

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday Season Sees Big Movie Releases

Joy Close, Staff Writer

With the holidays approaching, people are starting to plan family outings. Going to the movies is always at the top of the list of things to do on a weekend, and there are a few films that look promising for the holiday season.

The long-awaited film version of the first part of the seventh Harry Potter book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1*, came out on November 19, and made over \$1.25 million in its opening weekend. In this installment of the hugely popular series, Harry, Ron, and Hermione are on a mission to find and destroy the pieces of Voldemort's soul to kill him once and for all.

The second movie that tops the holiday list is the next in the line of films based on the books by C.S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Edmund, Lucy, and their cousin Eustice go on a fantastical, whirlwind adventure filled with dragons, mermaids, and menacing slave traders. Look for this movie, showing in 3D, in theaters on December 10.

The third movie which looks worth seeing this holiday season is *Tron: Legacy*, out in theaters on December 17. It is a fast-paced 3D adventure that is rumored to equal, if not surpass, last year's *Avatar* in special effects and 3D image quality. IMDB says that *Tron: Legacy* is about "a virtual-world worker [who] looks to take down the Master Control Program."

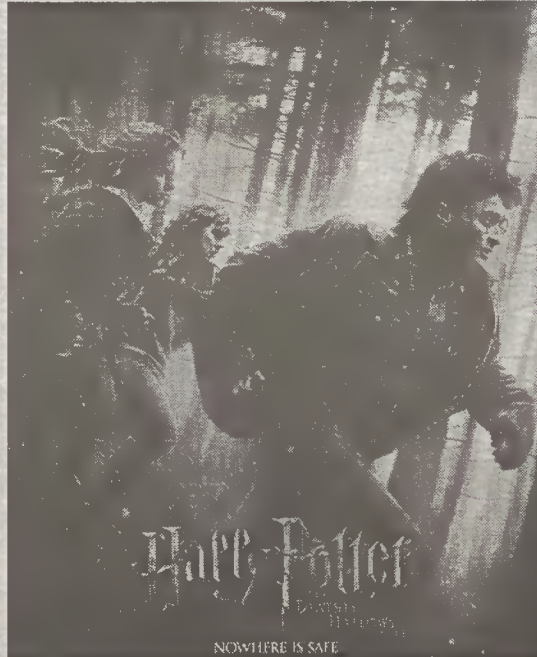
Other films opening throughout December include:

Black Swan, featuring Natalie Portman opens December 3rd

The Tourist, featuring Angelie Jolie and Johnny Depp, opens December 10th

How Do You Know, featuring Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson, Paul Rudd, and Jack Nicholson, opens December 17th

Gulliver's Travels, featuring Jack Black as Gulliver, opens December 22nd



photos from <http://koimoi.c2w.com>, <http://img.trekmovie.com>, and <http://www.apocalypticmovies.com/tron-legacy-wallpapers/>, clockwise from top left

Ask Gigi

Dear Gigi,

I just failed the English competency test for the second time, and I'm seriously pissed! I gave it my all on both attempts, but I just couldn't get the grammar under my belt in time. Now the beautiful "B" for which I've worked so hard this semester is an "F," and there's nothing I can do about it. Is it even worth showing up to the final? I don't feel like putting on a brave face anymore. And how can I avoid this mess next semester?

Sincerely,
Frustrated Freshie

Dear Frustrated Freshie,

I know the competency test is a pain, but all hope is not lost! You should still go to the final exam, even though it's a tough action to take. Doing so will prove to your professor that you are NOT a quitter, and should you choose to retake her section of ENG 111, she'll be more inclined to spend one-on-one time helping you prepare for the competency test beginning early next semester. If you end up with a different professor, take the responsible initiative to tell her about your competency test struggles within the first week of class so that you can devise interventions together that will help you succeed the next time around. I also suggest that you set up a standing appointment in the Learning Center with a writing tutor in the spring so that she can help you steadily work towards your goal of grammar mastery, and make sure to attend every review session the English department offers. Most importantly, don't let your negative feelings about the competency test further impede your forward progress this semester. Finish out strong so that you can start fresh in the spring!

Yours truly,
Gigi

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