

FILM SHORTS

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

Opening this week

Black and Blue

An action thriller about a rookie New Orleans cop (Naomie Harris) who, after realizing some of her fellow cops are part of a criminal enterprise, partners with a stranger (Tyrese Gibson) outside the force to try to expose their crimes. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

Countdown

After downloading an app on her phone that supposedly can predict a person's date of death, a nurse (Elizabeth Lail) learns she only has three days to live. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

The Current War

The story of the war of the currents in the late-19th century that pitted Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse against one another in competition for the electric-power transmission systems that would be used in America. Originally distributed by the Weinstein Co. In 2017, the film was shelved at the time in the wake of the sexual assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein. Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13.

Evil Dead (1981)

A new 4K restoration of Sam Raimi's classic horror/black comedy. Two showings: Friday-Saturday, Oct. 25-26, 10 p.m. Pageant Theatre. Rated R.

Official Secrets

A historical drama about a whistleblower, British intelligence employee Katharine Gun (played by Keira Knightley), who leaked information to the press about a U.S.-led effort to spy on and potentially blackmail United Nations representatives into voting in favor of invading Iraq in 2003. Pageant Theatre. Rated R.

Strange Negotiations

Documentary that follows singer/songwriter David Bazan of Pedro the Lion as he tours the country in 2016 and his spiritual struggle as he "navigates his career and family life after walking away from the foundational Christian faith of his youth." Directed by Butte grad Brandon Vedder (who will be on hand for the screening), with score by Sean Galloway of former local band The Shimmies. One showing: Sunday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m. Pageant Theatre. Not rated.

Reopening this week

Once Upon a Time in ... Hollywood (director's cut)

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 Quentin 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.

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

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

Now playing

Abominable

A computer-animated feature about a teen girl who finds a Yeti on her roof and helps her new friend find his way back to his home at Mr. Everest. Cinemark 14. Rated PG.

The Addams Family

The creepy family made famous in the 1960s television series gets the CGI animation treatment. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.

Downton Abbey

The popular British television show comes to the big screen, with the familiar cast of characters being visited at their English country house by the king and queen. Cinemark 14. Rated PG.

Gemini Man

Ang Lee (*Brokeback Mountain*, *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*) directs Will Smith as an aging hitman who is tracked down by a cloned version of his younger self. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

Joker

Joker, the latest take on DC Comics' Clown Prince of Crime, will go down as one of 2019's big missed opportunities. Director/co-screenwriter Todd Phillips apparently had the green light to do whatever he wanted with the character's story, and he also landed the perfect lead (Joaquin Phoenix) for the title role. This was a chance to tell a fresh, dark origin story from the Joker's point of view. Phillips blew it. Phoenix, on the other hand, did not. He is otherworldly good as Arthur Fleck, a severely troubled clown and wannabe standup comic (and mama's boy) with a condition that causes him to laugh uncontrollably at inappropriate moments. He physically and mentally disappears into the part—to the point where you may become concerned for the actor's well-being. He accomplishes this in a film that has a major identity crisis. It's trying to do something new (mostly via the use of extreme violence), while also riffing on something old (Frank Miller's *The Dark Knight Returns*, as well as various other comic book and cinematic influences). What's delivered is a muddy, predictable and ultimately unoriginal film. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R —B.G.

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil

In this sequel to *Maleficent* (2014), Angelina Jolie reprises her role as the evil fairy, and Elle Fanning is back as her goddaughter, Princess Aurora (aka Sleeping Beauty), and the two are at odds with one another thanks to outside forces intent on sowing discord between humans and fairies. Cinemark, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.



Zombieland: Double Tap

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

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Poor



Fair



Good



Very Good



Excellent