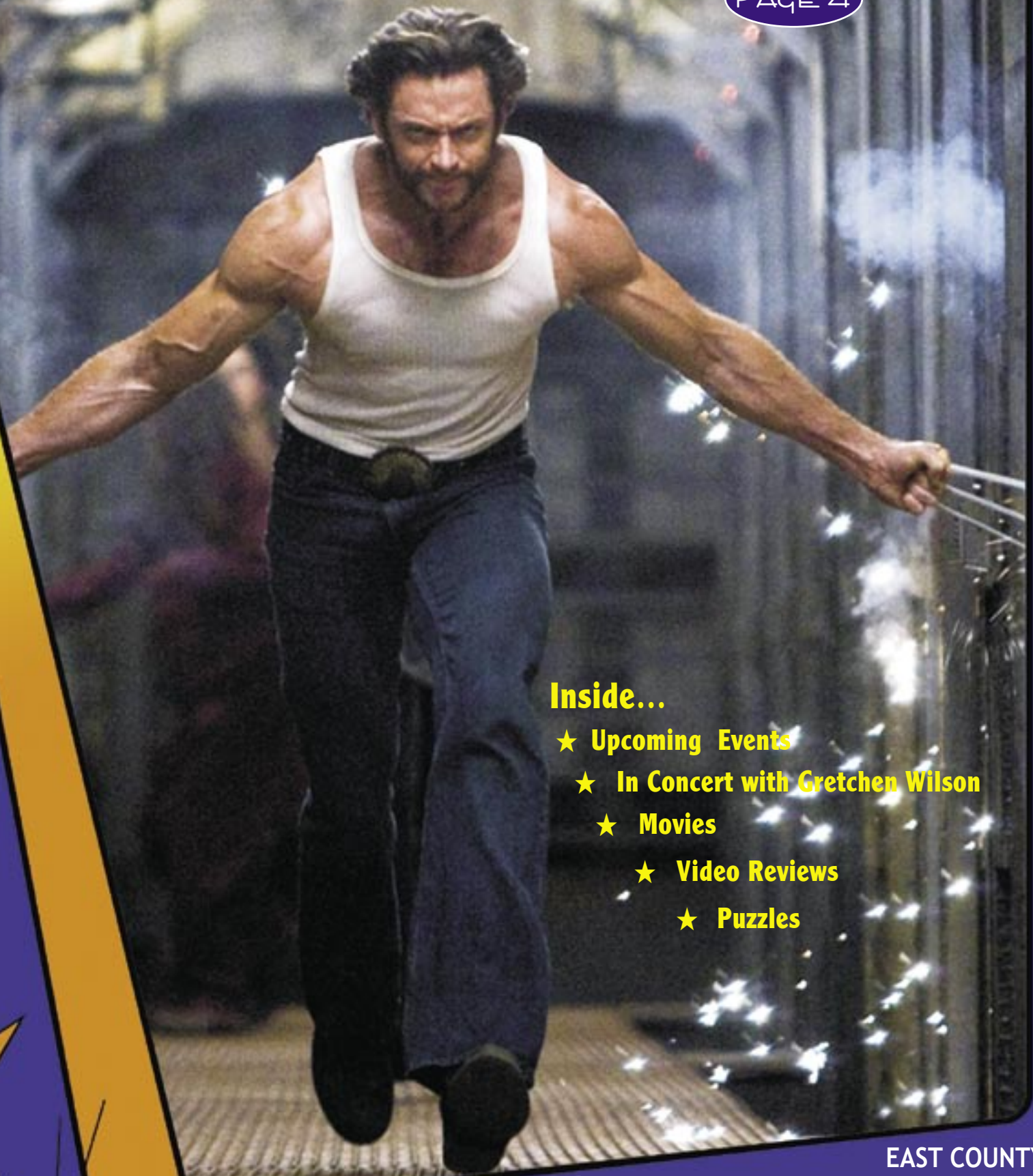


# 'X Men Origins: Wolverine'

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- ★ Upcoming Events
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EAST COUNTY  
GAZETTE  
**CLASS ACT**  
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

SECTION B TO THE EAST COUNTY GAZETTE VOL. 9, NO. 48, MAY 7, 2009



# Out and about in the County

**May 8 - 9:** Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the inaugural Best Boutique & Bargain Bazaar will take place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds – the first in a series of solutions for small boutiques created by le Market, a collaborative community where best boutiques and savvy shoppers thrive. The two-day event will give shoppers access to merchandise from dozens of San Diego's best boutiques at deeply discounted prices. And, because a portion of the proceeds go to the YWCA's Becky's House® program, attendees will be giving back in many ways. Tickets to the Best Boutique & Bargain Bazaar cost \$8 for a one-day pass and \$12 for a two-day pass. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets can only be purchased at the event. Shoppers will receive a complimentary goodie bag, while supplies last. Some boutiques will only accept cash, so to aid shoppers, an ATM is located on the premises. For more information, visit [www.mylemarket.com](http://www.mylemarket.com) or e-mail [gray@mylemarket.com](mailto:gray@mylemarket.com).

