

FRAME BY FRAME

OCTOBER AND THE START OF THE FALL CINEMA SEASON

by Glen Ryan Tadych

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As Labor Day approaches, the summer movie season is officially coming to a close. With the fall and winter movie seasons around the corner, quite a few exciting titles will soon be hitting theaters across the country. This is the time when Oscar material and more dramatic, ambitious projects come to light, and I must say that the first weekend in October is going hit full swing, with major releases continuing through Christmas.



Glen Ryan Tadych

Here's a brief look at a few of the upcoming films I'm particularly interested in for October. I'm skipping September since we're already one week in, and quite honestly, nothing seems to be coming out that catches my eye. Plus, this allows me to save October for more horror film-related content, in light of the Halloween season.



THE MARTIAN – OCT. 2

I only became aware of this film earlier this

summer, and just by looking at the name, I imagined it being about an alien, as anyone unfamiliar with the novel probably would. When I finally saw the trailer, I was taken by surprise to see the film was about an astronaut abandoned on Mars, presumed dead, during a research crew's evacuation due to a storm. The astronaut (Matt Damon) has to find ways to contact Earth, and keep himself alive for the time it takes for him to be rescued.

As my previous article would imply, I'm quite a fan of Ridley Scott, and I love it when he delves into science-fiction. Of all his films, Scott's only made three science-fiction films, and only one—*Prometheus* (2012)—in the last 30 years. So I'm happy to see him continuing to explore the genre, especially with a more realistic effort such as this. Now, that's not to say elements in *Alien* (1979) and *Blade Runner* (1982) weren't realistic, as Scott always attempts to portray a relatable atmosphere for audiences (which is exactly what makes those films so damn good), but *The Martian* appears to touch on space exploration in a way audiences might perceive as science-reality as opposed to science-fiction. And I for one am thrilled to see such a reemerging interest in space and space exploration in film lately. I think all of human society should focus more on what's beyond this planet, and this type of popularity can certainly help in that regard.

And of course, I can't help but recognize a strong visual similarity to Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* (2014), of which I'm a huge fan. So if we're basically talking about Scott's version of *Interstellar*, I'm all for it.



THE WALK – OCT. 2

I'm sure there was a time when a good percentage of the world, particularly my generation, didn't know of Philippe Petit's high-wire walk between the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in 1974, but after 9/11, the memory of the iconic towers brought Petit's high-wire walk to greater fame, which is when and how I learned of it. Now, 41 years later, director Robert Zemeckis—*Back to the Future* (1985), *Forrest Gump* (1994)—is bringing audiences a drama based on the event, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt as the French high-wire artist.

I have mixed feelings about this film, and while I'm certainly going to watch it, I'm not sure how much I'll like it. For one, a great documentary titled *Man on Wire* (2008) is already available for those who wish to learn about this man's extraordinary performance, and the lengths it took to accomplish. Although I have yet to see Zemeckis' depiction, I have a feeling the story will be somewhat distorted for the sake of making it more dramatic, which to me seems unnecessary since the stunt itself is dramatic enough. We'll see how Zemeckis does, but at the end of the day, I'm probably going to continue relying on *Man on Wire* for Petit's story.



PAN – OCT. 9

I wouldn't be surprised if Disney was the first thought in people's minds upon hearing about this new live-action Peter Pan story, as the company seems to have been throwing out live-action versions of every classic animated film it's ever made. But funny thing, *Pan* is actually being distributed by Warner Bros.

This film isn't really one on my radar to be honest, and for some reason I can only see it resulting in controversy and mixed reactions. Critics are already jumping over the casting of Rooney Mara as Tiger Lily, since it's a Caucasian actress being cast in a Native American role. It's this kind of ethnic controversy that becomes a curse for movies in my opinion. It only generates bad publicity for the film, causing a lot of viewers to lose interest and get mad. In this case though, I don't think *Pan* will suffer too much since its target audience is mainly families and children, and let's face it, neither give a hoot about such things.

I can't guarantee I'll watch this one, as the stories of Peter Pan have never been of any real interest to me. Even Disney's 1953 animated film, while enjoying it for its historical significance, overall didn't do much for me. That might be because I never watched it as a child, so I looked at it with different eyes. Hell, I didn't even see

FRESH FILMS THIS WEEK &...



PAWN SACRIFICE

Pawn Sacrifice

PG-13 114 min Biography | Drama

American chess champion Bobby Fischer prepares for a legendary match-up against Russian Boris Spassky.

Director: Edward Zwick

Stars: Tobey Maguire, Liev Schreiber, Peter Sarsgaard, Michael Stuhlbarg

Hook (1991) until after Robin Williams died last year, and it was because of his death that I felt determined to watch it.

I see *Pan* getting a decent turnout, as it doesn't have any extreme competition its opening weekend, but as far as I'm concerned, I'm more "eh" about it than anything else.



STEVE JOBS – OCT. 9

I really don't know what Hollywood loves so much about this man. I get it. He was a major player in the tech industry, and while I'm not a fan of Apple products whatsoever, I will admit Steve Jobs had an effect on the world of computers and consumer electronics. But hell, it was just two years ago when that bomb of a film starring Ashton Kutcher hit theaters—Jobs.

