



story by Glen Ryan Tadych

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Each new Hollywood release typically carries a wealth of anticipation, but the turnout always varies. Though where the turnout becomes interesting is the debut of sequels, as a Hollywood sequel tends to carry more anticipation than any other type of film. This year seems to be

quite the time for sequels, and many more are destined to hit theaters before 2020. From January to July we've had Taken 3, The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water, Hot Tub Time Machine 2, The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Furious 7, Paul Blart: Mall Cop2, Avengers: Age of Ultron, Pitch Perfect 2, Mad Max: Fury Road, Insidious: Chapter 3, Ted 2, Magic Mike XXL and Terminator Genesys. At least nine more sequels await theaters for the remainder of the year, and 2016 will follow suit with just as many if not more. I constantly wonder where the drive for sequels

originates. Sequels to blockbuster smashes, like the inevitable Jurassic World sequel, are expected, but at times I feel Hollywood puts out sequels with no real interest among moviegoers. An example being Hot Tub Time Machine 2, where and at what time did any one person sit, watching Hot Tub Time Machine (2010), and think about wanting to see another? It's the same with the second Mall Cop film. And what's even more astonishing about movies like these is people actually flock to see them, as if they have nothing better to do. Surely no one can be that bored. Hell, if I want to provide my family

with cinematic entertainment on a Friday or Saturday night when nothing good is showing, I'm not going to take them to the Mall Cop 2. I'd much rather order pizza and put in Star Wars at home.

Obviously some of these movies have their fans, and while I tend to have trouble wrapping my head around that fact, at the end of the day I still understand film is subjective and that one's trash can be another's treasure.

I'll even admit there are sequels I look forward to when the majority of others would rather brush them off. This was the case when Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) came out. Many were tired of the Pirates series, but I for one was disappointed with the first two sequels, and was more than pleased with the stand-alone nature and freshness of Stranger Tides. A fifth Pirates film is set to debut in 2017, and I'm sure I'll hear the same fussing when the time comes. But given the continuing Marvel Cinematic Universe, return of Star Wars and eventual return of Indiana Jones—all under Disney's belt—I don't think Pirates will be carrying the same weight it did 10 years ago, and will soon meet its end.

All in all, Hollywood sequels have become more of a commonality than they should perhaps, thanks to the overwhelming success of The Godfather Part II (1974) and The Empire Strikes Back (1980). And moviegoers will generally detest sequels and complain about lack of originality in Hollywood. Unfortunately, all I can say about that is this: Stop paying to see them, and Hollywood will stop making them.

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