**May 9:** The Grossmont College Photo Club will host "Photo San Diego," an event featuring buying, swapping and selling of used and new photo equipment, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, at the college's Digital Arts Building, near Parking Lot #1. The event is open to the public. Admission is free. Local residents are invited to bring their old photo equipment to swap or sell. "Photo San Diego" also will feature demonstrations of new equipment, "try-before-you-buy" opportunities, prize give-aways of photo gear, and portfolio reviews of student work, along with displays, presentations and question-and-answer sessions with photo experts. Raffle tickets will be sold with proceeds to fund student scholarships. Additional event sponsors include Grossmont College, Museum of Photographic Arts, Cannon, Inc., Nelson's Photo store, George's Camera store, Chrome Digital Lab, Mac on Campus, Advertising Photographers of America and American Society of Media Photographers. For more information on "Photo San Diego," call (619) 644-7277, or visit [www.grossmont.edu/photography](http://www.grossmont.edu/photography). Grossmont College is located at 8800 Grossmont College Dr., in El Cajon. For driving directions and a campus map, visit [www.grossmont.edu](http://www.grossmont.edu).

**May 12:** 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce in-conjunction with the ID Theft Resource Center is holding a ID theft seminar. Find out how to decrease your chances of becoming its next victim. Who are these criminals, how do they steal your

information and why is this dangerous? What are the pro-active steps you can take to protect yourself? What should you do if you are a victim of identity theft. Can you ever recover? Also included in this FREE seminar will be free document shredding provided by Data Disposal of Spring Valley. Seminar will be held at Mount Miguel Covenant Village, The Bailey Center, 325 Kempton Street, Spring Valley.

**May 22 - Sept. 4:** The 14th Annual Concerts on the Green, the free weekly summer concert series featuring live music for all ages opens Friday, May 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. on the Prescott Promenade in Downtown El Cajon. Opening night will feature the Rock'n Roll sounds of The Cat-illacs. In addition, the original, entertaining and highly popular Ed Waymire returns as Master of Ceremonies. Free to the public, Concerts on the Green is offered every Friday evening through September 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.. Sponsored by Sycuan Resort and Casino and presented by the El Cajon Community Development Corporation, the family-oriented. For more information, call the El Cajon CDC at (619) 401-8858, or visit on-line at [www.downtownelcajon.com](http://www.downtownelcajon.com)

## 2009 Concerts on the Green Schedule

**May 22:** The Cat-illacs (Rock & Roll)  
**May 29:** The Stilettoes (Rockabilly)  
**June 5:** The Corvettes (Oldies)  
**June 12:** Smokestaxx (Soul, Jazz, and Rock & Roll)  
**June 26:** Theo and the Zydeco Patrol (New Orleans)  
**July 3:** Java (Dance)  
**July 10:** Diamond is Forever (Neil Diamond Tribute)  
**July 17:** Scott Martin Latin Soul (Latin Soul)  
**July 24:** The Farmers (Americana)  
**July 31:** Bill Magee (Blues)  
**Aug. 7:** The Heroes (Dance)  
**Aug. 14:** The Variations (Big Band)  
**Aug. 21:** Eve Selis (Americana)  
**Aug. 28:** The Coolrays (Beach Boys Tribute)  
**Sept. 4:** FX5 (Dance)

**May 13 - September 30:** The Cajon Classic Cruise, Southern California's largest weekly classic car show will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Main Street in the heart of historic Downtown El Cajon. Admission is free. More than 500 classic, custom and hot rod cars valued at more than \$10 million will be showcased in a street festival setting every Wednesday evening through September 30. In addition, two special post-season car shows will be held, including a Halloween Show on October 28, and a Holiday Car Show on December 9. For more information, contact the El Cajon Community Development Corporation at (619) 401-8858, or visit [www.downtownelcajon.com](http://www.downtownelcajon.com).

**May 30:** In celebration of La Mesa's Flag Day Parade on Saturday, May 30, premier oil painter Jack Jordan will be doing a painting demonstration in the Village. Jack will be creating an original work beginning at 9 a.m. at O'Dunn Fine Art, 8342 La Mesa Boulevard. Come visit, and see one of southern California's most venerated painters work his magic throughout the day. Flag Day Parade events will begin with two patriotic pre-parade concerts from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.: La Mesa Middle School band, at La Mesa Boulevard and Palm Avenue, and the Granger Middle School Jazz Band at La Mesa Boulevard and Date Avenue. The parade begins at 10:00 am, and a barbecue fundraiser by the La Mesa Firemen's Association will be located at Nebo Drive and La Mesa Boulevard.

**June 5 - 7:** Air Group One, the San Diego wing of the Commemorative Air Force will present their annual Wings Over Gillespie Air Show at Gillespie Field in El Cajon. The Commemorative Air Force has the largest airworthy collection of former military aircraft in the world. It has over 150 flyable combat aircraft, making it the world's seventh largest air force! The CAF's members number over 10,000 worldwide, composing 80 wings in 30 states and 4 countries. The CAF's purpose is to acquire, maintain and operate vintage



**Renee Altson of La Mesa, got in line at 9 p.m. Saturday night. She's never seen *Wicked* but is a big fan of the book, and has 'Defying Gravity' as her ringtone. VERY excited to get fourth row center seats for the beginning of August, she also won a *Wicked* baseball cap from the radio station by answering which province Elphaba was from; and of course got her *Wicked* shopping bag to celebrate Going Green for Earth Day (first 100 people in line received them).**

military aircraft, ground vehicles and associated artifacts for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Friday, June 5 will be a day for students and children from across San Diego county to come and learn about aviation and aviation history. Experts will be on hand to talk to students about the aircraft on static display, and the roles they played. (The actual flying part of the airshow will occur on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday the 7.)

