

EVENTS

Matt Damon stranded again in ‘The Martian’

BY STEVEN REA
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
(TNS)

TORONTO — When we last checked in on Matt Damon, he was stranded on a faraway planet, hoping to be rescued by NASA. The movie was

FILM
REVIEW

So, for Damon’s next movie, what’s the actor offered? The lead in something called “The Martian,” directed by Ridley Scott, about an astronaut left for dead on the Red Planet, hopping against hope that NASA will discover he’s alive and dispatch a crew to collect him.

“It’s a bizarre coincidence, to be sure,” Damon, soon to turn 45, acknowledges with a laugh. “The two movies are so different, obviously, and the characters are so different. But to start with the premise of a guy alone on a planet — I never thought I would do that more than once in my career, so it was funny.

“And I brought it up to Ridley when I first met him. ... ‘Interstellar’ hadn’t come out yet, and I said, ‘Ridley, I’ve got to tell you, this is

crazy, but I do an unbilled cameo in Chris Nolan’s movie, ‘Interstellar,’ and this is what it is.’

“And Ridley says, ‘When’s it coming out?’

“‘Interstellar is coming out in November.’

“‘We’re coming out a year later,’ Ridley says. ‘No one will remember.’

“‘OK, you’re the boss. I’m just letting you know.’”

Even if audiences do remember, the two characters — and two movies — are, indeed, light-years apart. In “The Martian,” opening Friday and likely bound for awards-season glory, Damon is Mark Watney, a botanist and engineer who has been camped on Mars with his Ares 3 shipmates (Jessica Chastain, Kate Mara, Michael Pena, among them). A violent sandstorm forces the expedition to evacuate. But Watney gets lost in the otherworldly dustup, communications are cut, his suit has stopped emitting vitals, and the crew has to take off before the whole place blows.

For many, many, many sols thereafter (a solar day on Mars — 24 hours and 39 minutes to be exact), Watney is left to figure out how to grow food, keep the electricity running, and reestablish some kind of contact with Houston. For nearly half of “The Martian’s” suspense-laden survival tale, Watney is on his own — and Damon, too —

talking into computer monitors or mirrors or the hollow shell of his space helmet as he tramps around the alien terrain. (The Mars sequences were shot in Wadi Rum, Jordan, on the desert sands where “Lawrence of Arabia” was filmed.)

It’s an acting challenge, and an acting feat, to be alone on screen, with no one to bounce off of or to act or interact with.

There’s a scene — we won’t get specific about it — when Damon’s Watney wells up and cries. It’s the kind of moment that Oscars are made of (Oscar nominations, anyway), and Damon says it just happened, unplanned, unscripted.

“It was really surprising — I started to cry,” Damon remembers, holed up in a hotel banquet room on the day after “The Martian’s” Toronto International Film Festival premiere. “And Ridley came running in and said, ‘This is it, we’ve found the moment!’

“But we would have screwed it up if we’d been planning to do it. We would have never gotten it right. It was just an accident.

“Your subconscious is solving these problems,” Damon continues, talking about the process by which an actor, ideally, finds his way into a role. “You’re living with it, you’re steeped in it, all the research and the reading.

“A long time ago, 20 years ago, when I was a young actor, Robert Duvall said, ‘You don’t know what you’re soaking up. You don’t have to. You need to just do the work and know that something’s going to come of that, you just sponge it up, and it comes out somewhere.’

“And I think that’s true — older actors would always tell me when I was young to relax, that you just have to be relaxed. And the older I get, the more I realize that’s it. Because you become available. You’re filled up with all this stuff, but you’re not trying to push it anywhere, or force it, or indicate it — you’re letting it just happen.”

For Andy Weir, the software programmer who self-published “The Martian” in 2011 — and then watched, happily, as it became a New York Times best-seller and then a \$108 million Twentieth Century Fox movie — Damon’s performance was a revelation.

