

s f t w MOVIES

TOP 5 FILMS THIS WEEK

- 1. Assassin's Creed
- 2. Star Wars: Rogue One
- 3. A Monster Calls

- 4. Silence
 - 5. Passengers
- Source: launchingfilms.co.uk

s f t w NEW MUSIC

NEW MUSIC

by JIM GELLATLY

On demand and DVDs

By Gareth Alexander



PICK OF THE WEEK

HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE (12): Sam Neill and relative newcomer Julian Dennison are utterly fantastic as a troubled foster father and son who spark a manhunt after disappearing into the New Zealand bush. Soon-to-be A-list director Taika Waititi wrings a staggering amount of emotion and laughs from the pair – two of the most effortlessly charming characters this year. A quirky gem. ★★

BEN-HUR (12): Hollywood cheek knows no bounds in this insulting sully of a classic. Treated with the contempt it deserved by the public and critics alike, no-mark Jack Huston is prince-come-slave Judah Ben-Hur in a witless CGI-fest. This is ugly, borderline incompetent filmmaking on an epic scale. Hopefully its dreadful box-office take will stop big-wigs doing this again (I doubt it). Chariots of dire. ★

CLASS – SERIES ONE (15): Suffering Doctor Who withdrawal? Before riding high on the back of A Monster Calls, Patrick Ness stepped into the Whoniverse with this teen outing. Coal Hill Academy is the setting, as a couple of disguised alien refugees are designated its protectors. Many Buffy-lite hijinks ensue, with the series ending up as an odd mix of previous spin-offs The Sarah Jane Adventures and Torchwood – albeit one with a cracking score. B- or ★★★

KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS (PG): From the studio Laika – behind the wonderful Boxtrolls, Coraline and ParaNorman – comes this spritely and moving tale of loss and, erm, samurai stuff. True, the outline sounds almost tediously Disney – Kubo, accompanied by a monkey and beetle, is on the search for his dad's magical armour. But the execution of both the eye-melting stop-motion and the story is fulfilling and deep. ★★★



UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS (15) 91mins ★

I SWERVED the previous four instalments of these vampire movies, so the recap of the series at the start was very welcome. Shame I couldn't have watched the rest of the film in abridged form too. That way I could have been spared endless solemn conversations between B-list British stars dressed in black leather – and skipped straight to Kate Beckinsale showing off her martial arts skills. **GRANT ROLLINGS**



AFFLECK 1

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA (15) 137mins ★★★★★

THIS isn't a fantasy about Morrissey eating candy floss or Liam Gallagher riding a donkey, but a melancholy drama of which Manchester's greatest miserabilists would be proud. And that's because underneath the heartbreaking plot line there is plenty of wry humour. Casey Affleck is rightly the favourite for a Best Actor Oscar for his mesmerising, yet understated

guardian of his 16-year-old nephew Patrick. The awkward buddy-buddy joshing between disinterested uncle and sex-obsessed nephew, played brilliantly by Lucas Hedges, makes this a bittersweet delight. A masterful reminder that even in the darkest of moments you have got to laugh. **GRANT ROLLINGS**



AFFLECK 2

LIVE BY NIGHT (15) 129mins ★★

If you live by night, you exist on the margins – but Ben Affleck's Prohibition-era movie is almost as middle-of-the-road as a James Blunt album. It is a world of broads, Tommy guns and wide lapels that stay spotless even when blood flies in the direction of Affleck's gangster Joe Coughlin. Grit added by the excellent Chris Cooper, Elle Fanning and Brendan Gleeson is undone by the shiny Zoe Saldana and clichéd Sienna Miller. Having written, directed, produced and starred in this ambitious effort, Affleck is overworking himself. Maybe he should rest by night. **GRANT ROLLINGS**

AT THE MOVIES Jamie East



LA LA LAND (12A) 128mins ★★★★★

FILM OF THE WEEK

YOU have already heard a ton about this film.