The air show runs Saturday June 6th through Sunday, June 7. The gates are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission, \$12 for adults (12+); kids 6-11 and military with I.D. \$6; under 6 are free.

**June 6-7:** 7th Annual Wieghorst Western Heritage Days. This is a celebration and exhibition of our Western heritage, primarily from 1700 through early 1900, geographically west of the Mississippi River, pioneered and settled by Native American Indians, trappers and mountain men, cowboys and vaqueros, prospectors and miners, cattle and sheep ranchers, railroaders, and the individuals who, along with their families, built and settled in the towns and cities along the Westward Trek. If anyone has artwork or handicrafts that reflect the era of Westward expansion and settlement, or have products to sell or exhibits that depict the lives and experiences of the people who took part, or would like to help educate children and adults about that period in American history, we welcome applications. We'll have space for a variety of booths and exhibits, products and programs, sights and sounds.

## ONGOING

**The Barona Cultural Center & Museum** is now open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum will be closed on Sunday and Monday to focus on creating new exhibits and providing community outreach. Dedicated to preserving the Native American history of San Diego County, the Barona Cultural Center & Museum houses more than 3,000 artifacts, photographic displays and archives. The museum showcases many Indian traditions, such as birdsongs, language, gatherings, gaming and artwork and highlights the Barona Band of Mission Indians. In addition, the Barona Museum offers classes and tours for public and private schools, civic groups, clubs and other organizations. There is no charge for tours, and admission is free. For more information, visit [www.baronamuseum.org](http://www.baronamuseum.org) or call (619) 443-7003 ext. 2.

**ON THE COVER:** Hugh Jackman stars in *Wolverine*. See review on page 4.

EAST COUNTY  
GAZETTE

# CLASS ACT

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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## — IN CONCERT —

# Concerts at DreamCatcher & Concerts in the Park at Viejas

Summer is around the corner which means Viejas is gearing up its entertainment. The concert acts coming to the world-class DreamCatcher at Viejas showroom and the Concert in the Park area at the Outlet Center are close by, affordable and fun.

The DreamCatcher at Viejas is inside the Viejas Casino at 5005 Willows RD: Alpine (8-East to Willows Road Exit in Alpine). The Park area is inside the Viejas Outlet Center. There is paid valet or free self-parking available.

DreamCatcher at Viejas & Concert in the Park concert schedule:

**May 8 & 9: 8 p.m., Thunder from Down Under**

**May 14: 8 p.m., Gretchen Wilson**

To all appearances, Gretchen Wilson went overnight from talented obscurity to phenomenon. Her meteoric rise, the kind experienced by only a handful of artists in the past few decades, was that rare instance where talent and moment meet to form a cultural tidal wave. When it comes to the music," she says, "I get involved on a personal level in everything that counts. I'm involved in the writing, recording, producing, mixing, and promoting of the music, down to which photos we pick and how the lyrics are laid out on the paper. I've been very lucky that way from the beginning in that the people at my label, when it came down to it, have trusted me with my gut on the music."

**May 29: 8 p.m., Shooter Jennings w/Special Guest Carney**

Waylon Albright "Shooter" Jennings is an American country music singer. The only child of country singers Waylon Jennings and Jessi Colter, Jennings signed to his first recording contract, with Universal South Records, in 2005, releasing his debut album Put the "O" Back in Country that year. This album produced his only entry on the Billboard Hot Country Songs charts in its lead-off single "Fourth of July", which peaked at #26. Jennings has since followed Put the "O" Back in Country with three more albums: Electric Rodeo, Live at Irving Plaza, 4.18.06

**May 30: 6:30 p.m., Wargods V - Vernon "Tiger" White vs Lew Polley**

**June 5: 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., Jay Mohr**

Check out Viejas' full entertainment schedule at: <http://www.viejasentertainment.com/calendarList.php> and for tickets or information call (619) 659-1996 or (619) 220-TIXS.

Note: Ticket prices range from \$5 and up and some concerts are free



Gretchen Wilson. Photo Credit: Kevin Winter/Getty Images

## Le Cirque — changing lives

The Foundation for Women (FFW) is holding a very unique fundraiser. Melissa Chapman, of the Chapman Collection Antiques, will host Le Cirque at her private home on May 8, 2009. This unforgettable evening will feature supper-by-the-bite, a wine bar, incredible silent auction items of priceless experiences, remarkable sculptures by world famous African artist, Kioko Mwitiki, and a Live Auction to help fund the MicroCredit Work of the Foundation For Women.

Emily Peal, the CEO of Liberia's Foundation for Women, will be on hand to speak about the hundreds of women who participate in the Liberian MicroCredit

program. The local Foundation For Woman, headed by Deborah Lindholm, is making significant strides in changing women's lives. The weekly meetings are like a sisterhood, where the women celebrate their successes, offer each other support with problems and just laugh and have a good time together — something millions in their home lands have yet to experience. FFW is dedicated to nurturing, educating and supporting women of all ages, nationalities and spiritual backgrounds by creating connections and offering compassionate service.

FFW offers several programs. The Wellness Connection and Meditation and Support Group focuses on

wellness and quality of life issues. It provides service to any woman with a life-threatening diagnosis, or other serious health or wellness issue. The Foundation provides compassionate support on many levels, from helping with transportation, shopping, household chores to medical advocacy, and assistance in finding hospice and palliative care to providing companionship, love and care for women and families who face these challenges. The group meets on the third Saturday of each month.