“Obviously, I’m incredibly biased,” he says, reached by phone in Los Angeles the other day. “But Matt just absolutely nails the character, the personality. The physical affectations that I imagined, his body motions, body language. ...

“And that’s very hard to do, because Watney has to be serious and stressed enough to show the dire sit-

stories about the light-house, call Kay Dodge at 596-6879 or email mus-selriddle@earthlink.net.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

BANGOR MALL CINEMA 10

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The Martain (PG-13)	11:30	2:10	4:50	7:30
Hotel Transylvania 2 (PG)	11:55	1:45	3:30	5:15 7:00 8:45
The Intern (PG-13)	11:20	1:15	3:15	5:15 7:00 9:15
Everest (PG-13)	11:45	2:15	4:35	5:35 7:00 9:15
Black Mass (R)	11:15	1:45	4:15	6:45 9:15
Maze Runner The Scorch Trails (PG-13)	11:15	1:45	4:15	6:45 9:15
The Visit (PG-13)	11:50	1:45	3:40	5:35 7:30 9:25

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Friday prime time

		7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM		
BROADCAST	2	NBC	207	Inside Ed.	The Player (HD) [R]	Dateline NBC The death of an FBI agent's wife. (N) [2]		News				
	4	CBC	Gags	Gallery	CBC Music Festival 2015	The National (N)		CBC	Coronation	Backstage		
	5	CBS	Big Bang	Broke Girl	The Amazing Race (N) [2]	Hawaii Five-0 (N) (HD) [2]		Blue Bloods (N) (HD) [2]	News			
	52	CW	Family Guy	Family Guy	Masters of	Masters of	America's Next Model		News	Seinfeld [2]	Cougar	
	6	NBC	207	Inside Ed.	The Player (HD) [2]	Dateline NBC The death of an FBI agent's wife. (N) [2]		News				
	7	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! [2]	Last Man	(31) Dr. Ken	Shark Tank (N) (HD) [2]		(01) 20/20 (N) (HD) [2]	News		
	WAGM	FOX	The Insider	Ent	Grand	The Grinder	Scream Queens (HD) [2]		News	Big Bang	Big Bang	
	8	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! [2]	Last Man	(31) Dr. Ken	Shark Tank (N) (HD) [2]		(01) 20/20 (N) (HD) [2]	News		
	MPBN	PBS	PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)		Washington	Charlie	In Performance...		POV (N) (HD) [2]	C. Rose		
	9	IND	Blue Bloods (N) (HD) [2]		The Amazing Race (N) [2]		Shark Tank (N) (HD) [2]		News-Lisa	CTV News	Big Bang	
13	CBS	Ent	The Insider	The Amazing Race (N) [2]		Hawaii Five-0 (N) (HD) [2]		Blue Bloods (N) (HD) [2]	News			
22	FOX	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Grand	The Grinder	Scream Queens (HD) [2]		FOX 22 News at 10 (N)	Bones [2]			
33	IND	M*A*S*H [2]	M*A*S*H [2]	Paid Prog.	Robison	Happy Days Laverne		Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett		
38	IND	Big Bang	Big Bang	Bones (HD) [2]		Bones (HD) [2]		WBZ News (N) (HD)	Seinfeld [2]			
KIDS	NICK	Thunder	SpongeBob	Harvey	Pig Goat	Full House [2]		Full House [2]	Full House [2]	Friends [2]		
	DISN	Girl Meets	K.C. Under.	Jessie (N) [2]	Girl Meets	I Didn't	Gravity Falls		Gravity Falls	(35) Jessie	Jessie [2]	
	FAM	(6:00) ** Practical Magic (1998)			*** Grease		(1978, Musical) John Travolta. (PG)		700 Club			
LEARN	HIST	Ancient Aliens [2]		Ancient Aliens [2]		Ancient Aliens (N) [2]		(03) Ancient Aliens [2]		Aliens		
	DISC	Bering Sea Gold [2]		Bering Sea Gold: Dredged		Bering Sea Gold (N) [2]		Edge of Alaska (N) [2]		Bering Gold		
	TLC	What Not to Wear (N) [2]		What Not to Wear (N) [2]		First Swipe		First Swipe		Sex; Public	SheSaid	First Swipe
	A&E	Criminal Minds [2]		Criminal Minds [2]		Criminal Minds [2]		Criminal Minds [2]		Criminal		
	ANPL	(3:00) To Be Announced		Tanked: Unfiltered (N) [2]		(01) Tanked [2]		(02) Tanked (N) [2]		(05) Tanked		
SPORTS	CSNE	SportsNet	Early	Football	3 and Out	Tailgate		Quick	Sports	SportsNet	Patriots	
	ESPN	Baseball Tonight (N) (L)			MLB Baseball Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at Texas Rangers. (L)			SportCtr				
	ESPN2	College Football Memphis at South Florida. (N) (L)						College Football Connecticut at BYU.				
	NBCSP	College Football Columbia at Princeton. From Princeton Stadium in Princeton, N.J. (N) (L)						Poker				
	NESN	MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at Cleveland Indians. (N) (L)						Extra		Red Sox	Sports	