I'll tell you right now though, the only, and I mean the only reason I will watch this upcoming Steve Jobs biopic is Michael Fassbender. For me, Fassbender is becoming one of those actors I'll watch in just about anything, like Matthew McConaughey, ever since I saw his portrayal of Magneto in *X-Men: First Class* (2011). And while I don't care much for the subject matter, I am convinced Fassbender's performance will be solid and keep even viewers like me interested. So, all in all, I'm watching this for Fassbender, not Jobs.

And on the subject of Jobs, I'll say for the record that the only thing I'm thankful to him for is his investing in Pixar, as without his support, it's possible we might not have ever gotten *Toy Story* (1995).

BRIDGE OF SPIES – OCT. 16

This is definitely my most anticipated film of October. It was over a year ago when I read about a Cold War drama focusing on the 1960 U-2 incident being Steven Spielberg's (my all-time



favorite director) next project, and once I saw Tom Hanks was playing the lead, I was sold.

As much as I am a fan of Spielberg's adventure and science-fiction films, I'm also fond of his historical dramas, and a film about Tom Hanks negotiating the exchange of a Soviet spy for an American pilot set in the height of the Cold War sounds like one of the most intriguing projects he's undertaken in quite some time, for me at least.

I will say, however, there is one thing concerning this film that briefly got me in a bit of rut, and that was the absence of a John Williams' musical score.

This is the first Spielberg film since *The Color Purple* (1985) to not feature Williams' compositions, and I was in absolute shock upon learning this. I mean, a Spielberg film without Williams' music can't even really be a Spielberg film, can it? Obviously, since Williams' departure was due to a health issue, that is a circumstance that can't be helped. And I calmed down even more once I learned Thomas Newman was scoring the film, as he's my second-favorite film composer behind Williams.

I very much enjoy Newman's work, *Finding Nemo* (2003) being one of his best scores. Newman also scored films such as *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994), *In the Bedroom* (2001) and *Road to Perdition* (2002). So that being said, I'd say the music for *Bridge of Spies* is in pretty good hands. And since we're still getting Williams for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* in December, I say nothing else matters.

So, a Spielberg drama film about the U-2 spy plane incident, with Tom Hanks and a Thomas Newman score? That's all anyone needs to say quite frankly to get me to the theater, and with that, I can safely say October is going to be a rather interesting and entertaining one for American cinema.

...NEXT WEEK



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2

Hotel Transylvania 2

PG 89 min Animation | Comedy | Family | Fantasy

Dracula and his friends try to bring out the monster in his half human, half vampire grandson in order to keep Mavis from leaving the hotel.

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky

Stars: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez, Kevin James

NEW FILMS: SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Everest

PG-13 121 min Adventure | Drama | Thriller

A climbing expedition on Mt. Everest is devastated by a severe snow storm.

Director: Baltasar Kormákur

Stars: Jason Clarke, Ang Phula Sherpa, Thomas M. Wright, Martin Henderson

Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials

PG-13 131 min Action | Sci-Fi | Thriller

After having escaped the Maze, the Gladers now face a new set of challenges on the open roads of a desolate landscape filled with unimaginable obstacles.

Director: Wes Ball

Stars: Dylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster, Giancarlo Esposito

Black Mass

R 122 min Biography | Crime | Drama

The true story of Whitey Bulger, the brother of a state senator and the most infamous violent criminal in the history of South Boston, who became an FBI informant to take down a Mafia family invading his turf.

Director: Scott Cooper

Stars: Johnny Depp, Benedict Cumberbatch, Dakota Johnson, Joel Edgerton

Katti Batti

135 min Comedy | Romance

A romantic comedy that follows Maddy and Payal's live-in relationship until a sudden turn of events creates a distance between them.

Director: Nikhil Advani

Stars: Imran Khan, Kangana Ranaut

Sicario

R 121 min Action | Crime | Drama | Mystery | Thriller

An idealistic FBI agent is enlisted by an elected government task force to aid in the escalating war against drugs at the border area between the U.S. and Mexico.

Director: Denis Villeneuve

Stars: Emily Blunt, Josh Brolin, Benicio Del Toro, Jon Bernthal

Captive

PG-13 97 min Crime | Drama | Thriller

A single mother struggling with drug addiction is taken hostage in her own apartment by a man on the run after breaking out of jail and murdering the judge assigned to his case.

Director: Jerry Jameson

Stars: Kate Mara, David Oyelowo, Mimi Rogers, Michael Kenneth Williams

NEW FILMS: SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

The Intern

PG-13 121 min Comedy

70-year-old widower Ben Whittaker has discovered that retirement isn't all it's cracked up to be. Seizing an opportunity to get back in the game, he becomes a senior intern at an online fashion site, founded and run by Jules Ostin.

Director: Nancy Meyers

Stars: Anne Hathaway, Robert De Niro, Rene Russo, Nat Wolff

The Green Inferno

R 100 min Adventure | Horror

A group of student activists travels to the Amazon to save the rain forest and soon discover that they are not alone, and that no good deed goes unpunished.

Director: Eli Roth

Stars: Lorenza Izzo, Ariel Levy, Aaron Burns, Kirby Bliss Blanton

Stonewall

R 129 min Drama

A young man's political awakening and coming of age during the days and weeks leading up to the Stonewall Riots.

Director: Roland Emmerich

Stars: Jeremy Irvine, Jonny Beauchamp, Joey King, Caleb Landry Jones



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