

Desire, revenge and redemption

Conflict thrives in films released this week: A teenager discovers the heady beauty of awakening desire over the course of a summer that changes his life forever in the emotionally challenging Call Me By Your Name; a mother is pushed to the edge by her daughter's unsolved murder in the rousing Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri; the turbulent bond between a mother and her teenage daughter is explored in Lady Bird; a feckless a directionless young man unravels the mystery shrouding the death of Vincent Van Gogh in the masterful animat film Loving Vincent; a career assassin is given a chance at redemption after his employer brings him back to life temporarily in 24 Hours To Live, and the emotional conflict of tragic romance is expressed in the Met Opera's Tosca.



By Daniel Dercksen 23 Feb 2018

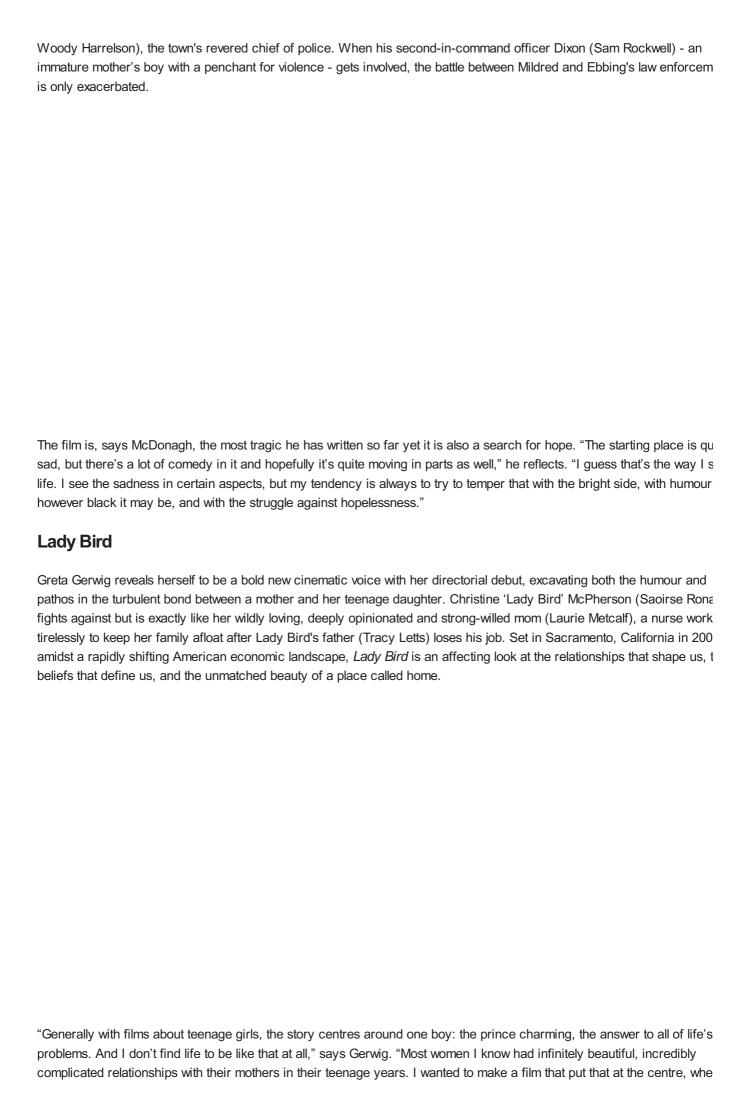
Call Me By Your Name

This new film by Luca Guadagnino is a sensual and transcendent tale of first love, based on the acclaimed novel by André Aciman. It's the summer of 1983 in the north of Italy, and Elio Perlman (Timothée Chalamet), a precocious 17- year-old American-Italian, spends his days in his family's 17th-century villa transcribing and playing classical music, reading, and flirting with his friend Marzia (Esther Garrel). Elio enjoys a close relationship with his father (Michael Stuhlbarg), an emine professor specialising in Greco-Roman culture, and his mother Annella (Amira Casar), a translator, who favours him with fruits of high culture in a setting that overflows with natural delights. While Elio's sophistication and intellectual gifts sugges he is already a fully-fledged adult, there is much that yet remains innocent and unformed about him, particularly about matters of the heart. One day, Oliver (Armie Hammer), a charming American scholar working on his doctorate, arrives as annual summer intern tasked with helping Elio's father. Amid the sun-drenched splendour of the setting, Elio and Oliver discover the heady beauty of awakening desire over the course of a summer that will alter their lives forever.

