



Search GoErie.com

Search Local Businesses

Search...

Search

Peekin Peak

RESORT AND SPA

58°

More Weather

Join our social networks!

Classifieds

Cars

Homes

Jobs

Dating

Entertainment» Movies

PUBLISHED: SEPTEMBER 28, 2012 12:01 AM EST

UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2012 7:37 PM EST

NEW DVD RELEASES

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS, Erie Times-News

ADVERTISEMENT



"The Avengers"

(PG-13, 2012, 143 minutes)

What sets "The Avengers" apart is the emphasis on character as the film's storytelling core. Many of the superheroes, including Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans) and Thor (Chris Hemsworth), have had features of their own, but both what they say and how they say it is a step up here. The dialogue is less glib than the Marvel norm, with lines written as if they meant something, not to mention often being genuinely funny. The total effect brings the film closer to the tone of the original 1960s books, which revolutionized the comic world by presenting superheroes who were deeply involving, troubled individuals. The film begins with some nefarious aliens gleefully writing Earth's obituary, and the bad news that the Tesseract, a tiny but enormously powerful extraterrestrial energy source, has started to act up. To save Earth, Fury is fully aware his troops will have to be supplemented by a handful of superheroes he hopes will

coalesce into a fighting machine called the Avengers.

Extras: Interviews, deleted scenes

"Batman: The Dark Knight Returns, Part 1"

(PG-13, 2012, 126 minutes)

Just like the book it's based on, "Dark Knight Returns Part 1" is not a kid-friendly Batman tale. It excels in its construction of Batman as a myth; a creature of the shadows. We get to see what might be Bruce Wayne's greatest success: building the Batman not as a man, but as an urban legend of sorts. The action sequences are brilliantly executed, with Batman striking from the shadows in fluid movements, often only illuminated by quick flashes of lightning. The film, which stars Peter Weller, Michael McKean, Wade Williams, Ariel Winter and David Selby, plots the comeback of the 55-year-old Batman, who has been in retirement, after teams of criminals take over Gotham City. Part 1 also reveals a serious Mutant threat, although the Harvey Dent story holds some great reflective moments for Batman. Longtime Batman fans will have little trouble getting into the story, and the construction of the film will also help those who are not familiar with the characters to follow the plot. It's very dark stuff, however.

Extras: Interviews

"Bob Dylan and the Band: Down in the Flood"

(NR, 2012, 114 minutes)

A new documentary chronicling the early collaborative years of Bob Dylan and the Band is not the equal of Martin Scorsese's "The Last Waltz." But given the source of material, it's fascinating, especially to Dylan fans. "Down in the Flood" (which takes its name from the 1967 Dylan song of the same name) begins with Dylan and the Band's controversial 1966 tour and ends with the Basement Tapes recording sessions. Slated to appear in the film are archived and/or new interviews with the likes of the Band's Garth Hudson, drummer Mickey Jones, original Band frontman Ronnie Hawkins, session musician Charlie McCoy, and producer John Simon. While "Down in the Flood" is being purported to look at a period of just a few years, Dylan and the Band's history spans over three decades. Here is a breakdown of some of their most momentous collaborations.

In 1999, the Band released a cover of Dylan's "One Too Many Mornings" as their contribution to the full-length tribute Tangled Up in Blues.

Extras: Interviews



Headlines

- » NEW DVD RELEASES
- » NEW DVD RELEASES
- » NEW DVD RELEASES
- » NEW DVD RELEASES

"End of the Road"
(R, 1970, 110 minutes)

Though it has aged considerably, "End of the Road," which is based on the 1958 John Barth book of the same name, about a catatonic college graduate (Stacy Keach) and the crazed doctor (James Earl Jones) who pulls him out of one madness and drops him into another, may hold more value now as a rediscovered filmmaking curiosity than it did in 1970. Back then, it was an attempted statement piece. Narratively speaking, it's a wreck, which is something of an anti-achievement given that it's following the blueprint of a novel that made reasonably good sense. You can call it pretentious, inaccessible and even irredeemably terrible and have a case. A young, creepily stoic Keach is the movie's star, but the absolutely maniacal performance a young Jones puts on is bound to be its legacy. The plot centers on an unstable college instructor who becomes involved with the wife of a professor. Dorothy Tristan, in a difficult role, gives a superb performance.