Le Cirque Tickets are \$100 each, rounds of ten are available at \$1000. RSVP at (858) 483-0400. For more information visit: [www.foundationforwomen.org](http://www.foundationforwomen.org)

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## — AT THE MOVIES —

## ‘X Men Origins: Wolverine’ — stellar performances from Jackman and Schreiber



Hugh Jackman and Liev Schreiber star in *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. Photo credit: James Fisher / 20th Century Fox

Review by Diana Saenger

**X***Men Origins: Wolverine*, the first big blockbuster of the year, has hit theaters and receiving reviews ranging from marvelous to horrible. The

film is the prequel to the X-Men series. As a writer, I like stories with a beginning, middle and end, so *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* appealed to me. And most women with good eyesight and kind hearts agree it's no problem watching the

sensational Hugh Jackman — sporting abs of steel — for almost two hours.

The opening sequence shows Logan (Jackman) and his brother Victor (Liev Schreiber), aka Sabertooth, in

one historical war scene after another. Not just in one war, but in almost every one from the Civil War to Vietnam. Of course this is only possible since they are mutants; someone who, through genetic mutation, has super-powers representing a higher stage of evolution.

Because Logan and Victor belong to a Special Forces unit of the U. S. Government, they're up for unusual assignments. After certain events transpire under commander William Stryker's (Danny Huston) helm, Logan feels the assignments are moving in a direction he's not comfortable completing.

He leaves the unit and takes up residence in a small Canadian town, finds work as a lumberjack and falls in love with Kyla (Lynn Collins, *The Number 23*). She knows all about who Logan really is and becomes the one to calm him down and make his claws retract when he gets angered. She also reveals to him an ancient tale concerning the moon losing its lover and about the name Wolverine;

which Logan eventually adopts as his own.

When his angry and revengeful brother kills Kayla, Logan returns to the world of the X-Men to unleash his own revenge on Victor. That's where the story takes us into the X-Men's world where experiments headed by Stryker leave no one safe, and ultimately Logan's mind is erased of any memory about who he really is.

After talking about *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* on my radio show, I came to realize that true X-Men fans are not thrilled with this prequel. I heard complaints about distorting the X-Men and making situations that have already appeared in *X-Men* (2000), *X-2* (2003) and *X-Men The Last Stand* (2006) obscure.

Putting the task of such an arduous undertaking as the creation of a beginning to an already super successful franchise in the hands of screenwriters David Benioff and Skip Woods was, to say the least, courageous. Yet the mix of Benioff's talents

displayed in *The Kite Runner*, *Troy* and *25th Hour* and Woods' skills seen in *Hitman* and *Swordfish* seem to blend all the extreme elements in *Origin's* story well.

Rather than return to past X-Men directors such as Brett Ratner or Bryan Singer, Gavin Hood was chosen as director. After watching Hood's penetrating drama *Tsotsi*, Jackman perceived Hood as the person for the job.

"The character Tsotsi was at war with himself, just like Wolverine is," Jackman said. "I got carried away by Tsotsi's journey, and by Gavin's instincts for character and story. The characters have always been at the heart of the X-Men comics and movies. People connect with and relate to them."

Although more enthralled with the first half of *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, by the time the X-Men and the exciting powers of characters such as Deadpool (Ryan Reynolds), The Blob (Kevin Durand), Gambit (Taylor Kitsch) and Bolt (Dominic Monaghan) were full screen, I was on board. I'm now anxious to see the sequels once again.

## ‘Battle For Terra’ — fun with nice visuals

Review by Tamberly Donato

**T**he last thing I expect to see in a cartoon movie is action and great 3D animation. *Battle for Terra* has these and more. The gravity-defying planet Terra sits above the clouds and is home to those who are peaceful and celebrate their life and existence each day.

Mala Evan (voiced by Evan Rachel Wood) is a spontaneous and somewhat rebellious teen who has a brilliant mind for inventing things. Her best friend, Senn, (voice of Justin Long), is always along for the ride with Mala when she goes on her fun yet dangerous adventures. That's why Rowen, (voiced by Denis Quaid),

Mala's father, has a hard time keeping track of his daring and sneaky daughter.

Doron (voiced by James Garner) is the Captain of a human army. The humans destroyed their planet Earth by using all of their natural resources and constantly fighting in wars with others. They planned on taking over the two closest planets but managed to blow them up.

Now the humans have traveled far into the galaxy to find another planet they hope to call home. When Jim (Luke Wilson), one of their pilots, crashes because of an action by Mala; she wants to help him. Because he can't breathe Mala enlists Giddy (voice by David Cross), a robot, to help create

an oxygen bubble in her home to save him. Jim soon realizes Terra is peaceful, but Mala has some tough lessons to learn about her own planet.

There are some political undertones about Terra's government keeping some information from its inhabitants. There are also obvious elements currently in today's news about destroying the environment when part of the plot is revealed that the humans destroyed Earth by using up all the natural resources.

The movie is an expansion of a 2003 short from director Aristomenis Tsirbas, and I think the plot of the movie worked well. I appreciated that the aliens were not scary and that the film has only minor



David Cross (Giddy), Evan Rachel Wood (Mala) and Luke Wilson (Capt. Jim) star in *Battle for Terra*. Photo credit: Roadside Attractions & Lionsgate Pictures

cartoon-type violence. The animation was great, and the 3D technology brought out the

beautiful colors of Terra and helped bring the characters to life.

