

Their First Best Destiny

BEWARE OF POSSIBLE SPOILERS (but I will try to avoid them)

I must say that the wait was well worth it. I will say that the plot was typical J.J. Abrams. Anyone who watched Alias or watches Lost knows that his plots can be convoluted at best. That being said, everything that made the past series was present in the film but non-Trekkers should also enjoy it... provided that sci-fi is to their liking.

The how and why of the destinies (I don't think the word is out of place, at all) of the two lead characters are laid out. The brash, looking before he leaps and darn the consequences of Kirk was dramatically portrayed by Chris Pine. The balance of the mixture of Vulcan/humanity of Spock was brilliant. I almost thought that Zachary Quinto was a young Leonard Nimoy. In fact, I thought the 7 ensemble characters of the Enterprise command were each portrayed quite well. Dr. McCoy's first impression of Spock is hilarious... and how did he get the nickname of "Bones"? I still have a hard time seeing Chekhov on the bridge this early. Maybe as a member of the crew in some smaller capacity, but it just seemed strange. There is another relationship on board that I'm not quite sure fits.

I don't want to give too much of the plot away. However, the villain sets out on a mission of vengeance that could have catastrophic effects upon the universe. Isn't that the way all of these seem to follow? Final verdict: While the plot is somewhat out there, the characters fit like a glove and made the movie quite fun. It was better than Star Trek V... so it was far from the worst.

The Wait Is Over... A Day Early

Tonight at 7, I will be in an area multiplex watching the first summer blockbuster of the season (did not get to *Wolverine*). I have watched interviews with cast members on a few of the gab fests. Surprisingly, little has been divulged concerning the plot of *Star Trek* which is a VERY good thing. The only cast member (aside from Mr. Nimoy of course) I really recognize (by name) is Eric Bana. Bana will be playing the villain Nero. The only cinematic of his I have had the pleasure(?) of spending too much for a two hour + movie was the original dud of the big screen *Hulk*. At least if *Trek* fails, it will be hard to blame him because he is one of the lucky individuals who got to sit in the chair and endure hours of prosthetic application. I think it would be neat to play a character at least once (probably no more) in which I had to sit through three hours of having my face totally transformed. So... Live Long and Prosper, Beam Me Up, Scotty (never said by Shatner's Kirk), Warp Factor 9.99. I don't know if I am more excited to see this movie or if I was more excited to see *Indiana Jones*' return last year. Not nearly as long to wait for the return of the *Enterprise*.

Summer Fun At The Movies

While I hopefully will have a jam-packed summer to look forward to, I do plan to see at least a few of the big-budget, popcorn munching, no chance of winning any major awards movies coming soon to a theatre near me.

- [*X-Men Origins: Wolverine*](#) (the backstory to arguably, the most popular member of the gang of mutant superheros...

opening Friday. If you haven't seen the much publicized copy that surely found its way onto the internet)

- [Star Trek](#) (the much-hyped reboot of the 43 year old franchise. The trailers look phenomenal... hopefully, as is so often the case, the previews are not the best thing... I'm hoping the delay from Christmas Day to May 8th will be worth the wait))
- *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (the much delayed sixth movie of the seven book franchise. The final book will be divided into 2 movies. It has been two years since the last cinematic adventure of the students of Hogwarts)
- *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* (didn't I tell you that it was a summer of popcorn, senseless movies)
- *Land of the Lost* (Will Farrell in an update of the classic 70s Saturday morning series about dinosaurs)
- *Up* (Pixar's Latest about an old man who hitches his house to a bunch of balloons and up, up, and awaaaaaaaaay he goes. Pixar movies are a must)
- *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian* (the sequel looks as fun as the original...LOTS)

I probably will not have time to see all of them but will do what I can. I plan to be in one show, help with the realizing of another show, and squeeze in some work this summer. May the summer bring fireworks in the cinemas as well as the sky.

Don't wait. Guarantee your seat before you go and avoid a sold out show. Skip the box office lines and buy movie tickets at Fandango.com.

