

EVENTS

Best movies of '16: 'Zootopia,' 'The Witch,' 'Sing Street'

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I'm here for the defense as well as the prosecution. The charge: So far, by and large, 2016 at the movies has failed.

The movie year has failed to produce anything as culturally urgent as ESPN's "O.J.: Made in America."

It has failed to produce a confessional as sleek and imposing as the Beyonce video cycle (it came with a new album) called "Lemonade" — "I Will Survive" by another name, visually imagined by a variety of talents, in a dazzling variety of moods, keys and relational scenarios.

The rise of the recapping culture, review-adjacent but not quite criticism, was made for "Game of Thrones," not "Batman v Superman." (That one cried out for recapping, which isn't the same thing.)

When "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" can sell \$872 million in tickets worldwide and still be considered a disappointment, never mind a dispiriting pain, we have temporarily lost our way.

On the other hand, your honor, we did see franchise items that knew what they were doing, and did what they did with confidence and a little class: "Captain America: Civil War," for example, or director Jon Favreau's live-action/motion-capture hybrid "The Jungle Book," a movie people loved largely because they didn't hate it.

Let me explain. With some films, you're just pleased and a little surprised to locate any semblance of personality and wit underneath the corporate studio directive. I suppose the



DISNEY

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brash "Deadpool" was like that, too. Ryan Reynolds: finally, a movie star, I guess.

Speaking of brash, I'd say the same, this time as a high compliment, of "Zootopia," which was and is truly, actually and completely a really good film. I finally caught up with Disney's animated feature the other day. In an election cycle as divisive, fear mongering and hostile as the current one, "Zootopia's" depiction of a multispecies society perpetually on the verge of giving in to its baser instincts rang a bell heard 'round the world; it made more than a billion dollars. The script was laden with messages and liberal temperance lectures, but they worked. They worked in story terms and emotional

terms, and told its tale with buoyant invention, a tale of small-town daughter of a carrot farmer — a rabbit, female, patronized right and left but undeterred — who becomes Zootopia's first rabbit cop and cracks an insidious political conspiracy with the aid of her fox pal.

"Fear always works," goes one line in "Zootopia." The movie proves the opposite, but keeps one foot in the real world, always. No visual groundbreaker, "Zootopia" settled for being well-plotted, humane (in its animalistic way) and, in the use of the sloth at the Department of Motor Vehicles, riotously dead in its comic timing.

A few other highlights: "The Witch." A transfixing

fever dream asking the question: What's a girl to do if she's utterly at odds with every social, sexual and religious dictate in 1630 New England? Robert Eggers' feature debut threw a lot of people with its stern fable of an outcast family coping, unsuccessfully, with a supernatural force. The ending, particularly, led to Z-minus CinemaScore exit polls. My condolences to those who didn't like it.

"Sing Street." John Carney's fetching remembrance of being a put-upon teenage music geek in Catholic '80s Dublin gave coming-of-age movies a temporarily good name once again.

"Love & Friendship." Whit Stillman took early Jane Austen out for a date, and it

worked out for both very nicely.

"The Invitation." Like "The Witch," this low-budget thriller directed by Karyn Kusama kept its camera close to a clammy, claustrophobic social situation (in this case, a dinner party at a house on an LA canyon ridge) and maximized it for unsettling atmosphere.

"Krisha." Another dinner party movie, this one set at Thanksgiving among an extended family reunion. Trey Edward Shults, writer, director and co-star, pulled bits of his own young life for a story of an unsteadily recovering alcoholic, played by Krisha Fairchild. But there's more than raw feeling at work here; there's real cinema, and

Shults is a director with legs.

"The Lobster." As did "Krisha," Yorgos Lanthimos' bizarre, beautifully sustained black comedy starring Colin Farrell and Rachel Weisz came through the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, and found a small but fascinated audience in the U.S.

Plenty of other specialty titles, debuting on the international festival circuit last year, made it to theaters and into the VOD stream this year. A handful were superb, particularly "Son of Saul" and "45 Years." May the rest of 2016 offer a few more gems to us all, even if they don't electrify the culture. For a little while longer, we'll leave that to Emilia Clarke — and not because of the movie she made.

