



CLASSIC



THE USUAL SUSPECTS (1995)

DIRECTOR: BRYAN SINGER
CAST: GABRIEL BYRNE, KEVIN SPACEY, BENICIO DEL TORO, PETE POSTLETHWAITE, CHAZZ PALMINTERI
SONY PICTURES



THE STORY

IN the aftermath of a villainous drug-grab gone bad, there are, seemingly, only two survivors: a severely burned Hungarian criminal and Roger 'Verbal' Kint (Spacey), a chatty conman with cerebral palsy. As US Customs Service officer Dave Kujan (Palminteri) waits for the hospitalised Hungarian to slowly communicate the facial details of street-myth Turkish criminal mastermind Keyser Söze to a sketch artist, Kujan interrogates Kint. Shaken and seemingly submissive, Kint tells a fantastical tale of five criminals serendipitously brought together by a police line-up who, under the leadership of Dean Keaton (Byrne), band together to rob New York's Finest Taxi Service: corrupt cops who escort rich jewel smugglers throughout the Big Apple. The gang inadvertently scores heroin instead of jewels, though, which leads back to Söze's lawyer, Kobayashi (Postlethwaite), who blackmails them into launching an assault on a drug-laden ship. As the story unravels and Kujan learns more about the shady and assumed-mythical history of Keyser Söze, he's forced to face the reality that the master criminal may be a real, living threat.

THE LOWDOWN

Lead actor Gabriel Byrne was initially sceptical that the independent film could do justice to Christopher McQuarrie's compelling script, but he was eventually convinced in a meeting with the writer and director Bryan Singer. In fact, Singer was so adamant that Byrne was perfect for the role of Dean Keaton that he pushed the \$6 million, 35-day shoot back to accommodate Byrne's schedule and even shifted the entire production to LA. Such was the buzz around the script that Al Pacino, who tried out for the role of Dave Kujan but passed due to scheduling issues, lists missing out on *The Usual Suspects* as one of his biggest career regrets.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Surprisingly, there's still no Blu-ray version available in Australia, despite its status as a cult classic. The DVD release includes a smattering of supplementary features in the form of audio commentary from director Bryan Singer, an original trailer and talent profiles for the film's main cast.

WHY IT MATTERS

To this day, *The Usual Suspects* stands as one of the strongest examples of a genuinely clever and shocking movie twist. Even putting the twist aside, it's a fantastic neo-noir film with a stellar cast, intelligent writing and compelling direction.



FILMS



COCKNEYS VS ZOMBIES

DIRECTOR: MATTHIAS HOENE
CAST: ALAN FORD, RASMUS HARDIKER, HARRY TREADAWAY, MICHELLE RYAN, JACK DOOLAN



TRANSMISSION FILMS

THE zombie zeitgeist continues hard and strong with a decidedly English tongue-in-cheek take on the common undead foe in *Cockneys vs Zombies*. Andy (Treadaway) and Terry (Hardiker) are clueless brothers who determine the only way they can save their grandad Ray's (Ford) bankrupt retirement home is by robbing a nearby bank. As they plan the least inspired heist of the decade with some colourful characters, the unthinkable happens: a zombie virus rages across East London and the clueless crew is forced to fall back to Ray's care home. But all is not safe for Ray and the other retired residents, either; they've had to step up and show that assisted living doesn't mean they're incapable of assisting the undead in becoming properly dead. As the two groups unite, plenty of comedy, guts and a whole lot of entertainment ensue for a sleeper hit that's well worth watching.



THIS IS THE END

DIRECTORS: EVEN GOLDBERG & SETH ROGEN
CAST: SETH ROGEN, JAY BARUCHEL, JAMES FRANCO, JONAH HILL, CRAIG ROBINSON
SONY PICTURES



THE same team that delivered the comedic goods with *Superbad* and *Pineapple Express* proudly presents *This Is The End*: an apocalyptic laugh-fest that lives up to the funny-bone-tickling legacy of the preceding films. With a cast of actors who are playing themselves, *This Is The End* is brimming with familiar funny faces, and a few surprising ones to boot. The story kicks off with Baruchel flying in to LA to hang out with his old friend Rogen for some quality bro time. After a debauchorous afternoon of drugs, munchies and videogames, the duo heads over to a housewarming party at Franco's house. However, when a giant sinkhole appears outside the party house and celebrities start hilariously dropping like flies, it's up to the helpless survivors to band together to get through the apocalypse that rages outside, all the while dealing with the tensions and shortcomings of the group inside. *This Is The End* is as hilarious as it is politically incorrect. See it.