NEWS	CNBC	American Greed		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed		Greed		
	CNN	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 [2]		CNN Tonight		Anthony Bourdain Parts		This Is Life		
	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		Lockup		Lockup		
VARIETY	AMC	Stephen King's Thinner (R)			*** The Shining (1980, Horror) Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall, Danny Lloyd. (R)							
	BRV	* Big Daddy (1999) Adam Sandler. (PG-13)			(10) ** Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (2005) Steve Martin. (PG)							
	CMT	Last Man	Last Man	Reba [2]	Reba [2]	Party Down South [2]		Party Down South [2]		Gaines.		
	COM	(6:56) * A Haunted House (2013) Marlon Wayans. (R)			Futurama [2]		Futurama [2]		Moonbeam	South Park	Archer [2]	
	E!	E! News (N) [2]			Total Divas [2]		Total Divas [2]		The Soup [2]	Issues	E! News [2]	
	FOOD	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners		
	FX	(5:30) Just Go With It			** Spider-Man 3 (2007, Action) Tobey Maguire, Kirsten			Dunst, James Franco. (PG-13)				
	GAC	Top 20 Countdown			Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market	Flea Market		
	HALL	The Waltons [2]			The Waltons [2]		The Middle		The Middle		Golden Girls	
	HGTV	Hunters	Hunters	Tiny House	Tiny House	Tiny House	Tiny House	Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Hunters		
	LIFE	Step It Up [2]			Bring It! (N) [2]		Step It Up (N) [2]		The Jacksons: Next		Jacksons	
	MTV	Are You the One? [2]			** Little Man (2006) Shawn Wayans. (PG-13)			*** Bad Santa (2003, Comedy) (R)				
	OXY	Crazy Talk [2]			** Enough (2002) Jennifer Lopez. (PG-13)			(10) ** Enough (2002) (PG-13)				
	SPIKE	Cops [2]			Cops [2]		Cops [2]		Cops [2]		Cops [2]	
	SYFY	Hitchhiker's Guide-Galaxy			** Men in Black II (2002) Tommy Lee Jones.			Z Nation (N) [2]		Continuum [2]		
	TBN	Supernat.	Potters	Bless Lord	Hal Lindsey	Harvest	Perry Stone		** Saul and David (1964) (NR)			
	TBS	Seinfeld [2]	Seinfeld [2]	Broke Girl	Broke Girl	Big Bang	Big Bang		** The Pacifier (2005) Vin Diesel. (PG)			
	TCM	Boy, Did I Get			** Two on a Guillotine (1965) Connie Stevens. (NR)			*** House on Haunted Hill (1958)				
	TMC	(6:25) ** Adult World (R)			*** Parenthood (1989) Steve Martin. (PG-13)			(05) Like Sunday, Like Rain (2014) (R)				
TNT	(5:00) ** The Island			** The Sorcerer's Apprentice (2010, Fantasy) Nicolas Cage. (PG)			** Alice in Wonderland					
TRAVEL	Mysteries at the Museum			Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at the Museum		Mysteries at		
TRU	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers		Imp. Jokers		Adam Ruins Hack		
TVL	Facts-Life	Facts-Life	*** Jerry Maguire (1996, Romance-Comedy)	Tom Cruise, Renee Zellweger. (R)			King					
USA	Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order: SVU		Mod Fam			
VH1	(6:00) ** Dance Flick			** Tower Heist (2011, Comedy) Ben Stiller. (PG-13)			Saturday Night Live [2]					
WGN-A	Person of Interest [2]			Person of Interest [2]			Person of Interest [2]		How I Met			
PREMIUM	ENC	(6:10) ** Pompeii (2014) (ESP) Kit Harrington.			** Office Space (1999, Comedy) (ESP) Ron Livingston, David Herman. (R)			*** Guardians of the Galaxy (2014, Science Fiction) (ESP) Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana. (PG-13)				
	HBO	(6:00) Charlie's Angels: First Look			** The Maze Runner (2014) Dylan O'Brien. Youths find themselves trapped inside a massive labyrinth.			Real Time With Bill Maher			Real Time, Writer Adam Gopnik. (N) [2]	
	MAX	(5:45) ** The Last Castle (2001) Robert Redford.			*** Edge of Tomorrow (2014) (ESP) Tom Cruise, A soldier in an alien war gets caught in a time loop.			Strike Back Locke thinks that the U.N. is a target. (ESP) [2]			Strike Back	
	SHOW	(6:45) *** Snowpiercer (2013) Chris Evans. Survivors of a second ice age live aboard a supertrain. (R)			** Frank Miller's Sin City: A Dame to Kill (2014) Mickey Rourke. (R)			(45) Home-land [2]		SXSW Comedy		
	STARZ	(6:50) *** Into the Woods (2014) Meryl Streep. A childless couple seek to end a witch's curse. (PG)			** McFarland, USA (2015, Docudrama) (ESP) Kevin Costner, Maria Bello, Morgan Saylor. (PG)					(15) Blunt Talk (ESP) [2]		