Things to Do

BANGOR — River City Cinema presents "Summer of Love" outdoor summer movie series, sundown Fridays in July, Pickering Square: "Harold and Maude," July 8; "The Princess Bride," July 15; "Say Anything," July 22; "You've Got Mail," July 29; rain date Aug. 5. Free.

BANGOR — Downtown Bangor Partnership's 11th annual Cool Sounds Summer Concert Series and Fresh Air Market presented by Emera Maine and Beal College, 5-8 p.m. Thursdays, July and August, West Market Square and along Merchants Plaza. Free. Juke Rockets Blues Band, July 7; Trendy Robots, July 14; to be announced, July 21; William Joseph Jordan, July 28; Broadway Rocks Bangor, Aug. 4; The Rotating Taps, Aug. 11; RetroRockerz, Aug. 18; Jon King, Aug. 25.

BELFAST — Shana Hanson discussing "Our Sustenance from Trees: A New Look at an Ancient Solution," 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 7, Abbott Room, Belfast Free Library. 338-3301.

BREWER — Bangor Singles Club dances, 8 p.m.-midnight Fridays, Brewer Eagles Club, 22 Atlantic Ave.: Honky Tonk, July 8; Allison Ames, July 15; Bushwhack, July 22; New Society, July 29. Marilyn, 827-5751.

BREWER — "The Little Mermaid Jr.," 6-8:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday, July 8-10, Next Generation Theatre, 39 Center St. \$7, \$4 students under 17. 989-7100 or nextgen-theatre@gmail.com.

BUCKSPORT — 20th anniversary Down East Center Ring Circus Band concert, 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 8, Bucksport Performing Arts Center, Miles Lane Middle School, 52 Miles Lane. Benefits Down East Center Ring Circus Band Music Scholarship program. Martha Pedrick, mpedrick@mindspring.com.

DEER ISLE — "Imaging the Sea" exhibit featuring photographs taken by members of Deer Isle's fishing community, through July 17, King-

man Gallery, 117 Center District Crossroad. Benefits Island Fishermen's Wives Association. Gallery hours, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday. 348-9333.

EASTPORT — The Eastport Moonlight Movies, 8 p.m. Fridays, Sutherland Amphitheater, 80 Water St.: "The King and I," July 8; "Edward Scissorhands," July 15; "The Second Best Marigold Hotel," July 22; "Frozen," July 30. 214-0040 or lolly@sweetiesdowneast.com.

ELLSWORTH — Tea Time Tours, 3 p.m. Wednesdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27, Woodlawn Museum. Staff-led tour followed by tea and cookies. \$12 Woodlawn members, \$15 others. Space limited. Reservations, woodlawnmuseum.org.

ELLSWORTH — Summer Select movie series: "Donnie Darko," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 7, The Grand. \$7, \$6 seniors and students, \$5 for Grand members. 667-9500 or grandonline.org.

HAMPDEN — Yard sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 8-9, upstairs and downstairs, Hampden Congregational Church, 101 Main Road North. Furniture, books, clothing, household items, toys and more. Benefits the church and its missions. 862-5248 or hcc@roadrunner.com.

MONMOUTH — "Puss in Boots," 1 p.m. Saturday, July 9, 16 and 23, Theater at Monmouth. Ticket information, 933-9999, boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org or theateratmonmouth.org.

NORTHPORT — Belfast Garden Club garden tour, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, July 8, Bayside cottage, 37 George St. Rain or shine. Driving directions and descriptions posted at BelfastGardenClub.org. Martha Laitin, 323-2368.

OWLS HEAD — Annual Hot Rod, Custom and Muscle Car Cruise-in and Antique Aeroplane Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 9-10, Owls Head Transportation Museum. Exhibitor gates open 8 a.m. Clubs that want to arrange parking are encouraged to call

ahead. \$18, free to children under 18 and to retired and active-duty military. 594-4418 or owlshhead.org.

PORTLAND — Children's Hour on fun and wonder of the outdoors, 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, July 6, Longfellow Garden, Maine Historical Society, 485 Congress St. Light refreshments provided. Free and open to all; registration recommended. Appropriate for ages 4 to 9, must be accompanied by caregiver. Kathleen Neumann, 774-1822, ext. 214, or kneumann@mainehistory.org.