Bowling Obsessed

For date night this week, our movie options were limited. We are lucky enough to live nearby cheap movie theaters that allow us to go to the movies weekly, so we see almost everything that comes out. Well, everything we have an interest in seeing, anyway. There are movies such as Krank 2 that you couldn't PAY me to see – I would rather just skip the movie altogether – same with the upcoming Star Trek (no offense to you Trekkies – just not my kind of movie!). So this week we were left to choose between Obsessed, a stalker-thriller with Beyonce Knowles and the new boss Charles (who already left) from the Office or a movie called The Soloist, which is about a Julliard-trained musician who ends up homeless because his schizophrenia stands in the way of his success. The Soloist actually seemed to have some substance, but it also seemed like the kind of movie that could wind up being a tear-jerker or just plain boring. So we went with Obsessed, despite its 4.0 rating on imdb.com (which had slipped to a 3.8 as of today – ouch). Obsessed is a movie about a successful business man who had a beautiful wife (Beyonce) and child – essentially the perfect life – until an obsessed temp gets in the picture. This woman is truly psycho, and I really enjoyed watching how she made this poor man's life unravel. The movie wasn't bad until a few clues shed the light on the movie's secret – Beyonce can't act. Add in bad character development and a weak script, and I can definitely see where the 4.0, er, 3.8 came in. There was one line near the end of the movie that was one of the stupidest lines I've ever heard in any movie. I won't spoil it for you, but let's just say that my husband and I got dirty looks for laughing out loud at its absurdity. On top of all of that, the movie was completely predictable – it must have been based upon (copied) every popular stalker movie ever made – The Crush, The Temp, Hand That Rocks the Cradle... Would I recommend it? To the right person, maybe... you have to like

thrillers; so much so that you'd want to see one that is almost a thriller parody. You have to go to this one in a cynical mood, looking for stuff to make fun of – and you won't be disappointed.

After the movie, we decided to mix it up a little and go bowling – something we haven't done in a LONG time (I blame my 4 pregnancies – bowling is NOT a recommended sport for expecting women, and I've been pregnant for about one tenth of my life!) So anyway, for my first game, I'm embarrassed to say that I got a measly 99 – not very good for someone who used to bowl in a weekly league for years. My second game was back on par with a 137 – but I was still surprised at how quickly I got the sore muscles of bowler's fatigue. I guess picking up 10 lbs with three fingers uses muscles that haven't been thought about for years. While I'm happy to report that I wasn't sore at all the next day, I do have to say that my first attempt at bowling as a 30-year-old wasn't pretty. I guess I have to practice, especially if I'm ever going to go ahead and join that league I've been talking about doing for years. I just hope I don't hurt myself too badly.

Out of respect for my wonderful hubby, I will not disclose his bowling scores. Let's just say that he didn't stand a chance against the former high school 'Female Intramural Bowler of the Year'. ☐

Nightmare On Alumni Street

As has been the trend lately, they are going to remake a popular horror movie from my youth – [Nightmare On Elm Street](#). When the movie came out in 1984, I was too young (and scared) to watch it, but the main character, [Freddy Krueger](#), was

everywhere. Everyone wanted to be Freddy for Halloween, and just his picture was enough to scare me silly. I think even people who don't like horror movies know who Freddy Krueger is – a burn victim with a hideously scarred face who has knives for fingernails and invades the dreams of his victims. We tried watching Nightmare On Elm Street as adults not too long ago, and it wasn't scary – it just came across as dumb. So maybe a remake IS in order. I just hope it's not horrible like Rob Zombie's Halloween remake. Actually, the Friday the 13th remake wasn't so great either. I did enjoy the Texas Chainsaw Massacre remake though, and I really liked the remake of My Bloody Valentine – two movies that prove slasher films can be successfully remade. So I hope this Nightmare on Elm Street is on par with the latter two I mentioned.

