

FILM SHORTS

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

Opening this week

The Art of Self Defense

Jesse Eisenberg plays a meek accountant who, after being brutally attacked by a motorcycle gang, seeks guidance and karate training from a disturbingly charismatic sensei. Pageant Theatre. Rated R.

It Chapter Two

It's been 27 years since the kids of the Losers Club defeated the evil clown Pennywise, but children have started to disappear in Derry once again, and the now-grown crew must reconvene to try and destroy It once and for all. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

Now playing

Angel Has Fallen

Gerard Butler and Morgan Freeman return for this third *Fallen* film (following *Olympus Has Fallen* and *London Has Fallen*), with the former as a Secret Service agent now on the run after being framed for an assassination attempt on the latter (now playing the U.S. president). Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

The Angry Birds Movie 2

It's angry birds vs. green pigs in installment two of the video game-turned-animated-film series. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.

Bennett's War

An American soldier is medically discharged from combat after he breaks his back during an IED explosion as part of the Army Motorcycle Unit. When he returns home, he needs to support his family, so—say it with us—“against all odds” he rehabs and trains to become a pro motocross rider. Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.



Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw

Hobbs & Shaw is actually a spinoff from the series. In other words, rejoice! The leaden, dreary Vin Diesel is nowhere to be seen in this movie. Now we can have some real fun! *Hobbs & Shaw* is a bizarre hybrid of spy thriller, action flick, screwball comedy and science fiction. Here, *Furious* franchise regulars Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) and Shaw (Jason Statham) are tasked with protecting the latter's sister, Hattie (Vanessa Kirby), after she injects herself with something that will have worldwide consequences if she's captured. The main antagonist is Brixton (Idris Elba), a former Shaw ally who has turned into some sort of bionic badass dubbed, by himself, “Black Superman.” Stuntman-turned-director David Leitch, who gave us the first *John Wick* and *Deadpool 2*, knows his way around an action scene, and his edits create constant action and laughs—thanks in large part to Johnson and Statham's great timing and onscreen

chemistry. And while it's expected that the tough-guy leads will kick ass in movies such as this, it's Kirby who steals the show as the action hero of this installment. She is a total badass. Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13 —**B.G.**

Good Boys

Three sixth-grade boys embark on an epic, R-rated coming-of-age odyssey. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

The Lion King

Jon Favreau (*Elf*, *Iron Man*) directs this photorealistic CGI remake of the 1994 Disney animated classic that features an impressive cast of voice actors, including Chiwetel Ejiofor, Donald Glover, Beyoncé, Seth Rogen, John Oliver and, naturally, James Earl Jones as Mufasa. Cinemark 14. Rated PG.



Once Upon a Time in ... Hollywood

When Quentin Tarantino is behind the camera, mayhem and artistic license win out—history and conventionality be damned. Movie No. 9 is a dreamy doozy, and maybe the director/screenwriter's most unapologetic film yet. Set in 1969, *Once Upon a Time in ... Hollywood* captures the dying days of both sixties culture and the Golden Age of Hollywood. And through Tarantino's storytelling lens, they die hard—in mysterious and hallucinogenic ways. For leading men, we get the pairing of Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt starring as insecure, has-been actor Rick Dalton and his trusty stuntman, Cliff Booth, respectively. Dalton's career has devolved into playing the bad guys on weekly installments of TV's *The F.B.I.*, while the blackballed and past-his-prime Booth is relegated to driving the actor around and acting as his confidant. The setup allows Tarantino to go hog wild with the sixties visuals and soundtrack. The end of the sixties was bona fide nuts, and this is a nutty movie. It also manages to be quite heartfelt and moving. Cinemark 14. Rated R —**B.G.**

Overcomer

A Christian-based film about a high-school basketball coach who faces a crisis of faith and a new challenge as a mentor for an unlikely cross-country athlete. Cinemark 14. Rated PG.

The Peanut Butter Falcon

The story of teen boy with Down syndrome (Zack Gottsagen) who runs away and sets off on a journey to a wrestling camp to realize his dream of becoming a pro wrestler. Also starring Shia LaBeouf, Dakota Johnson and Bruce Dern. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.



Ready or Not

See review this issue. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R —**B.G.**

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

Alvin Schwartz's 1980s series of children's scary short stories gets the cinematic horror treatment. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.

It Chapter Two



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The Chico News & Review's annual Fiction 59 flash-fiction contest is back. Submit your 59-word stories today for the chance to have your work published in the annual Fiction 59 issue of the CN&R, on stands Oct. 24. Winners will also be invited to share their works during a live reading at The Bookstore (118 Main St.).

NEW THIS YEAR: Six-Word Stories
Go really micro with your fiction and tell a story in only six words. Here's a famous example (possibly by Ernest Hemingway):
For sale: baby shoes, never worn.
Please do not include a title with six-word story. Six-word stories will not be separated by age category. All other rules for Fiction 59 apply.

For submission guidelines, visit newsreview.com/fiction59