PORTLAND — "Branching Out" photography exhibit, through Saturday, Aug. 27, UMVA Gallery at CTN5, 516 Congress St. Opening reception, 5-8 p.m. Thursday, July 7. Gallery hours noon-5 p.m. Mondays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 2-5 p.m. Fridays; or by appointment.

PORTLAND — Guided tour of Portland's oldest burial ground, 11 a.m.-noon Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays, July 9 through Oct. 16. Tours led by trained volunteers. Tickets \$10, \$5 students and seniors, free to children under 12. Tickets available at the gate, 224 Congress St., at time of tour, or in advance, spiritsalive.org or eventbrite.com.

ROCKLAND — Alternative country, blues, folk rock band Cowboy Junkies, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 9, Strand Theatre, 345 Main St. \$45. rockland-strand.com, 594-0070, ext. 3, or info@rockland-strand.com.

SEARSMONT — Animal portraits in oil with elements of collage by Maine artist Sara Gagan, through July 6, Searsmont Public Library, Main Street North.

SOMESVILLE — A Walk Through Old Somesville tour, 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 7, July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 18. Starts at Somesville Museum. Tour Somesville National Historic District guided by C.H. Breedlove. \$10, limited to 10 participants for each tour. RSVP to erin.earlyward@mdihistory.org or 276-9323.

SURRY — Caroline Cotter, Portland-based singer-songwriter, 7-10 p.m.

Wednesday, July 6, Surry Arts: At the Barn, 8 Cross Road. \$15. 667-1308 or email info@surryartsatthebarn.com.

THOMASTON — "The Music Man" directed by Daryl Hahn, 7 p.m. July 8 and 9, Watts Hall. No reserved seating. Tickets \$12 adults, \$6 children, \$35 maximum families at the door 6-7 p.m. each performance night.

Reserve tickets at 354-0615.

UNION — Rob Sanford, author of "Reading Rural Landscapes: A Field Guide to New England's Past," talking about his work, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 7, Vose Library. Free and open to all. 785-4733.