The reason I'm bringing this up is because I read an article about how they are going to be filming this remake in Chicago, with some scenes being filmed at the high school my husband attended. The students had a surprise assembly on Friday, where they were told that their high school is going to be used to film a movie and that extras would be needed. How cool of an assembly would THAT be? The article mentions that the movie will be out April 16, but it doesn't specify which year – I'm hoping they mean 2010 because I'm anxious to see it! I just hope they don't try to do any funky computer stuff for Freddy's face or glove. I think good old fashioned makeup is sometimes what makes things scarier! [Here is the article about the choosing of the high schools.](#) And just for fun, here is the trailer from the original Nightmare on Elm Street:

The Clinic – A Preview

As you may or may not know, my husband – the almighty admin – wrote a play called “The Clinic”. We spent last Saturday turning it into a short film. Here is a teaser...

Shedding Some Moonlight On The Clinic

Saturday was the day that the theatre collaborated with [Moonlight Productions](#) to make the movie version of one of our plays from a few years ago. This is the first time I have been involved in such an endeavor but have sat through a few acting classes in which we discussed the differences between live theatre and film. Going in, I knew that there was going to be stops, starts, and the possibility of some jumping around in the script. I actually thought it quite ambitious to think that we could shoot the film in one day.

Some of the actors from the stage version of *The Clinic* could not make the filming; however, the talent that was recruited assumed the roles quite nicely.

When I had posted about a friend who is going to be making her feature film debut, I had forgotten about the possibility of filming *The Clinic* for Jay's production company. Hopefully, this will help him to get a film submitted to film festivals to help his company grow. Chris has already gotten the screenplay, which was adapted from his stage play, submitted to a festival in Arizona. However, the deadline for film submission is the end of April.

I actually felt for the people who had to sit there and watch those in scenes and await their turn. While I was in the scenes that were shot, most of my dialogue and craziness have yet to be shot. Most of the cast agreed that we should have had time to rehearse prior to filming. I would agree with that sentiment but it was difficult enough to find a time to meet that fit everyone's busy schedules. I, for one, had a

great time participating in a new medium. I have been on film before but during live broadcasts so this was something entirely new but very exciting. Chris was very humorous in his role as director using the clapper and forgetting to say "cut" when he needed to stop the scene (Scene C3; Take 259, etc. HEHE) I'm sure with the multiple cameras running, there will be plenty to have on a blooper reel. I just hope that the film is good enough to help get Jay's name out there. Wrapping up next Saturday. Hopefully, we all can look over the script and become more familiar with it and get through smoothly but I am confident that it will **BE GREAT!!!**

I Quite Understandably Mistook The Photographer As A Zombie

Sure, that's happened to everyone at some point, hasn't it? You mistake someone for a zombie? No wait, that's only Woody Harrelson, an actor probably known more for his advocacy to legalize marijuana than for any movie roles he's had. Maybe he shouldn't smoke quite so much dope, if he truly believes this is an "understandable" mistake – check out the story below:

From CNN.com by Alan Duke

Woody Harrelson defended his clash with a photographer at a New York airport Wednesday night as a case of mistaken identity – he says he mistook the cameraman for a zombie.

The TMZ photographer filed a complaint with police claiming the actor damaged his camera and pushed him in the face at La Guardia Airport, according to an airport spokesman.

"We're looking into this allegation and if it's warranted, we'll turn it over to the proper authorities," said Port Authority of New York and New Jersey spokesman Ron Marsico.

The photographer, who was not identified, captured the encounter on a small camera after his larger one was broken.

Harrelson, who is being sued by another TMZ photographer for an alleged assault in 2006, did not deny his involvement.

"I wrapped a movie called 'Zombieland,' in which I was constantly under assault by zombies, then flew to New York, still very much in character," Harrelson said in a statement issued Friday by his publicist.

"With my daughter at the airport I was startled by a paparazzo, who I quite understandably mistook for a zombie," he said.

TMZ.com posted two videos of the incident, including one recorded by the larger camera before it was damaged.

The first video shows the photographer following Harrelson and his daughter down an escalator and out of the terminal. It ends with Harrelson apparently reaching for the lens.

The second video begins with the photographer accusing Harrelson of breaking his camera.

After Harrelson returns the camera to him, a scuffle appears to ensue.

"Woody, this is assault. Woody, this is assault," the photographer is heard saying. "Woody, chill out. Would you please chill out?"

The photographer continues to follow Harrelson for another four minutes as the actor and his daughter walk to the airport parking lot. At one point, Harrelson again turns toward the cameraman.