Things to Do

BANGOR — Nightmare comedy “Who’s on First” by Bangor Community Theatre, 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2-3; 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, at Bangor Grange Hall, 1192 Ohio St. \$10. Refreshments available during intermission. Hall is accessible to the handicapped with a ramp to enter and chair lifts to the second floor auditorium.

BANGOR — ARTober, a citywide celebration of arts and culture in Bangor, through Oct. 31. More than 80 events are planned in 30 venues across the city, from galleries and museums featuring visual artists to musical performances, educational workshops, film screenings, lectures, walking tours, dance performances and more. Venues include the University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor Opera House, Bangor International Airport, Bangor Mall, Bangor Public Library, public parks and a number of local shops, as well as restaurants, bars and other businesses. ARTober guide available at City Hall, Greater Bangor Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bangor Public Library and downtown businesses. A PDF will be updated each week at bangormaine.gov/artober. For information, visit bangormaine.gov/artober, email culturalcommission@bangormaine.gov or call 992-4234.

BANGOR — Street dance to benefit Pine Tree Camp, 7-11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Dysart’s Broadway location, outside in the parking lot. Local band Dakota will provide the music. Geaghan’s will release its Doug E. Graves Fall Ale, which earns money for local charity. Tickets are \$10 ahead of time from Dysart’s restaurants on Cold Brook Road or Broadway; \$15 at the door.

BANGOR — Bangor Humane Society’s 22nd annual Paws on Parade with the theme “Anything is Pawsible,” 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, on the Bangor Waterfront. Walk, prizes, contests, vendors and more. Register online at pawsonparade.kintera.org, in person at the humane society, or at the event. Bangor Humane Society is located at 693 Mount Hope Ave.