Preview

MAN OF STEEL

DIRECTOR: ZACK SNYDER

CAST: HENRY CAVILL, RUSSELL CROWE, AMY ADAMS, MICHAEL SHANNON, KEVIN COSTNER

WARNER BROS.



GIVEN the success of Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* trilogy, it was only a matter of time before DC Comics green-lit a big-screen reboot of its other renowned superhero: Superman. *Man of Steel* promises a fresh take on the Superman origin story, with Nolan acting as producer and co-writer on *The Dark Knight* trilogy David S. Goyer working as screenwriter. When Krypton is caught up in a civil war, Jor-El (Crowe) saves his son Kal-El (Cavill) by launching him in an escape pod to Earth. Kal-El is found, adopted and named Clark by Jonathan (Costner) and Martha Kent (Diane Lane) and lives his life feeling alienated from the humans around him. When the militant General Zod (Shannon) arrives on Earth to claim back the wayward Kryptonian, Clark must embrace his destiny as a champion of the planet to fight Zod and his powerful forces. With a massive budget, a bigger cast and a lot of positive buzz surrounding the film, we're expecting *Man of Steel* to deliver the goods when it lands.



Preview

PACIFIC RIM

DIRECTOR: GUILLERMO DEL TORO

CAST: CHARLIE HUNNAM, IDRIS ELBA, CHARLIE DAY, RON PERLMAN, RINKO KIKUCHI

WARNER BROS.



IN premise alone, *Pacific Rim* promises to bring out the inner child in any cinemagoer: towering monsters versus giant robots. Not too many years from now, a crevice in the Pacific Ocean opens up that is actually a portal to another dimension. Gargantuan creatures known only as Kaiju arrive through the underwater gateway and make short work of Earth's standing military technology. Millions die in the huge war that ensues. In response to the towering monstrous threat, Earth's remaining forces unite to construct lofty robots called Jaegers to combat the threat. As Earth's defences are slowly bested, it's up to former pilot Raleigh Becket (Hunnam) and green trainee Mako Mori (Kikuchi) to team up and take control of an obsolete Jaeger to fight back the beastly apocalypse, with the help of their leader Stacker Pentecost (Elba). Everything we've seen to date pegs *Pacific Rim* as a merging of bigger mechanical brothers of Transformers squaring off against Godzilla's taller and uglier siblings. We can't wait to see the epic synthetic versus flesh grudge match play out on the big screen.



Preview

THE LONE RANGER

DIRECTOR: GORE VERBINSKI

CAST: ARMIE HAMMER, JOHNNY DEPP, WILLIAM FICHTNER, HELENA BONHAM CARTER, TOM WILKINSON

DISNEY



DIRECTOR of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy, Gore Verbinski, reunites with his show-stealing leading man Johnny Depp in the silver-screen rebirth of classic tale *The Lone Ranger*. Tonto (Depp) is a Native American spirit warrior who tells the larger-than-life tale of the transformation of mere mortal John Reid (Hammer), a dead-and-reborn man of the law, to a masked legend who has no qualms about meting out his own brand of justice. Tonto and Reid must join forces to fight against the growing threat inspired by greed and corruption in the Old West, and seek retribution for Reid's dead brother. The unlikely duo learn to fight together in a family-friendly action film that, like *Pirates of the Caribbean*, promises to deliver plenty of laughs, epic set pieces and a whole lot of bang for your buck. Given Verbinski's track record, his reunification with *Pirates of the Caribbean* writers Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, as well as the popularity and ability of Depp as a leading man, we're predicting *The Lone Ranger* will be a lot of fun.



