

Summer Time Madness

A Look at the Summer Film Season by Ahmed Zayani

Ever since Steven Spielberg unleashed Jaws on the masses back in 1975, the summer season has become synonymous with large blockbusters. With each passing year, it seems that more and more studios are looking at the time frame from early May to late August to bombard us with their biggest and most expensive endeavors. To be honest; who could blame them? The past years have shown that these months are the biggest in terms of box office receipts, and this year proved to be no different with the end tally being the biggest in history. However, outside of a few releases, I found his season to be a little underwhelming. I wouldn't go as far as to call it a dud, as there were a few fantastic movies, however, it does not compare to the past years. That is why I thought it would be interesting to look at the summer season that just passed by, this week. Do note that this list exclusively covers movies that were released during the summer months.

Favorite Scene: Film Ranch Slow Burn (Once Upon a Time in Hollywood)

For anyone doubting Tarantino's skills as a filmmaker or Brad Pitt's as an actor, I would like to turn your attention to this scene. From start to finish this scene is a brilliant display of cinematic finesse and genuine slow built thrills. It absolutely stole the show and should be on the highlight reel of all those involved.

Runner Up: Imagine (Yesterday)



Most Irrational Moment: Screaming Fish (47 Meters Down Uncaged)

If there is one moment that can encapsulate the sheer idiocy, the unhinged immaturity and the unrequested lunacy that is 47 Metres Down Uncaged, then it has to be this scene where a fish audibly lets out a cartoonish scream underwater, and thus kick-started the moronic events encapsulated in this movie's narrative.

Runner Up: The Villain Reveal (Angel Has Fallen)



Favorite Film: Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

One of the most recent releases are also my favorite movie of 2019 thus far. Yes; it did split audiences and it might not be Tarantino's best, but it still is a masterwork on display and one that is a must-watch for any true cinephile.

Runner Up: Toy Story 4



Best Performance: Sean Penn (The Professor and The Mad Man)

Let me make this clear; this isn't my favorite performance of 2019 (that honor is still held by James McAvoy for his role in Glass), but this is the best I've seen all summer. It is actually quite difficult for me to choose between the two leads as Mel Gibson has given a solid performance here as well, but it was Mr.Penn's performance that stuck with me long after the credits rolled.

Runner Up: Brad Pitt (Once Upon a Time in Hollywood)



Biggest Surprise: Yesterday

Danny Boyle's latest movie came and went from the theatres without a peep, which was quite unfortunate, as those who had the good fortune of catching it, found it to be riveting. I rewatched bits and pieces of it last night, and there was one scene in particular, that tugged on my heartstrings quite a bit.

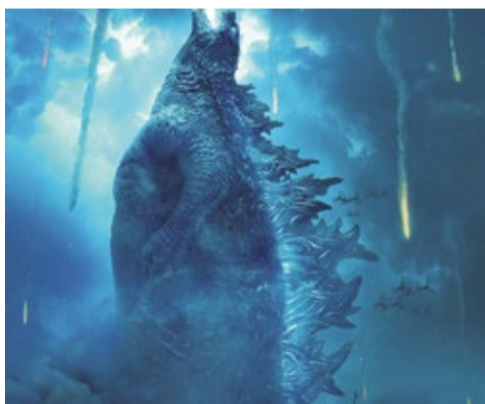
Runner Up: Long Shot



Worst Film: Godzilla, King of the Monsters

While it was not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, I did enjoy the most recent remake Godzilla for what it was, and was looking forward to the sequel, especially considering the talent at hand. How this turned out to be as boring as it was, is beyond me. This should've been impossible to screw up, yet they up and did it. Here's hoping Godzilla vs. King Kong rights this wrong.

Runner Up: 47 Meters Down Uncaged



Worst Performance: Marwan Kenzari (Aladdin)

It would've been so easy for me to include The Rock here and call it a day, but it does take a special kind of subpar performance to outdo that, which is what Marwan Kenzari's performance as Jafar do. Words can't do justice to how bad, and how utterly moronic this performance is. Kenzari lacks the skills, presence, and conviction, to bring Disney's most despicable villain to life, and the film suffered as a result.

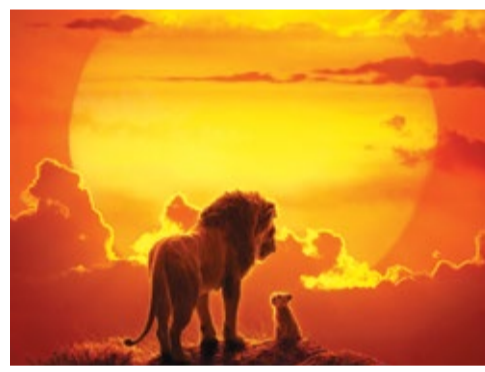
Runner Up: Dwayne Johnson (Hobbs and Shaw)



Biggest Disappointment: The Lion King

There really is no reason for this remake to exist, this is a movie that brings virtually nothing new to the table, and is outclassed by the vastly superior original in every possible way. Still, someone must have seen something in it, considering its gargantuan box office intake.

Runner Up: It: Chapter Two



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is the movie reviewed this week. (See Page 10)

is one of the movies releasing this week. (See Page 10)

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