

FILM SHORTS

Reviewers: Bob Grimm and Juan-Carlos Selznick.

Opening this week

Avengers: Endgame

Will Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, Black Widow, Hulk and the rest of the surviving superheroes be able to reverse the effects of Thanos' destruction and restore life to their fallen comrades and the rest of the stricken universe? Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

The Public

Emilio Estevez wrote, directed and stars as the head librarian in this story about a standoff between police and a large group of homeless patrons who "occupy" the public library to protect themselves from the cold night. Also starring Alec Baldwin, Jena Malone, Michael K. Williams and Jeffrey Wright. Pageant Theatre. Rated PG-13.

Now playing

Breakthrough

A Christian faith-based film based on the 2017 biography The Impossible, a true-life story of a mother's faith being put to work in service of her teen son who falls through the ice of a frozen lake and ends up in a coma. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.



Captain Marvel

Despite the fact that she's playing a superhero who has the power to shoot electrical bursts from her hands, Brie Larson's Captain Marvel suffers from a disappointing lack of energy. Larson's turn as the title character, aka Carol Danvers (aka Vers), is plagued by lethargy and bizarre line deliveries, and she gives off a detached vibe that she doesn't want to be in the movie. Had the film around her been really good, the lead's bored disposition might've been forgiven, but this cosmic superhero origin story and intergalactic war movie is also riddled with some haphazard storytelling and awful special effects. Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13 —B.G.

The Curse of La Llorna

A social worker and her children are haunted by an evil ghost. The sixth film in The Conjuring Universe series of films (The Conjuring, Annabelle, The Nun, etc.) that are adapted from real-life paranormal investigation cases. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.



Dumbo

The decline of Tim Burton continues with this wasteful remake of the 1941 animated classic that amounts to one big nothing—for kids and adults alike. The original was a little more than an hour long, while this one lasts for nearly two hours that feel like 40. A bunch of unnecessary subplots and added characters take away time from one of the lone bright spots, the title character, an admittedly cute CGI achievement. Instead of the original's Timothy Q. Mouse, we get the requisite precocious children, one of them played by Thandie Newton's daughter, Nico Parker, who absolutely cannot act. Colin Farrell appears as Holt, the pre-

cious kids' dad, and like most of the human actors in this movie, he seems lost. And V.A. Vandevere, the villain of the film, is played by Michael Keaton, who is at his sneering worst. Cinemark 14. Rated PG —B.G.

Hellboy

Another film adaptation of the Dark Horse character, the half-demon superhero fighting to save the world from an undead sorceress. Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

Little

A fantasy-comedy about an overbearing and ruthless corporate mogul (Regina Hall) who, after wishing to be young again, turns into a 13-year-old version of herself (Marsai Martin) and still has to run her company—with a lot of help from her assistant (Issa Rae). Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13.

Missing Link

A stop-motion animated feature from Laika (the studio behind Coraline and ParaNorman) that tells the story of a monster/myth investigator (voiced by Hugh Jackman) and an adventurer (Zoe Saldana) and their quest to find a particular Bigfoot named Mr. Link (Zach Galifianakis). Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.

Penguins

Ed Helms narrates this documentary that follows the life journey of a penguin named Steve. Cinemark 14. Rated G.

Pet Sematary

Jason Clarke, Amy Seimetz and John Lithgow star in this latest adaptation of Stephen King's horror novel about a family's terrifying dealings with a mysterious burial ground. Cinemark 14. Rated R.

Shazam!

The first big-screen treatment of the classic DC Comics character, the alter ego of troubled teen Billy Batson (played by Asher Angel), who turns into a buff adult (Zachery Levi) full of superpowers when exclaims, "Shazam!" Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.



Us

A young girl in a 1980s flashback drifts away from her father at an amusement park on the Santa Cruz pier and finds herself in a darkened and frightening hall of mirrors. Things then jump to the present day, where Adelaide and Gabe (Lupita Nyong'o and Winston Duke) are taking their children, Zora and Jason, to the beach. It's the same beach we saw in the flashback, and we find out that Adelaide was that young girl. She's not happy about revisiting the place. The family excursion quickly becomes the worst vacation ever, as another family shows up at night. A quick examination of the intruders reveals what the commercials for this movie have already told you: The family outside is a darker mirror image of the stunned family inside the house. They aren't coming over to borrow the lawn mower. They intend to kill. Writer-director Jordan Peele follows up the success of Get Out with another mind bender, one that is also an efficient, bare-knuckled horror-thriller, plus a comedy and a brutal social satire. It's the whole package. Cinemark 14. Rated R —B.G.

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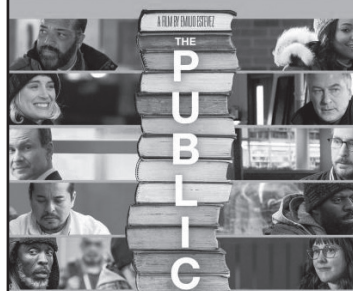
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