The excitement of *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* is partly due to the amazing performances of Schreiber and Jackman (*Australia*). Schreiber nails Victor's savagery in *Origins* with the same intensity he brought to his role as Zus in *Defiance*.

"Victor is incredibly brutal and has a bloodlust unlike any character I've ever played," Schreiber said. "This guy is a real killer."

Jackman, clearly the pulse of this franchise, enjoyed taking part in the producing process of the film as well.

"I had more fun playing Wolverine in this film than ever before," Jackman said. "With the previous X-Men films, I never had Logan looking exactly as I wanted him to look. For this one, I wanted Logan to look animalistic, veins popping out, and coiled like a spring. I wanted audiences to say, 'Okay, this guy is frightening; this guy could easily rip someone's head off.'"

I'm not sure I enjoy watching Jackman rip people's heads off, however *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* will surely claw its way to the top of box office for weeks to come.



#### *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*

Studio: 20th Century Fox

Gazette Grade: B -

MPAA: "PG-13" for intense sequences of action and violence, and some partial nudity

#### *Battle for Terra*

Studio: Roadside Attractions & Lionsgate Pictures

Gazette Grade: B +

MPAA: "PG" for sequences of sci-fi action violence and some thematic elements.

Who Should Go: Families



## — AT THE MOVIES —

# Paramount summer movie preview



*Star Trek.* Photo credit: Industrial Light and Magic

by Diana Saenger

**Star Trek** - May 8, 2009

**Cast:** John Cho, Ben Cross, Bruce Greenwood, Simon Pegg, Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Winona Ryder, Zoë Saldana, Karl Urban, Anton Yelchin, with Eric Bana and Leonard Nimoy

**Director:** J.J. Abrams

**Synopsis:** The greatest adventure of all time begins with *Star Trek*, the incredible story of a young crew's maiden voyage onboard the most advanced starship ever created: the U.S.S. Enterprise. On a journey filled with action, comedy and cosmic peril, the new recruits must find a way to stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens all of mankind.

The fate of the galaxy rests in the hands of bitter rivals. One, James T. Kirk (Chris Pine), is a delinquent, thrill-seeking Iowa farm boy. The other, Spock (Zachary Quinto), was raised in a logic-based society that rejects all emotion. As fiery instinct clashes with calm reason, their unlikely but powerful partnership is the only thing capable of leading their crew through unimaginable danger, boldly going where no one has gone before! This film has been rated PG-13 for sci-fi action and violence and brief sexual content.



**Dance Flick** - May 22, 2009

**Cast:** Damon Wayans, Jr., Craig Wayans, Shoshana Bush, Essence Atkins and Affion Crockett

**Director:** Damien Dante Wayans

**Synopsis:** *Dance Flick* is a hilarious new comedy that brings together the talents of two generations of the Wayans family, the explosively

funny clan who brought us the *Scary Movie* franchise and *White Chicks*, as well as the groundbreaking TV series *In Living Color*.

In *Dance Flick* a young street dancer, Thomas Uncles (Damon Wayans, Jr.), from the wrong side of the tracks and a beautiful young woman, Megan White (Shoshana Bush), are brought together by their passion for dancing and put to the test in the mother of all dance battles. This film has been rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content throughout and language.

**Imagine That** - June 12, 2009

**Cast:** Eddie Murphy, Thomas Haden Church, Yara Shahidi, Nicole Ari Parker, Ronny Cox and Martin Sheen

**Director:** Karey Kirkpatrick

**Synopsis:** In Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies' family comedy *Imagine That*, Eddie Murphy stars as a successful financial executive who has more time for his blackberry than his seven-year-old daughter (Yara Shahidi). When he has a crisis of confidence and his career starts going down the drain, however, he finds the solution to all his problems in his daughter's imaginary world. This film has been rated PG for some mild language and brief questionable behavior.

**Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen** - June 24, 2009

**Cast:** Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Josh Duhamel, Tyrese Gibson and John Turturro

**Director:** Michael Bay

**Synopsis:** In the highly-anticipated *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*, debuting June 24, 2009, Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) again joins with the Autobots® against their sworn enemies, the Decepticons. Michael Bay directs from a screenplay written by Ehren Kruger & Roberto Orci & Alex Kurtzman. This film has not yet been rated.



**G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra** - August 7, 2009

**Cast:** Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Christopher Eccleston, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Byung Hun Lee, Sienna Miller, Rachel Nichols, Ray Park, Jonathan Pryce, Saïd Taghmaoui, Channing Tatum, Marlon Wayans and Dennis Quaid

**Director:** Stephen Sommers

**Synopsis:** Paramount Pictures and Hasbro, whose previous collaboration was the worldwide blockbuster "TRANSFORMERS," join forces with Spyglass Entertainment for another extraordinary action-adventure *G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra*. From the Egyptian desert to deep below the polar ice caps, the elite G.I. JOE team uses the latest in next-generation spy and military equipment to fight the corrupt arms dealer Destro and the growing threat of the mysterious Cobra organization to prevent them from plunging the world into chaos. This film has not yet been rated.



