatar*. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.



Capernaum

See review this issue. Pageant Theatre. Rated R —J.C.S.

Happy Death Day 2U

The sequel picks up where the 2017 original left off, but this time multiple people are being murdered and reliving the same day over and over as a slasher in a baby-face mask hunts them down. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

Isn't It Romantic

A fantasy-satire starring Rebel Wilson as an unlucky-in-love woman who finds herself stuck in a stereotypical rom-com universe. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

Reopening this week



The Favourite

Tragedy intertwines with farce in the portrait of Queen Anne (Olivia Colman), who is simultaneously a figure of obvious pathos and surprising resilience. And that portrait is further intensified via her attachments to Lady Sarah (Rachel Weisz) and the no longer well-to-do Abigail (Emma Stone), two resourceful strivers who find themselves in increasingly fierce competition for status as the Queen's "favourite." Each of the three is a kind of flawed heroine, at one point or another. Colman is superb as Queen Anne, but Weisz and Stone also deliver exceptional work in strikingly nuanced roles. Directed by Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Lobster*, *Dogtooth*, etc.), the film is challenging yet richly rewarding experience. Pageant Theatre. Rated R —J.C.S.

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. Rated PG-13.

A Dog's Way Home

Will faithful dog Bella find her way 400 miles back to her owner? Probably. Cinemark 14. Rated PG.

Cold 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-vengeful vigilante as he hunts down the drug dealers and crime boss responsible for his son's death. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

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. Rated PG-13.



The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part

Another healthy dose of family-friendly fun at which both kids and parents should laugh heartily. The *Second Part* picks up five years after the end of the first movie, and our hero Emmet (Chris Pratt) is happily buying coffee in Apocalypseburg, a devastated LEGO-land of sullen tones and broken dreams where master builder Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks) has taken to dramatic narration at all times as things in their world have turned from awesome to bleak. The culprits are aliens called Duplos, invading forces that are at once undeniably adorable and unabashedly destructive. It's a crazed world where Batman (Will Arnett) gets engaged to Queen Waterva Wa'Nabi (Tiffany Haddish), leader of the Duplo, and Emmett winds up running with a Kurt Russell-type antihero named Rex Dangervest, who is suspiciously like him (and who is also voiced by Pratt). The movie feels a bit repetitive in places, and some of the action is too fast to be fully taken in, but flaws aside, it's still a lot of fun. There's a slightly dark underbelly at play here, and it's fun to see a kid's flick that doesn't totally play it safe. 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 14. Rated PG-13.

The Prodigy

Is a boy's behavior a sign of genius or something far more sinister? 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. Rated PG.



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. Rated PG —B.G.

The Upside

A buddy dramedy about the relationship that develops between a wealthy quadriplegic (Bryan Cranston) and the ex-con (Kevin Hart) hired to take care of him. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

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.

This guy saves you money.

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