

FILM SHORTS

Reviewers: Bob Grimm and Juan-Carlos Selznick.

Opening this week

Desolation Center

A documentary about the underground 1980s desert happenings—featuring the likes of econo-punks The Minutemen, rocket-firing performance artists Survival Research Lab, noise innovators Sonic Youth and Einstürzende Neubauten, etc.—that were a precursor to counterculture festivals like Burning Man and Lollapalooza. One showing: Sunday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m. Pageant Theatre. Not rated.

Doctor Sleep

An adaptation of Stephen King's 2013 follow-up to *The Shining*, starring Ewan McGregor as a grown up Danny Torrance, still messed up from the events at the Overlook Hotel. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.

Jojo Rabbit

A daring dark satire about a young German boy in Nazi Germany who finds out his mother has provided refuge to a Jewish girl. Oh, and the kid's imaginary friend is Adolf Hitler. Starring Scarlett Johansson, Sam Rockwell and Rebel Wilson. Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13.

Last Christmas

Game of Thrones actress Emilia Clarke stars in this dramedy about an unlucky young woman who takes a job as a holiday elf at a department store where she meets a young man. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.

Midway

A historical drama about the pivotal Battle of Midway between U.S. and Japanese forces during World War II. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG-13.



Pain & Glory

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

Parasite

This widely acclaimed South Korean dark comedy about an unemployed family's efforts to insert themselves into—and profit from—a wealthy family won the Palme d'Or at Cannes. Cinemark 14. Rated PG-13.

Playing With Fire

John Cena, Keegan-Michael Key and John Leguizamo star as three firefighters who have their hands full rescuing/babysitting some kids and their dog. Hijinks! Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.

Now playing

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.

Arctic Dogs

A big-dog cast (Jeremy Renner, Alec Baldwin, Anjelica Huston, John Cleese, James Franco, and more) provide voices for this animated feature about a mail-delivering Arctic Fox who dreams of joining the huskies as a Top Dog. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated PG.

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. Rated PG-13.

Harriet

Biography of famous abolitionist/activist Harriet Tubman (played by Cynthia Erivo) who, after escaping slavery in 1849, returned

to guide more than 300 others to freedom from America's slave states via the Underground Railroad. Cinemark 14. 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. Rated R —B.G.



The Lighthouse

See review this issue. Cinemark 14. Rated R —J.C.S.

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.

Motherless Brooklyn

Edward Norton directed and stars in this film set in 1950s New York City about a private investigator with Tourette Syndrome (Norton) who is trying to solve the murder of his mentor (Bruce Willis). Cinemark 14. Rated R.

Terminator: Dark Fate

The sixth film in the Terminator franchise is a sequel to the first two films (those directed by James Cameron, who returns to produce this latest installment), and stars Linda Hamilton as Sarah Connor, who teams up with a cyborg human hybrid to protect a girl from the Terminator hunting her. Cinemark 14, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R.



Zombieland: Double Tap

For this sequel, director Ruben Fleischer returns with the whole zombie-killing crew—Emma Stone, Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson and Abigail Breslin—for a film that does little to reinvigorate the genre, but still delivers plenty of laughs and zombie gore. It's 10 years later, and the rag-tag team has taken up residence in the abandoned White House. The basic story involves a zombie-killing road trip that leads to Graceland (sort of) and then a commune called Babylon, with a lot more zombie killing. Along the way, fun new characters are introduced, including Nevada (played by Rosario Dawson), owner of an Elvis-themed hotel, and Albuquerque (Luke Wilson) and Flagstaff (Thomas Middleditch), two zombie hunters who look and sound an awful lot like Harrelson and Eisenberg's Tallahassee and Columbus. The best, though, is Madison, played by Zoey Deutch, a "valley girl" type who has survived all these years living inside the freezer of food-court yogurt shop in a decimated mall. Whenever the film threatens to go a bit stale, Madison will swoop in decked out in a pink leisure suit with fake fur (she's also a vegan) to liven things up. Cinemark, Feather River Cinemas. Rated R —B.G.

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