You're probably wishing everyone would shut up about it – it can't be that good, right? Wrong – it's probably better than you could imagine and funnier than you'll expect. Your face will ache from smiling and your heart will just ache. So how is it about as damn near as perfect a film as you're likely to see this year, a mere 13 days in? Easy. The chemistry between its two stars, the unbelievable songs and the borderline genius of its creator and director, Whiplash's Damien Chazelle. Set in modern-day L.A., Sebastian (Ryan Gosling), a wannabe jazz pianist and Mia (Emma Stone), a wannabe actress fall in love, supporting each other in their aspirations. But as success beckons, their choices could jeopardise everything.

Go ga-ga for La La

From its Technicolour opening you know this is special. Another Day Of Sun is a full dance number on a gridlocked Hollywood freeway, setting out Chazelle's stall perfectly. His attention to detail is second to none. If you're one of the few not yet sold on Ryan Gosling, this will sway you. His turn as a jazz musician forced to lower himself to bad Christmas carols will strike a chord with many. He's pretty good, but compared to his co-star... sheesh. Put simply, this is Emma Stone's film. She is flawless, fragile, mesmerising, heart-breaking and witty simultaneously. Where do you begin to dream up a film like this, so hell bent on inviting self-belief without feeling schmalzty? This January release is the ice cold beer after a crap day at the office. It's the first flushes of love after a heart-break. It's the middle finger to 2016. I'm going to call it. Oscar winners 2017: Best Song – The Fools Who Dream, Best Actress – Emma Stone. And if I were Damien Chazelle I wouldn't have plans that night either. Be prepared for La La. Why aren't you already in the queue?

We're emerging from shadows after 5 years honing our sound

BOOHOOHOO
WHO: Richard Richardson (pushing buttons/vocals/guitar), Lizzie Kiyoko (synths/vocals/flute), Reggie House (synths/guitar/vocals), Ewan Laing (drums).
WHERE: Glasgow.
FOR FANS OF: Prince, Depeche Mode, Hot Chip.
JIM SAYS: I first came across BooHooHoo around five years ago when they released a great track called Show Me through Edinburgh producer Stephen Watkins' Tape Singles Club. I thought they'd disappeared, but was delighted when they re-emerged at the tailend of last year with a debut EP through crowd-funded label Last Night From Glasgow.



The DebutHooHoo EP is a glorious collection of 80s-fuelled electro pop. They cut it live too. The EP launch at Nice N Sleazy in Glasgow was incredible. They even managed to pull off a cover of Philip Bailey and Phil Collins's 1984 No.1 hit Easy Lover. Richard and Reggie first started making music as teenagers at school, later forming their first guitar band. Reggie told me: "We started getting very interested in synths and drum machines and it became a totally separate entity. We knew we wanted to play what we were writing live despite the fact it was very electronic. "We scoured the internet for like-minded individuals who could help us play live, stumbled across Liz on Gumtree, met her in a pub and before we had even heard her play a note we knew she was in. We

just all clicked and started writing songs together." It's gone full circle from guitar band to electronic project back to more of a live set-up with the addition of Ewan on drums. Reggie said: "We never really disappeared. We've been writing and recording the whole time. We just didn't put out anything that we were working on. "It was when Ewan got involved that we really came out of our little bubble and started showing people what we were doing. After a quick rehearsal, Ewan said to us 'We're ready to get gigging, put something out now'. We're now working on new songs together as a four-piece." Half the EP was recorded with Watkins, the rest at their rehearsal space in Paisley. Former Prides drummer Lewis Gardiner added the final magic, mixing the EP. BooHooHoo perform at the Glad Café in Glasgow on February 11 as part of the Pop! South Weekender. On March 30 they play Last Night From Glasgow's 1st Birthday party at Stereo. **More:** www.facebook.com/boohooohoo **Jim** presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio on Sundays from 2-4pm. www.amazingradio.com www.jimgellatly.com

Watch video of boohoo at: thescottishsun.co.uk

"THE BEST FILM OF 2016" EMPIRE MAGAZINE

Hunt for the Wilderpeople

THE GUARDIAN ★★★★★

EMPIRE ★★★★★

BEST WASHINE ★★★★★

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