**The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard** - August 14, 2009

**Cast:** Jeremy Piven, Ving Rhames, James Brolin, David Koechner, Kathryn Hahn and Jordana Spiro

**Director:** Neal Brennan

**Synopsis:** Who is Don Ready? Salesman? Lover? Song Stylist? Semi-professional dolphin trainer? Ready is all of the above – except for a dolphin trainer. When he's asked to help save an ailing local car dealership from bankruptcy, Ready and his ragtag crew descend on

the town of Temecula like a pack of coyotes on a basket full of burgers. Selling, drinking, selling and going to strip clubs is their stock and trade. And they do it well. What Don doesn't expect is to fall in love and find his soul (cue heartfelt piano).

*The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard* stars Emmy Award-winning actor Jeremy Piven (*The Kingdom*, *Entourage*) and Ving Rhames (*I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, *Mission: Impossible III*).

The film, from Will Ferrell and Adam McKay's Gary Sanchez Productions, is directed by Neal Brennan, co-creator of the hugely successful Comedy Central hit *Chappelle's Show*. This film has not yet been rated.

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## — HOME ENTERTAINMENT —

# Exciting DVDs now available for home entertainment

by Diana Saenger

Summer blockbusters have arrived and so are great films from the past few months now on DVD. Home viewers have great options whether buying or renting DVDs, special editions or those amazing Blu-Ray editions. Studios are spending more time and big bucks to add bonus features to the new releases, many that are as fascinating as the films themselves. Here are some new releases.



## The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

This is a fascinating production with a weighty, excellent cast including Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. Audiences were mixed on the three hour film; some loving it – others who became bored by its length. The story is about a man who grows younger every day, travels many roads

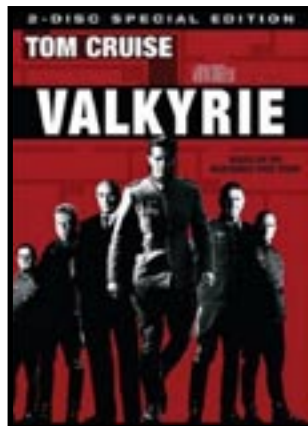
including a war and working on a fishing boat and who has several major romances in his life. Fans of the film, which was nominated for 13 Academy Awards, will want to own this 2-disc DVD or Blu-Ray version as will those who did not see the movie. Make-up designer Greg Cannom's work alone is worth seeing on the DVD as is the art and set design by: Donald Graham Burt, Set Decoration: Victor J. Zolfo and cinematography by Claudio Miranda. Several bonus features add value to the DVD including a director commentary and a motion-capture process of Pitt's aging. Rated "PG-13" – Paramount Home Entertainment.



## 24

Fans of this adrenaline-pumping series can see more heart-pounding, nail-biting thrills when 24 Season Seven arrives for the first time on high-definition Blu-ray Disc and DVD May 19. The countdown starts over as Jack Bauer (Emmy Award winner Kiefer Sutherland) is

thrust back into action in a new city, with a new role and a new enemy to bring down. Set in Washington, D.C., Jack is under investigation for his "high crimes" during his time at CTU as a mysterious new threat is attempting to take the government down. As the race against the clock escalates, Jack is forced to take matters into his own hands. The six-disc set includes many bonus features. Not Rated – Fox Home Entertainment.



## Valkyrie

Is the true story of the German Resistance's attempted coup and assassination of Adolf Hitler. Arriving on Blu-ray Disc and Special Edition DVD on May 19, Valkyrie is set in Nazi Germany and chronicles the daring and ingenious "July 20 plot" to eliminate one of the most evil tyrants the world has ever known. Oscar-nominee Tom Cruise stars as the loyal German nationalist Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, the mastermind behind the plot

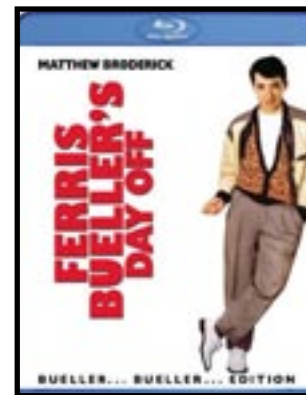
to kill Hitler and overthrow his fascist regime. One of the biggest grossing box office adult movies of 2008's holiday season, this is an excellent DVD to own. The over three hours of special features includes commentary by director Bryan Singer and Tom Cruise and many featurettes about the historical aspects of the film. Rated "PG-13" – MGM Home Entertainment.



## A Baby Story: First Time Parents

Experience the intimate and emotional journeys of ten couples as they enter into parenthood with this DVD that covers the first weeks of a new life. TLC's beloved Emmy-Award-winning series A Baby Story goes inside the delivery room for a first-hand look at the drama of labor and the joy of the unforgettable birth moment. Chronicling soon-to-be parents from all walks of life, this is a colorful collection of heart-warming tales detailing events leading up to and shortly after the arrival of each family's new addition. The

DVD features 10 great new-to-DVD episodes that offer both information and entertainment to first-time parents. Non Rated – Genius Home Entertainment.



## Ferris Bueller's Day Off - Blu-Ray

Remember the 1986 teen comedy about Ferris, a young man (Matthew Broderick) who wanted a day off from school no matter what his principal told him? And along with his girlfriend and his friend, Ferris borrows the friend's father's Ferrari. Now you can revisit that film on Blu-Ray DVD and be amazed by the great viewing technology as well as how fun this movie was to watch. Rated "PG-13" – Paramount Home Entertainment.