BANGOR — “Ghostly Bangor Walking Tour,” by Bangor Historical Society, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 20, 24 and 27, departing from 159 Union St. \$10 per person.

BLUE HILL — Words and images by Heidi Daub and Avy Claire of Blue Hill and Susan Webster of Deer Isle will be the focus of exhibition “Messages,” Oct. 2-31, at Blue Hill Public Library’s Howard Room. Public reception to meet the artists, 4-6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, at the library. For information, call 374-5515.

BLUE HILL — The Friends of Blue Hill Public Library’s first-Saturday-of-the-month book sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, in the library’s basement “book nook.” “Mini collections” of books on birds, knitting and antiques by Maine authors, “Democracy University” DVDs and 15 seasons of the TV program “ER” on DVD. Most books will cost a \$1 or \$2. Children may choose one children’s book for free. Proceeds benefit library programs and equipment. To donate books in good condition or for information, call 374-5515.

BREWER — Blue Grass Jam, 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Between Friends Art Center-Next Generation Theatre, 39 Center St. \$3. For information, call 989-7100, email nextgentheatreadvertising@gmail.com or visit nextgenerationtheatre.com.

BREWER — Bangor Singles Club dancing and music, Buffalo Creek, Oct. 2; Rick Carter, Oct. 9; Mainely Country, Oct. 16; New Society, Oct. 23; Country Mist for the Halloween dance, Oct. 30. Doors open at 7 p.m. and bands begin at 8 p.m. upstairs at Brewer Eagles Club. Cash bar. Cover charge \$8 for Bangor Singles Club members; \$9 for guests.

BRUNSWICK — “Break Every Chain: Unshackling Ourselves from War and Prison,” celebrating the 100th anniversary of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, Curtis Library, 23 Pleasant St. Kathy Kelly, co-founder of Voices for Creative Nonviolence and recipient of the 2015 Peace Prize by the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation, will share stories of her 20 years working as a member of international

peace teams in Sarajevo, Lebanon, the West Bank, Iraq and Afghanistan. Light refreshments. Free and open to the public. Basket will be passed for collecting financial support for Kelly’s work and travel expenses. For information, call 725-7686.

CALAIS — “Create Your Scarecrow” competition, Oct. 3-Nov. 2. Anyone can participate, including organizations, churches, school classes, individuals or business. Free. To receive guidelines, register and be assigned a lamppost, call Meredith at the Boston Shoe Store 454-2844 or Carole at the Calais Bookshop 454-1110. Participants will secure a scarecrow frame to the assigned lamppost with zip ties provided by the Calais Downtown Revitalization Coalition scarecrow committee. Winners will be selected by popular vote and announced Saturday, Oct. 24.

LIBERTY — “Joy to be Bald” fundraiser, 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, beginning at Lori’s Cafe, 504 Belfast-Augusta Road, with a 2.2-mile walkathon and continuing with more events at the Liberty Community Hall at 14 Junk Ave.

MONTVILLE — Montville Historical Society’s seventh annual two-hour horse-drawn wagon tours of the Frye Mountain abandoned settlement areas, 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, Frye Mountain. \$20 refundable confirmation deposit required to assure each of the volunteer drivers, who contribute equipment, horses and time, has a full wagon load on tour day. For information or to reserve a seat, call Barbara Boulay at 589-4414.

OWLS HEAD — Documentary on the history of the Owls Head Lighthouse, “Living at the Light: A History of the Owls Head Lighthouse,” shown by filmmaker Craig Mathieson, 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, in the upstairs room of the Owl’s Head Community Building. Free and open to the public. Bring stories and/or memorabilia about the Owls Head Light to share. Attendees may purchase copies of the DVD after the presentation, and Mathieson will be on hand to autograph them. Light refreshments. For information or to share