"I'm being chased by Woody Harrelson while I'm talking to you," the photographer says as he talks to an unidentified person on a cell phone.

"He hit me in my face, he broke my friggin' camera, he broke the camera in pieces," he said.

Harrelson, his daughter and a driver get inside an SUV and the encounter ends.

In the movie "Zombieland," Harrelson plays "the most frightened person on Earth" looking for refuge from zombies, according to the Internet Movie Database, imdb.com

Filming on the movie wrapped in Atlanta, Georgia, on Wednesday, according to director Ruben Fleischer's Web site.

TMZ photographer Josh Levine filed a lawsuit against Harrelson last year for an alleged attack outside a Hollywood nightclub in 2006.

Video of that incident, which is also posted on TMZ.com, also appeared to show Harrelson grabbing a camera and clashing with the photographer.

Los Angeles prosecutors declined to press charges against the actor, but Levine filed a suit last summer asking for \$2.5 million in damages.

"Woody Harrelson has a history of anger management issues with people and we intend to put a stop to this," Cyrus Nownejad, Levine's lawyer, said Friday.

Boldly Go... To The Beginning

As the days count down to May 8, so too does the speculation of whether or not J.J Abrams' vision of (IMHO) one of the two most iconic and enduring franchises in sci-fi will live up to the legend. Even if you have never seen one of the hundreds of Star Trek television episodes (spanning over 40 years, 5 spin-offs, and an animated series), any of the 10 big screen movies, or could care less... unless you live under a rock, you have at least heard of the phenomenon in some way. Last night, a group of movie goers who thought they were walking into a screening of *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* were given a huge surprise. Patrons at the Alamo Draft House in Austin, TX were greeted by the movie's writers and the "old" Spock: Leonard Nimoy, himself and given an advance screening. Unlike the recent problematic internet leaking of another summer blockbuster: *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. Of course, in today's world I would not be surprised to hear that *Star Trek* has by now made its way onto downloads... if so, I don't want to know.

Personally, I want to know as little about the movie as possible; but the trailers look amazing. What I want from the movie is basically what I enjoy most about the original series. A good plot, a good villain, action whether it be on land or in space (however, a good ship to ship confrontation with phasers and photon torpedoes blazing is always enjoyable. However, what I enjoy most about the old show is the chemistry between the three core characters: the devil-may-care, go where angels fear to tread Captain Kirk; the logical, usually stoic half-Vulcan/half-human Spock; and the certainly outspoken, cantankerous, passionate Dr. Leonard H. "Bones" McCoy (my personal favorite of the original characters). Some of my favorite moments revolve around heated displays of verbal one upsmanship between the first officer and the chief medical officer of the *U.S.S. Enterprise*. Most often, Captain Kirk would be the man in the

middle who had to ease the tension.

Overall, I hope to be entertained and feel like I am stepping back into the world of 22nd century excitement. The actors on screen may not be the same, but hopefully the characters they portray will be recognizable.

May 8th seems like an awfully familiar date to me... wonder why
□ Maybe if I check out my countdown widget...

Feelin' Groovy And Yet Not So Groovy

I recently posted on my friend from high school who went to her first movie audition a few weeks ago. Today, she came into the store looking rather depressed. As I was waiting on her, I asked what was wrong. Thier family dog had just passed away. I still remember being really upset for a long time after losing MY dog so I knew how she felt.

However, she did have some good news. Monday was the day she was to get any callbacks for the movie. She got a call from the director and SHE GOT THE PART! She was absolutely floored. The director said that her casting was totally unanimous. Excellent for a first-time auditioner! I have only been told that my casting in any role was unanimous one time and it was not the first time I ever auditioned. I was not able to ask for details and Peg did not look like she was in the mood to discuss it. But from what little I know, she is cast in the role of the mother in a horror film (ironic that she is the wife of a church pastor... wouldn't you say?). Apparently, the shoot starts in June in Coldwater. Peg also told me that she has definitely decided to minor in film at UT

after one of the faculty advised her to. Doesn't it just give you a great feeling to know that you helped someone achieve something special in some small way? Congrats, Peg.