Preview

THE HEAT

DIRECTOR: PAUL FEIG

CAST: SANDRA BULLOCK, MELISSA MCCARTHY, KAITLIN OLSON, THOMAS F. WILSON

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

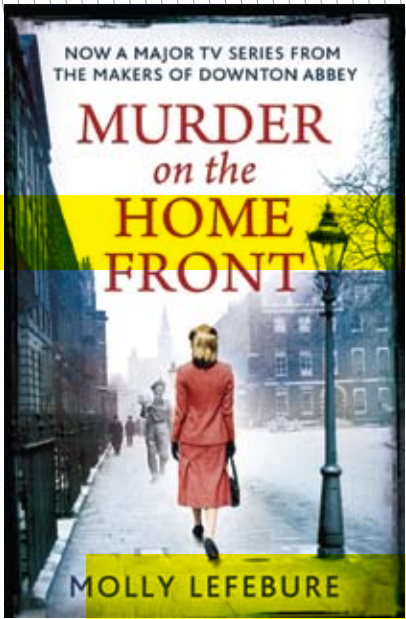


HOT off the back of *Bridesmaids'* both-sexes-friendly success comes Paul Feig's female-led follow-up, *The Heat*. Uppity FBI special agent Sarah Ashburn (Bullock) is used to cracking cases on her own and in her by-the-book way. When Ashburn is forced to partner up with skull-cracking, rule-breaking Boston police officer Shannon Mullins (McCarthy), both law enforcers find their methods tested and patience pushed to the limit as they continually grate against each other. It doesn't take long for the socially inept duo to realise that they're going to have to find a way to work together if they hope to track down a notorious Russian drug lord, but not before they rub each other up the wrong way, which is, of course, where all the laughs hopefully come in. With McCarthy's turn in *Bridesmaids* and Bullock's rom-com pedigree stretching all the way back to *While You Were Sleeping*, both leads have shown they have the talent to deliver the comedic goods, and the adult classification ensures they won't be pulling any punches.



BOOKS

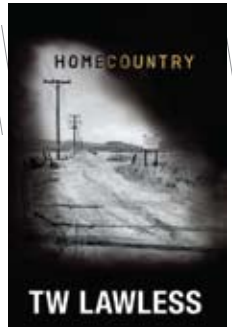
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MURDER ON THE HOME FRONT

MOLLY LEFEBURE
HACHETTE

MOLLY Lefebure is a cracker. One of the old guard; a stoic Briton who lived and worked through WWII London. But what makes her story fascinating is that she was the personal secretary and Girl Friday of acclaimed British forensic pathologist Keith Simpson, who himself worked in the shade of the brilliant Dr Bernard Spillsbury. Molly's meticulous notes and flawless recollections of wartime London are remarkable. She not only documented each case but also collected evidence at crime scenes, witnessed court trials and played a part in the burgeoning movement of forensic medicine and crime-scene investigation in the 20th century. Molly's sense of humour ensures the book keeps a swift pace and the crimes covered are as broad and as violent as any today. *Murder on the Home Front* has been adapted for television by the production company behind *Downton Abbey* and promises to be as riveting on the TV as it is in these pages.



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HOME COUNTRY

TW LAWLESS
CAMPANILE PUBLISHING

TABLOID journalist Peter Clancy loves his job—raking muck for the *Melbourne Truth* has never paid so well in a society obsessed with the human failings of its media darlings. In fact, the long hours make it easy for Peter to avoid calling his regular shag Michelle his girlfriend, and hard for him to admit that drinking half a slab a day isn't the best lifestyle choice. When he gets a call saying his mum has died, Peter knows he has to head home to the family property—a dustbowl of a town outside of Townsville called Clarke's Flat—to settle the family estate and get the hell back to Melbourne as fast as possible. But like all visits to the past, Peter can't help but face the things he ran away from, the people he let down, and the reality of who he is. *Home Country* is as droll, sarcastic, funny and boozed-up as the outback it's set in. An enjoyable read that features realistic, classic Australian characters as familiar as your own uncle.

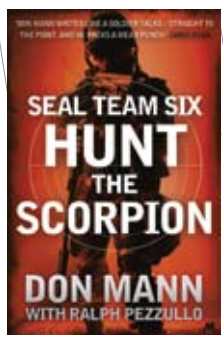


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LEXICON

MAX BARRY
HACHETTE

MAX Barry's previous novel, *Syrup*, has been made into a movie, starring the lovely Amber Heard, due to hit cinemas next month. His latest novel, *Lexicon*, is less a play on words and more a war because of them. Language is an ever-evolving craft that is as much shaped by history as it is by the present; new words appear in our lexicon every day. But where do they come from and what do they mean? Two years ago, something was unleashed in Broken Hill that wiped out the town, leaving thousands dead. Few people know what really happened. Those who do will do anything to prevent the truth from getting out. Emily Ruff knows what happened: she is a 'poet', one of the elite who use words to manipulate the will of others. Wil Parke may know what happened, but his memory has been wiped and both sides want to claim him as their own. *Lexicon* is a fresh and fascinating thriller.



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SEAL TEAM SIX: HUNT THE SCORPION

DON MANN WITH RALPH PEZZULLO
HACHETTE

DON Mann has been associated with the Navy SEALs for 30 years as a platoon member, assault team member, boat crew leader or advanced training officer. He was on active duty with SEAL Team 6 until 1998. And while there are many works of fiction written by former special forces soldiers, few are as visceral and realistic as this one. Don Mann's book reads like an actual account of SEAL Team 6 missions; the language, the action and the feeling of being right there with the squad as they take down various threats is authentic and exciting. The story involves the Team investigating a series of thefts and hijackings throughout Libya, Yemen and Somalia, tied to a splinter group intent on creating a dirty bomb. But as capable as they are, the Team also faces some very real-world problems—from wives to bureaucrats—along the way. Forget heroics, *Seal Team Six: Hunt The Scorpion* is an action thriller about real men, facing real issues, in a kick-arse way.