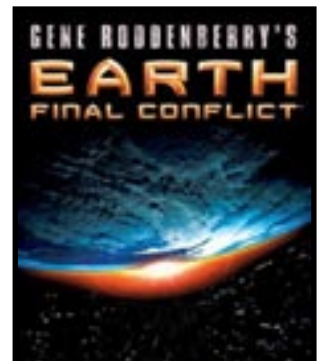
## Taken

Stars Academy Award-nominee Liam Neeson as Brian Mills, a former secret agent trained in hand to hand combat who struggles as a divorcee and father of 17-year old Kim (Maggie Grace) who goes on a trip against his advice to Europe and is kidnapped. The tension-filled drama is available on Blu-ray Disc (BD) and two-disc extended cut DVD with digital copy on May 12. Mills has only 96 hours to find his daughter before she will disappear forever, and time is running out. Mills must put his CIA expertise to the test before it's too late. Great bonus features appear on the DVD. Rated "PG-13" – Fox Home Entertainment.



## Being Green

Elmo and Abby find out it can be easy being green when they stumble onto the Earth-a-Thon, hosted by Mr. Earth. And it is all happening right on Sesame Street. Telly, Rosita, and Cookie Monster answer phone calls from children who are giving pledges to reduce, reuse, and recycle. See what happens when Abby uses her magic to help Elmo be really 'green.' Great for young kids, the DVD comes with Parent Tips and bonus features that include 16 pages of downloadable activities. Not Rated – Genius Home Entertainment.



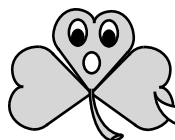
## Gene Roddenberry's Earth: Final Conflict - Season One

Fans of legendary producer Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek, the 1997 Emmy-nominated sci-fi epic, comes Gene Roddenberry's Earth Final Conflict: Season One. Available on DVD for the first time, Gene Roddenberry's Earth: Final Conflict Season One includes all 22 episodes. In the early 21st century Earth is visited by an alien race, the Taelons, who profess they want to share knowledge with the rest of humanity. William Boone is assigned protector of Da'an, the Taelon 'companion' for North America. But Boone is really working for the human resistance who is trying to learn the Taelons' true motives, which may not be as generous as they claim. The DVD has never-before-seen bonus features. Not Rated "PG-13" Universal Studios Home Entertainment.

For more of Diana Saenger's DVD reviews go to [www.reviewexpress.com](http://www.reviewexpress.com) Saenger Syndicate

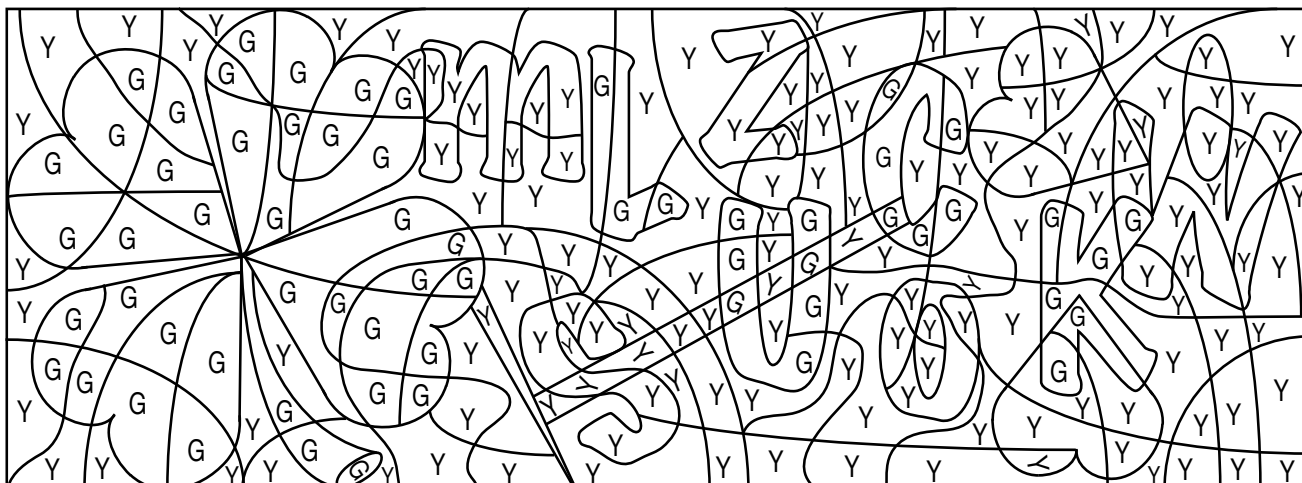
## Four-Leaf Clovers

Have you ever heard the song "I'm Looking Over A Four-Leaf Clover" (written by Mort Dixon and Harry Woods)? Why would people be out in fields looking for 4-leaf clovers when there are 3-leaf clovers everywhere? Four-leaf clovers are said to bring good luck!



Hey! What about *me*?