While his films are praised for their eroticism, Guadagnino doesn't depict sexuality gratuitously. "Sex on screen can be the most boring thing to watch," he says. "In general, if the lovemaking is a way to investigate behaviour and how this behaviour reflects the characters, then I'm interested. But if it's only about the illustration of an act, I'm not interested."

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

A darkly comedic drama from Academy Award-winner Martin McDonagh. After months have passed without a culprit in he daughter's murder case, Mildred Hayes (Academy Award-winner Frances McDormand) makes a bold move, commissioni three signs leading into her town with a controversial message directed at William Willoughby (Academy Award nominee



at every moment you feel empathy for both characters. I never wanted one to be 'right' and the other to be 'wrong'. I wante each to be painfully failing to reach each other, and I wanted to reward their ultimate love at the end. To me, those are the most moving of love stories. The romance between a mother and daughter is one of the richest I know."

Loving Vincent

If there's one film that transcends its uniqueness, it's Dorota Kobiela and Hugh Welchman's *Loving Vincent*, the world's fir fully oil painted feature film that brings the paintings of Vincent van Gogh to life to tell his remarkable story.

Every one of the 65,000 frames of the film is an oil-painting hand-painted by 125 professional oil-painters who travelled from all across the world to the *Loving Vincent* studios in Poland and Greece to be a part of the production. As remarkable as Vincent's brilliant paintings, is his passionate and ill-fated life, and mysterious death.

A masterful animated drama about the life of painter Vincent van Gogh, and in particular, the circumstances of his death.

Says Welchman and Kobiela: "We want audiences to feel moved by Vincent's story and to come out with a desire to discover more about his work and his life. We wanted to offer up a new visual approach, and we hope that our audience venjoy having seen something a bit different from most of the films they will see."

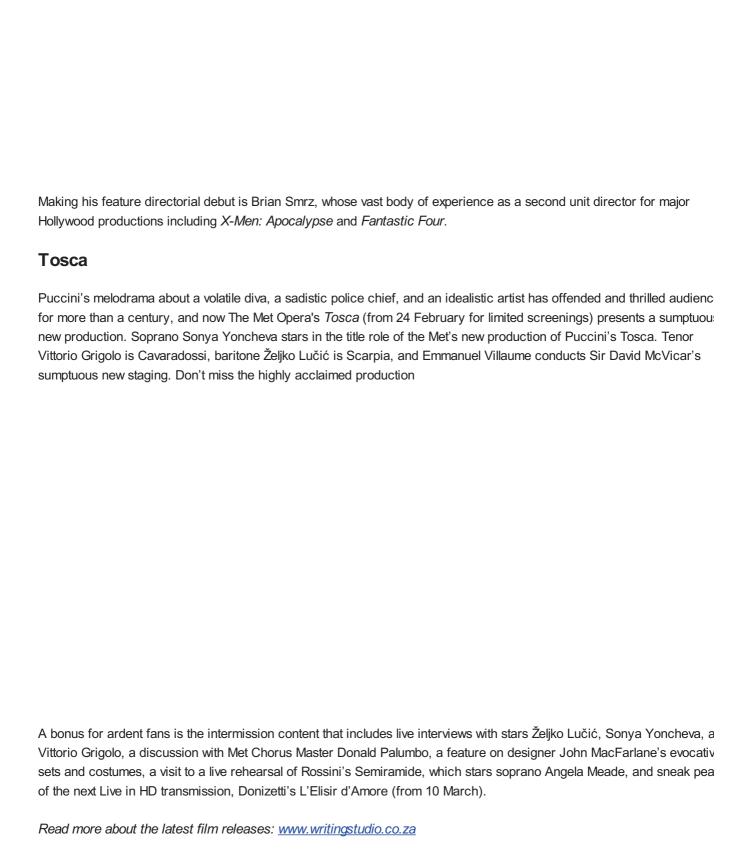
24 Hours To Live

Ethan Hawke leads the international cast in this high-octane actioner penned by Zachary Dean and based on Ron Mita an Jim McClain's original script.



American action film 24 Hours To Live shot in Cape Town
Daniel Dercksen 22 Feb 2018

It follows Hawke's career assassin who is given a chance at redemption after his employer brings him back to life temporarily, just after being killed on the job. Headline cast alongside Hawke includes Chinese actress Xu 'Summer' Qing, Paul Anderson, and Rutger Hauer.



Daniel Dercksen has been a contributor for Lifestyle since 2012. As the driving force behind the successful independent training initiative The Writing Studio and a published film and th journalist of 40 years, teaching workshops in creative writing, playwriting and screenwriting throughout South Africa and internationally the past 22 years. Visit www.writingstudio.cc View my profile and articles...

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