Extras: A new 30-minute cast retrospective

"Bond 50"
(box collection of 22 Bond films)

Ready your martinis, James Bond aficionados. The entire filmography of 007 is here. For all Bond's superhuman feats, his most astonishing achievement may simply be that he's managed to remain contemporary. From the outset, Sean Connery's 007 made tech sexy by dragging Britain, America and the rest of the movie-loving world into a future where traditional manly virtues -- brute force, killer instincts, womanizing charisma -- gained steroidal upgrades in effectiveness thanks to an ongoing stream of ingenious gadgets, weapons and curious modes of transportation. The geeks employed by the spy agency's "Q Branch" remain largely offstage but their devilishly lethal devices demonstrate throughout the franchise's history that tech can be pretty damned glamorous. From the twin dual-tank jet pack ("Thunderball") to the Lotus Esprit sports car that converted into a submarine ("The Spy Who Loved Me"), vehicular traffic assumed a whole new level of cool once Bond strapped himself in.

Extras: 130 hours of extras

Our pick

"Goldfinger"
(PG, 1964, 110 minutes)

How does one pick their favorite James Bond movie when there have been so many classics?

Six different actors have played the iconic British spy since 1962, when "Dr. No" became the first movie adaptation of Ian Fleming's novels.

This week came the DVD release of "Bond 50," the complete collection of all 22 movies featuring 007.

The next Bond flick to hit theaters, "Skyfall," arrives Nov. 9.

I think Daniel Craig is a fantastic Bond, and that "Casino Royale" is arguably the second-best Bond movie of all-time. One could also say "Live and Let Die" was Roger Moore's finest effort and a worthy second-best in the lucrative franchise.

The bottom line is there can only be one best Bond, and greatest Bond movie, and for me that belongs to Sean Connery and his slick work in "Goldfinger."

The 1964 Academy Award-winner centers around a mastermind plot to raid the gold at Fort Knox, and features Connery dodging lethal lasers and killer hats (thrown, of course, by Oddjob) while being his usual charming self.

First Steps ...
Captured On

MOHAWK

SmartStrand Silk

12 Months NO INTEREST
Financing Available!

J's

Flooring Center

Erie's #1 Flooring Store

1271 East Grandview Blvd • 825.1248 • FlooringEriePA.com
Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-6 p.m., Fri 9-4 p.m., Sat 10-2 p.m.

Advertisement



If you are a smoker and live in [Pennsylvania] you need to read this...



The secret of how to learn a foreign language in just 10 days is revealed! Read here to find out...



Snoring is a silent killer. Stop your snoring tonight...



Oaks - New rule allows many Pennsylvania residents to get car insurance at half-price.



Men are finding an unlikely testosterone booster...



Find out how GNC's #1 selling mood support can help you live happier

Copyright © 2011 CyberLink LP and the Erie Times-News. All rights reserved. Any copying, redistribution or retransmission of the contents of this service without the express written consent of CyberLink LP is expressly prohibited. Read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Use](#) statements.

Quick Links	Contact Us	Our Services	Our Products	Your Newspaper Subscription
GoErie.com Homepage	Customer Service	Find Erie jobs	GoErie.com	Subscribe to the Erie Times-News
Events Calendar	About Us	Cars	RockErie.com	Home Delivery Questions/Issues
Weather	Web site questions	Homes	PresqueIsle.org	Vacation Starts/Stops
Obituaries	Contact By Department	Classifieds	Varsity	Make a Payment
Local News	Place a Classified ad	Obituaries	Show case	
Photo Reprints	Advertise online	eEdition	NWPA Outdoors	
Order or change home delivery	Advertise in print	Weather	Video	
Facebook		RSS Feeds	New sletters	
Tw itter		Text Alerts	Her Times	
		New sapapers in Education (NIE)	Lake Erie LifeStyle	
			Erie Moms and Dads	
			GoCraw fordCounty.com	