

## FILM SHORTS

**Reviewers:** Bob Grimm, Juan-Carlos Selznick and Neesa Sonoquie.

### Opening this week

#### Midsommar

A traditional festival in Sweden—which only happens once every 90 years—devolves into something much darker than a group of visiting young Americans anticipated. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

#### Pavarotti

Ron Howard directed this new documentary on the life of the most recognizable opera singer ever, Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti. Pageant Theatre. Rated PG.

#### Spider-Man: Far From Home

This sequel to *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (2017) picks up after the events of *Avengers: Endgame*, and finds Peter Parker/Spider-Man recruited by Nick Fury to battle new threats to the world. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

### Now playing

#### Aladdin

Guy Ritchie (*Sherlock Holmes*, *Snatch*) wrote and directed this live-action adaptation of the classic Middle Eastern folk tale starring Naomi Scott as Princess Jasmine, Mena Massoud as impoverished thief Aladdin, and Will Smith as the genie who can make wishes come true. Cinemark 14. Rated PG.

#### Annabelle Comes Home

The Conjuring Universe of films (including *The Conjuring*, *The Nun* and *Annabelle* series) continues to bear horror fruit with this continuation of the dolly-occupied-by-evil-spirit plot. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.



#### Avengers: Endgame

There are tons of questions this movie needed to answer: Is everybody really dead? Where's Thanos (Josh Brolin)? Where's Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner)? Is Tony Stark/Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) doomed in space? Does Star-Lord (Chris Pratt) still have his Walkman in the great beyond? And, how can I really talk about anything specific in this film without becoming the Spoiler King? I can say that the movie answers many of the questions everyone's been asking, and more, thanks to another well-balanced screenplay and a crack directorial job from the team of Anthony and Joe Russo. All of this zips by in spectacularly entertaining fashion and very rarely misses the mark. And in the midst of all the action, Downey Jr. delivers another soulful, endearing performance, well beyond anything you would've expected from a Marvel movie before he started showing up in them. Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13 —B.G.

#### The Biggest Little Farm

A gorgeously shot documentary that follows a young married couple over the course of eight years as they leave city life behind and move to the country to try and start a farm and live in harmony with nature. In the process they encounter challenges and conflicts that lead to a better understanding of biodiversity and a new way of life. Pageant Theatre. Rated R.

#### John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum

In part three of the film series, “retired” super-assassin John Wick (Keanu Reeves) is in big trouble as a guild of elite killers hunts him down to claim the \$14 million price placed on his head. Cinemark 14. Rated R.



#### Men in Black: International

This amounts to a wasted opportunity, an admirable attempt to restart a franchise with a new cast that misses most of its marks. Replacing Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones are Chris Hemsworth and Tessa Thompson, playing Agents H and M, respectively. H is the bold, brash, superhot agent, and M is a new recruit, having found MIB's secret headquarters after years of searching. The duo proved they worked well together in *Thor: Ragnarok*, and while it is fun to see them sharing the screen again, it's a little baffling what the script puts them through. After a fairly strong start, the action devolves sloppily into boredom. Each passing location—Paris, Italy, Marrakesh—takes the story nowhere, and scenery changes serve only to disguise the fact that the film has no purpose. A “mole in MIB” subplot doesn't add much mystery, and the finale in Paris (after an opening in Paris) offers few surprises and no thrills. The movie ends with a big “Huh?” Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13 —B.G.

#### Rocketman

An appropriately fantastical musical biopic on the life of piano-playing rock legend Elton John. Cinemark 14. Rated R.

#### The Secret Life of Pets 2

In this second film in the computer-animated franchise, Max the Jack Russell Terrier (voiced by Patton Oswalt, who replaced Louis C.K.) and his animal friends continue to have adventures whenever their humans aren't around. Cinemark 14 Rated PG-13.

#### Toy Story 4

The whole computer-animated gang is back—including Woody (Tom Hanks), Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen) and Bo Peep (Annie Potts)—for a new adventure with a new homemade toy pal named Forky. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated G.



#### Yesterday

See review this issue. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13 —B.G.

This guy saves you money.



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