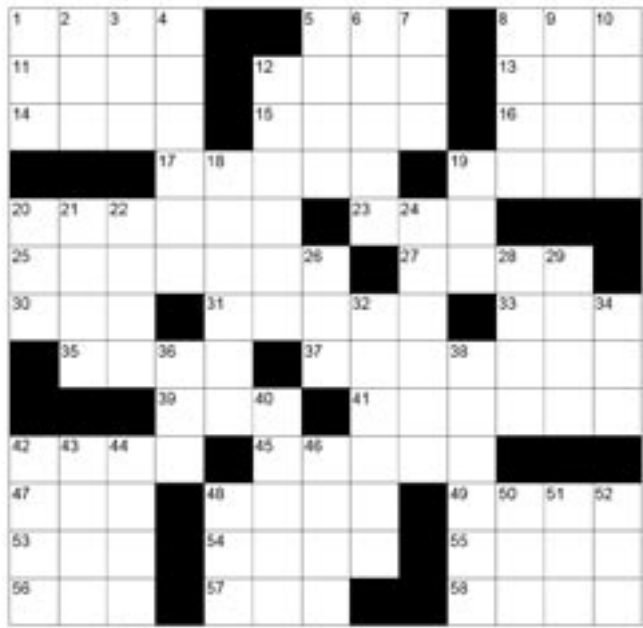
G = Green Y = Yellow





— PUZZLES —

Crossword Puzzle



- Across
- 1 Fake butter

5 Trend

8 Teaspoon (abbr.)

11 Cafe

12 Egg-shaped fruit

13 Boxer Muhammad

14 Vale

15 Open

16 Bed

17 Singing group

19 Small particle

20 City in Minnesota (2 wds.)

23 Newsmen Rather

25 To go across or pass

27 Replace a striker

30 Kitten's cry

31 Was in a position of prayer

33 Caesar's twelve

35 Otherwise

37 Compass direction

39 Insert

41 Overly (2 wds.)

42 Baby powder

45 Produce

47 \_\_\_ you! (attention getter)

48 Accustomed

49 Priggish

53 Pot

54 Has

55 Baggage

56 Boston Red \_\_\_

57 North northeast

58 Eden dweller
- 7 Directory (abbr.)

8 Mexican sandwich

9 Gap

10 Bread

12 China stone

18 Hulled

19 Business abbr.

20 Short-term memory

21 Elm

22 Stop

24 Houston's baseball team

26 Thirst quencher

28 Shaft

29 Life histories

32 Bounds

34 The other half of Jima

36 Pocket

38 Soft drink brand

40 Submerge

42 So we see

43 Air (prefix)

44 Catamount

46 Green Gables dweller

48 Aced

50 Angry

51 North American country

52 Pearl

- Down
- 1 Unmatched

2 Downwind

3 Annex

4 What the Tin Man needed

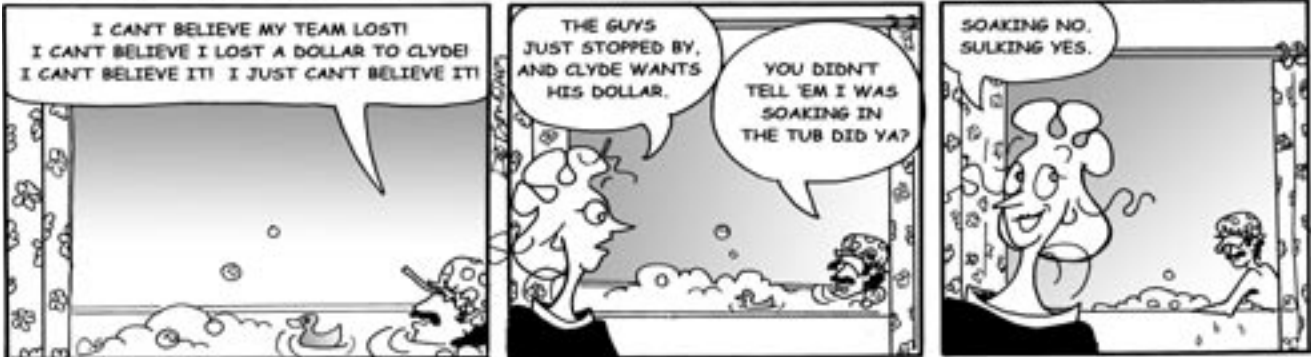
5 Pacific island nation

6 Bestow

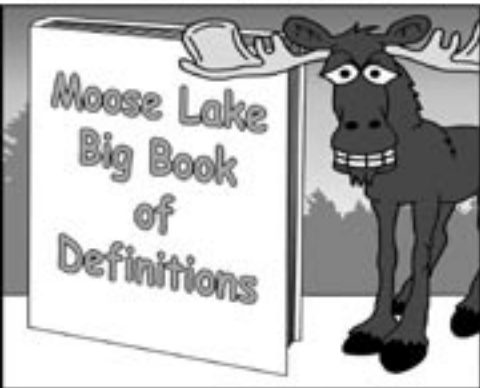


NOITUTOS  
DROMSSORD

OUTZKIRTS By David & Doreen Dotson

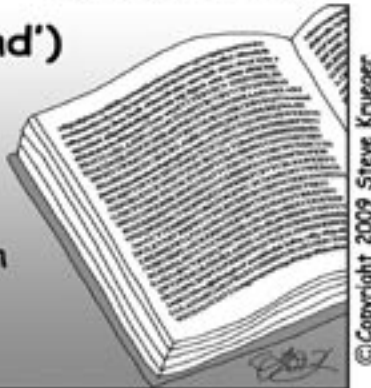


Moose Lake



homeland (hōm'lānd')

What your house does  
two minutes after a  
tornado moves through  
your neighborhood.



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OWEN OWL BY LUKE NEYENDORFF



Capital South by William Warren



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