WISCASSET — Castle Tucker Tours, 10-11:30

Wednesday prime time

MOVIES

| | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM |
|-----------|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|------|--|------|--|-------|---|
| BROADCAST | 2 NBC 207 Inside Ed. America's Got Talent Highlights of the top auditions. 14 | | | | | | The Night Shift (N) 15 | | News |
| | 4 CBC Dragons' Den The Romeo Section The National (N) | | | | | | CBC Coronation | | Blackstone |
| | 5 CBS Big Bang Broke Girl Big Brother (N) (HD) 26 | | | | Criminal Minds (HD) 18 | | American Gothic (N) 18 | | News |
| | 52 CW Family Guy Family Guy Arrow (HD) 18 | | | | Supernatural (HD) 18 | | News Seinfeld 28 | | Cougar |
| | 6 NBC 207 Inside Ed. America's Got Talent Highlights of the top auditions. 28 | | | | | | The Night Shift (N) 18 | | News |
| | 7 ABC Wheel Jeopardy! 18 | | | | The Middle Goldbergs | | Mod Fam blackish 28 | | Fresh-Boat O'Neals |
| | WAGM FOX The Insider Ent. Tonight MasterChef (N) (HD) 28 | | | | Wayward Pines (N) 18 | | Wayward Pines (N) 18 | | Big Bang Big Bang |
| | 8 ABC Wheel Jeopardy! 18 | | | | The Middle Goldbergs | | Mod Fam blackish 28 | | Fresh-Boat O'Neals |
| | MPBN PBS PBS NewsHour (N) (HD) SuperNature | | | | NOVA (HD) 18 | | 9 Months That Made You | | C. Rose |
| | 9 IND Saving Hope! MasterChef (N) (HD) 28 | | | | Criminal Minds (HD) 18 | | News-Lisa CTV News | | Daily Show |
| KIDS | 13 CBS Ent. Tonight The Insider Big Brother (N) (HD) 28 | | | | Criminal Minds (HD) 18 | | American Gothic (N) 18 | | News |
| | 22 FOX Mod Fam Mod Fam MasterChef (N) (HD) 28 | | | | Wayward Pines (N) 18 | | FOX 22 News at 10 (N) | | The Closer 18 |
| | 33 IND M*A*S*H 18 | M*A*S*H 18 | Andy Griffith Andy Griffith | | Happy Days Gilligan Isle | | Hogan Hero Hogan Hero | | C. Burnett |
| | 38 IND Big Bang Big Bang The Closer (HD) 18 | | | | The Closer (HD) 18 | | WBZ News (N) (HD) | | Seinfeld 28 |
| NEWS | NICK Crashletes 28 Thunder Nicky, Ricky School | | | | Full House 28 Full House 28 | | Full House 28 Full House 28 | | Friends 28 |
| | DISN (:15) *** Bolt (2008) Voices of John Travolta. (P 6) | | | | Walk the K.C. Under. | | Best Fr. K.C. Under. | | Jessie 18 |
| | FREE Another Cinderella Story Young Baby Daddy | | | | Dead of Summer 28 | | Dead of Summer 28 | | 700 Club |
| LEARN | HIST American Pickers 28 | | | | American Pickers 28 | | Pawn Stars Pawn Stars | | Big Easy |
| | DISC Dual Survival: Untamed (N) 18 | | | | Dual Survival (N) 18 | | (:01) American Tarzan (N) 18 | | Survival |
| | TLC I Am Jazz 28 | | | | My Big Fat Fabulous Life | | (:01) I Am Jazz (N) 18 | | Fabulous |
| | A&E Duck D. Duck D. Duck Dynasty 28 | | | | Duck D. Duck D. | | Wahlburg Wahlbrgs | | Wahlbrgs |
| SPORTS | ANPL Isle of Jaws 28 | | | | Sharks Among Us 28 | | (:01) Tiger Beach 28 | | Shallow |
| | CSNE SportsNet MLS Soccer: New York City at Revolution | | | | Postgame | | Sports SportsNet | | Sports |
| | ESPN MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Boston Red Sox. From Fenway Park in Boston. | | | | | | Baseball Tonight (N) (L) | | SportCtr |
| | ESPN2 2016 UEFA European Championship | | | | Obstacle: BattleFrog Ch. | | Obstacle: BattleFrog Ch. | | BattleFrog |
| NEWS | NBCSP Triathlon Triathlon 2016 Tour de France Stage 5. From Limoges to Le Lioran. | | | | | | | | Truck Tech |
| | NESN MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Boston Red Sox. From Fenway Park in Boston. | | | | Extra | | Red Sox | | Sports |
| NEWS | CNBC Jay Leno's Garage Shark Tank 28 | | | | Shark Tank: Swimming | | Jay Leno's Garage (N) | | Jay Leno's |
| | CNN Erin Burnett OutFront (N) | | | | Anderson Cooper 360 28 | | CNN Tonight | | Tonight |
| | FNC Greta Van Susteren The O'Reilly Factor (N) | | | | The Kelly File (N) | | Hannity (N) | | O'Reilly |
| | MSNBC Hardball Chris Matthews All In With Chris Hayes | | | | Rachel Maddow Show | | The Last Word | | All In With |
| VARIETY | AMC (6:00) Happy Gilmore *** Hitch (2005, Romance-Comedy) (ESP) Will Smith. (P 6-13) | | | | | | Dinner for Schmucks | | |
| | BRV Housewives/NYC Housewives/NYC Housewives/NYC | | | | | | Southern Charm 18 | | Housewives |