MUSIC

TRIPLE J'S HOTTEST 100: VOLUME 20

VARIOUS
ABC MUSIC

IF you want a crash course on what's happening with Australian music, the annual Triple J Hottest 100 collection is a great place to start. The radio station's compendium of cool presents a diverse and eclectic offering of music from breaking Australian acts as well as world-stage headliners. Also available in a two-CD set, this DVD version features studio and live music videos of 45 tracks taken from the annual listener-voted countdown, including artists such as: Santigold ('Disparate Youth'); Muse ('Madness'); Kimbra ('Warrior'); Birds of Tokyo ('This Fire'); Regina Spektor ('All The Rowboats'); Florence + The Machine ('Spectrum (Say My Name)' (Calvin Harris Remix)); Bat For Lashes ('Laura'); Skrillex ('Bangarang' (ft. Sirah)); Flume ('Holdin' On'); The Black Keys ('Gold On The Ceiling'); Icona Pop ('I Love It' (ft. Charli XCX)); Tame Impala ('Elephant'), and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis ('Thrift Shop' (ft. Wanz)), to name a selection. A great investment for your next house party or please-'em-all gift for all ages.



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LEANN RIMES

SPITFIRE
SONY MUSIC AUSTRALIA

SINCE bursting onto the American country music scene at the age of 13, LeAnn Rimes has been a mainstay on the charts. *Spitfire* is her fourteenth studio album and marks a return to original material after 2011's all-covers record *Lady & Gentlemen*. The album begins with a bang with aptly named title track 'Spitfire'—a foot-stomping, guitar-driven number that stands in stark contrast to track two, 'What Have I Done', with its gentle, mandolin-accented musings and back-up vocals from fellow country stars Alison Krauss and Dan Tyminski. The guest spots continue on 'Gasoline And Matches', which features Matchbox Twenty's Rob Thomas and legendary guitarist Jeff Beck. Other highlights include 'Bottle' with its classic country sound and fun honky-tonk tune 'You Ain't Right'. While it's not going to set the world on fire, *Spitfire* is a solid album that further cements Rimes' position as one of country music's leading ladies.

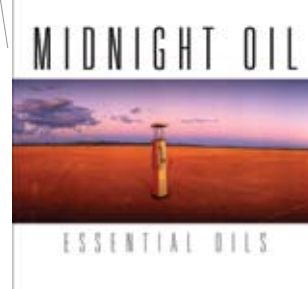


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WILLIE NELSON
AND FAMILY

LET'S FACE THE MUSIC AND DANCE
SONY MUSIC AUSTRALIA

HE may have turned 80 in April, but Willie Nelson is still going strong. *Let's Face The Music And Dance* features a collection of pop, jazz, rock and country standards that Willie and his sister Bobbie Nelson have played during more than 40 years on the road together. Truly varied in its track listing, the record includes music by Irving Berlin, Carl Perkins and Django Reinhardt, among others, but this is no ordinary covers album. With his unique voice and trademark style of guitar playing, Willie makes every song his own. Infused with harmonica and Bobbie's bouncy piano playing, classics such as 'Walkin' My Baby Back Home' and 'I Can't Give You Anything But Love' take on a whole new dynamic and sound as fresh as the day they were written. Amongst the covers is one new original song from Willie called 'Is The Better Part Over'. If *Let's Face The Music And Dance* is anything to go by, the answer to that question is definitely "no".



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MIDNIGHT OIL

ESSENTIAL OILS
SONY MUSIC AUSTRALIA

FROM the surf punk of 'Run by Night' off their self-titled 1978 debut album to polished protest 'Luritja Way' off 2002's *Capricornia*, this two-disc, 36-strong collection celebrates the musical and political evolution of one of Australia's greatest rock bands. With so many albums and EPs to mine, the track list is ridiculously strong: 'Back on the Borderline', 'Don't Wanna Be the One', 'Short Memory', 'Read About It', 'Best of Both Worlds', 'Hercules', 'Beds Are Burning', 'King of the Mountain', 'Forgotten Years', 'My Country'... to name 10 almost at random. While listening may be initially tinged with regret—wishing the Oils hadn't called it quits, or that you'd seen them live more often—what really comes through is the quality of the musicianship, the constant experimentation with new sounds and the ability to deliver messages in a non-patronising way. Nuclear disarmament, environmental destruction and inequalities in the indigenous community are no less relevant today. Same goes for Midnight Oil.