

THE TOP 10 THINGS WE LOVE THIS WEEK

The Must List



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TV THE DETOUR

• Created by Full Frontal's Samantha Bee and husband Jason Jones, this tale following a family road trip gone wrong blazes a comic trail with raunchy gags and madcap performances. (Debuts April 11, 9 p.m., TBS)

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BOOKS FOOL ME ONCE, by Harlan Coben

• With his 28th outing, Coben proves his thriller mastery once more, as former special-ops pilot Maya sees her dead husband on her nanny cam. Dark and painful secrets emerge when she investigates the impossible.

8

MUSIC ANTI WORLD TOUR, Rihanna

• Don't expect elaborate sets or primary colors from pop's resident bad girl. Instead, Rihanna keeps the earth-toned costumes PG-13 and her set list fiercely stripped down with more than a decade of hits and the very best from her killer recent album.

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MOVIES THE INVITATION

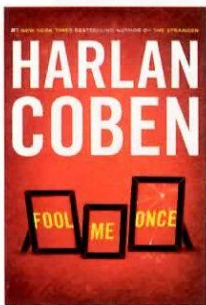
• Logan Marshall-Green plays a man consumed with dread while attending a dinner party hosted by his ex. Is he going nuts or has something gone awry? All is revealed in director Karyn Kusama's nerve-rending movie. (NR)

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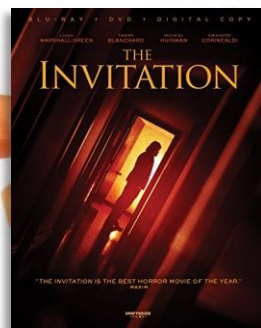
MUSIC OLOGY, Gallant

• With soulful storytelling and a soaring falsetto, this Maryland native (born Christopher Gallant) delivers one of the year's most compelling debuts.

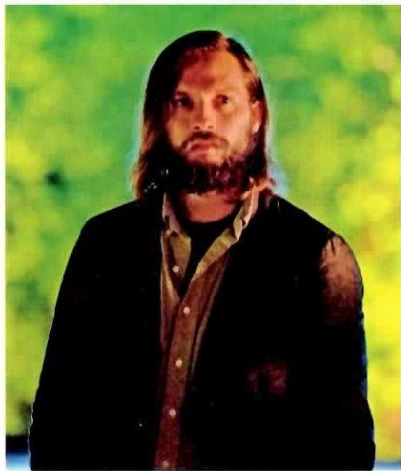
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MUST SEE

The Invitation
NR, 1 HR., 40 MINS.

Someone needs to show Karyn Kusama's slow-boiling new psychological thriller to J.J. Abrams. Because *this* is how a twist ending is done. Logan Marshall-Green's Will is invited to a Hollywood Hills dinner party by his newly married ex (Tammy Blanchard). Once there, the wine flows, the past is unpacked, and things get weird. Then they get weirder. Kusama ratchets the story's tension masterfully, building to a final shot that's as chilling as it is perfect. **A-** —Chris Nashawaty **L I V**

Mr. Right
R, 1 HR., 35 MINS.

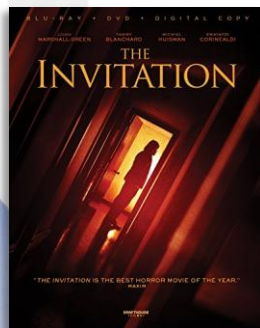
She's a kooky train wreck reeling from a bad breakup. He's a reformed assassin who bumps off the people who try to hire him. Together, Anna Kendrick and Sam Rockwell are the quirky pair at the heart of this screwball rom-com-slash-hitman movie. The ludicrous action-flick plot slows to a crawl whenever Kendrick and Rockwell aren't on screen (although RZA has a fun cameo as a kindhearted gunman), but the unlikely duo make this candy-colored carnival of blood and romance hard to resist. **B-** —Devan Coggan **L I V**

Demolition

Michelle Yellenhaar's sledgehammer performance is the only reason to see this. Together with *Dallas* and *Neighbors 2*, director John Dahl's *Demolition* is a manipulative downer about a widower who deals with his icy emotional numbness by literally taking a sledgehammer to his old life. At one point he says, "Everything has become a metaphor." Out loud! That's how unsuitable *Demolition* is. **C+** —Chris Nashawaty **L**

Louder Than Bombs
R, 1 HR., 49 MINS.

Norwegian director Joachim Trier's touching-but-too-remote English-language debut explores how a father (Gabriel Byrne) and two sons (Jesse Eisenberg, Devin Druid) grapple with the death of their wife and mother (Isabelle Huppert in flashbacks). While Byrne is solid (as always) and Eisenberg is restrained (a relief after his manic *Lex Luthor*), it's newcomer Druid whose scenes pack the most power and force. His awkward high school misfit retreats into a vibrant, soulful inner world that's convincingly confused and messy. He's the real-est thing in the film. **B** —Chris Nashawaty **L**



MEET PIXAR'S NEW STAR

Finding Dory (out June 17) is the studio's most anticipated feature in years, but **Piper**, the tiny titular hero of the short film that will play before it, might steal the show. **BY MARC SNETIKER**

Before this summer's *Finding Dory* plunges you back into the ocean, the new short film preceding the *Nemo* sequel will stick you right on the beach, where you'll meet what's possibly Pixar's cutest creation yet: Piper, a diminutive, big-eyed, beach-dwelling bird. The inspiration for the six-minute short—about a hungry baby sandpiper learning to overcome hydrophobia—came from veteran Pixar animator Alan Barillaro's daily runs along the shore in Emeryville, Calif., which is less than a mile away from Pixar Studios. Barillaro, who has worked on *Finding Nemo*, *Ratatouille*, and *Monsters University*, would notice birds by the thousands fleeing

from the water but returning between waves to eat. "Seeing the way these sandpipers react to waves and run, I always felt, 'Gosh, that's a film, that's a character,'" says Barillaro. "We've all been to the beach, but have we ever viewed water from just an inch off the sand? The research for this film was: Go for another run—and bring your camera." Barillaro's early concept work on *Piper* impressed *Dory* director Andrew Stanton and Pixar guru John Lasseter, who encouraged him to flesh out the story and, three years later, decided to place *Piper* in the plum spot before *Dory*. That both films have a nautical theme, says Barillaro, is purely coastal coincidence.