| | CMT Last Man Last Man *** Double Jeopardy (1999, Suspense) Tommy Lee Jones. (R) | | | | | | Steve Austin's | | |
| | COM South Park South Park South Park South Park South Park South Park | | | | | | Period South Park | | Daily Show |
| | E! E! News (N) 28 | | | | The Kardashians | | E! News 28 | | E! News 28 |
| | FOOD Worst Cooks in America 28 | | | | Worst Cooks in America 28 | | Cutthroat Kitchen (N) 18 | | Diners |
| | FX (5:00) The Bourne Legacy ** Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (2014) Chris Pine. | | | | | | Tyrant (N) 28 | | (:15) Tyrant |
| | GAC Going RV Going RV Going RV Going RV Going RV Going RV | | | | | | Going RV Going RV | | Going RV |
| | HALL Last Man Last Man Last Man Last Man The Middle The Middle | | | | | | The Middle The Middle | | Golden Girls |
| | HGTV Property Brothers 28 | | | | Property Brothers 28 | | Brother vs. Brother (N) 18 | | Hunters Int'l |
| VARIETY | LIFE Fun With Dick & Jane *** Friends With Benefits (2011) Justin Timberlake. (R) | | | | | | | | (:32) Dirty Teacher (2013) |
| | MTV (6:00) * Rush Hour 3 *** Rush Hour (1998) Jackie Chan. (P 6-13) | | | | | | The Challenge: Rivals III 28 | | How High (R) |
| | OXY (6:40) Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights (:45) *** Dirty Dancing (1987, Romance) | | | | | | Jennifer Grey. (P 6-13) | | Dirty Dan. |
| | SPIKE (5:30) * Grandma's Boy ** The Longest Yard (2005, Comedy) Adam Sandler. (P 6-13) | | | | | | *** My Cousin Vinny | | |
| | SYFY (6:30) * Tremors 4: The Legend Begins (2004) | | | | * Legion (2010, Horror) Paul Bettany. (R) | | | | Constantine |
| | TBN Blessing Potters John Gray Turning | | | | Prince S. Furtick | | Living Proof Blessed Life | | John Gray |
| | TBS Seinfeld 28 Family Guy Big Bang Big Bang Big Bang Big Bang | | | | | | Big Bang Big Bang | | Conan (N) 28 |
| | TCM (6:30) Ride Lonesome (NR) *** Ride the High Country (1962) | | | | | | (:45) * The Deadly Companions (1962, Western) (NR) | | |
| | TRU (6:10) The Railway Man (R) ** Along Came a Spider (2001) Morgan Freeman. | | | | | | ** The Ladykillers (2004) (ESP) (R) | | |
| | TNT Castle 28 | | | | Castle 28 | | Castle 28 | | Castle 28 |
| PREMIUM | TRAVEL Expedition Unknown 28 | | | | Expedition Unknown 28 | | Expedition Unknown (N) 28 | | Expedition |
| | TRU truTV Top Funniest 18 | | | | Carbonaro Carbonaro | | Carbonaro Carbonaro | | Carbonaro |
| | TVL Andy Griffith Andy Griffith (:12) George Lopez 28 | | | | George Raymond | | Raymond Raymond | | King |
| | USA NCIS 28 | | | | NCIS 28 | | Royal Pains (N) 28 | | Law-VU |
| | VH1 (6:15) *** Bad Boys (R) Dating Naked 28 | | | | Dating Naked (N) 28 | | Barely Dating Naked 28 | | |
| | WGN-A *** Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (2003), Nick Stahl (R) | | | | Person of Interest 18 | | Person of Interest 18 | | |
| | HBO (:15) VICE Preparations for Mars exploration 28 | | | | (7:50) ** Jupiter Ascending (2015, Science Fiction) (ESP) Channing Tatum, Mila Kunis. (P 6-13) | | Any Given Wednesday | | ** The Intern (2015) Robert De Niro. (P 6-13) |
| | MAX (5:55) ** Assassins (1995) Sylvester Stallone. (:10) *** Cop Land (1997) Sylvester Stallone. New Jersey sheriff tackles New York police cover-up. (R) | | | | (8:50) *** Signs (2002, Suspense) (ESP) Mel Gibson. (P 6-13) | | Criminal Activities (2015, Suspense) (ESP) Michael Pitt, Dan Stevens. (NR) | | |
| | SHOW (6:30) *** The Usual Suspects (1995) (ESP) (R) | | | | (:15) ** Frank Miller's Sin City: A Dame to Kill For (2014, Action) (ESP) Mickey Rourke, Jessica Alba. (R) | | Roadies Crises land on Bill. (ESP) 28 | | Descent: Part 2 (2004) (ESP) Will Smith. (P 6-13) |
| | STARZ ** Pixels (2015, Comedy) in James, Michelle Monaghan. (P 6-13) | | | | (ESP) Adam Sandler, Kevin James. (P 6-13) | | (8:50) *** Signs (2002, Suspense) (ESP) Mel Gibson. (P 6-13) | | (:40) ** I, Robot (2004) (ESP) Will Smith. (P 6-13) |
| STZENC | (6:15) ** Hollow Man (2000) Kevin Bacon. (R) | | | | (:09) Spartacus: Blood and Sand (ESP) 28 | | Power Ghost goes all in on the drug game. (ESP) 28 | | ** Pearl Harbor (2001, War) (ESP) Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett. (R) |