

Soldiers, Con Men and Explorers

 By [Daniel Derksen](#)

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The Disaster Artist, 12 Strong, Fifty Shades Freed, Just Getting Started, Tad, The Lost Explorer, and the secret of King Midas and Human Flow open at local cinemas this week.

The Disaster Artist

Director James Franco (As I Lay Dying, Child of God) transforms the tragicomic true-story of aspiring filmmaker and infamous Hollywood outsider Tommy Wiseau – an artist whose passion was as sincere as his methods were questionable – into a celebration of friendship, artistic expression, and dreams pursued against insurmountable odds.

Based on Greg Sestero's best-selling tell-all about the making of Tommy's cult classic "disaster piece", *The Room* ("The Greatest Bad Movie Ever Made"), it is a hilarious and welcome reminder that there is more than one way to become a legend and no limit to what you can achieve when you have absolutely no idea what you're doing.

Franco also enticed by the idea of a bromance, set behind the scenes of a haplessly amateur film production that, against all odds, went on to delight audiences around the world. He optioned the book and in tribute to Wiseau, set out to direct, produce and star in the adaptation. Appearing as Wiseau, opposite his younger brother Dave playing Sestero, Franco

provides a rollicking take on the American Dream, with two unlikely friends chasing after creative glory in ways that are both unexpected and winning.

12 Strong

The epic war drama is directed by Nicolai Fuglsig and written by Ted Tally and Peter Craig, based on Doug Stanton's non-fiction book *Horse Soldiers*; about the CIA paramilitary officers and U.S. Special Forces sent to Afghanistan right after the September 11 attacks.

In the wake of September 11, Captain Mitch Nelson leads a U.S. Special Forces team into Afghanistan for an extremely dangerous mission. Once there, the soldiers develop an uneasy partnership with the Northern Alliance to take down the Taliban and its al-Qaida allies. Outgunned and outnumbered, Nelson and his forces face overwhelming odds in a fight against a ruthless enemy that takes no prisoners.

Starring Chris Hemsworth (Thor) and Michael Shannon and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, it is not just a war movie; it's a story about learning to respect the differences that separate us but also to embrace the qualities that unite us.

Fifty Shades Freed

This is the much anticipated third and final instalment of the erotic romance, *Fifty Shades Trilogy* by British author E. L. James.

Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson return as Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele in the climactic chapter based on the worldwide bestselling "Fifty Shades" phenomenon.

Believing they have left behind shadowy figures from their past, newlyweds Christian and Ana fully embrace an inextricable connection and shared life of luxury. But, just as she steps into her role as Mrs. Grey, and he into an unfamiliar stability, new threats could jeopardise their happy ending before it even begins.

Fifty Shades Freed is directed by Fifty Shades Darker's James Foley. The screenplay is by Niall Leonard, based on the novel by E L James.

Just Getting Started

An action comedy in the vein of *Midnight Run* (1988), about an ex-F.B.I. Agent (Tommy Lee Jones) and an ex-mob lawyer in the Witness Protection Program (Morgan Freeman) having to put aside their petty rivalry on the golf course to fend off a mob hit.

Duke Diver is living the high life as the freewheeling manager of a luxurious resort in Palm Springs, California. He soon faces competition from Leo, a former military man who likes the same woman that Duke is interested in. When Diver's past suddenly catches up with him, he must put aside his differences and reluctantly team up with Leo to stop whoever is trying to kill him.

From Ron Shelton, writer/director of *Tin Cup* and *Bull Durham*.

Tad, The Lost Explorer, and the secret of King Midas

Tad travels to Las Vegas to see his friend Sara's latest discovery: a papyrus that proves the existence of King Midas, who turned everything he touched into gold thanks to the power of a magical necklace. But, the happy encounter between Tad and Sara is disrupted when the evil Jack Rackham steals the papyrus and kidnaps Sara to force her to find the necklace, a source of infinite wealth.

This Spanish animation film is directed by Enrique Gato, David Alonso.

Human Flow

Artist, activist and director Ai Weiwei captures the global refugee crisis – the greatest human displacement since World War II – in this breathtakingly epic documentary.

Weiwei examines the staggering scale of the refugee crisis and its profoundly personal human impact. Captured over the course of an eventful year in 23 countries, the film follows a chain of urgent human stories that stretches across the globe in countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, France, Greece, Germany, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, and Turkey.

Human Flow is a witness to its subjects and their desperate search for safety, shelter and justice: from teeming refugee camps to perilous ocean crossings to barbed-wire borders; from dislocation and disillusionment to courage, endurance and adaptation; from the haunting lure of lives left behind to the unknown potential of the future.

Human Flow comes at a crucial time when tolerance, compassion and trust are needed more than ever. This visceral work of cinema is a testament to the unassailable human spirit and poses one of the questions that will define this century: Will our global society emerge from fear, isolation, and self-interest and choose a path of openness, freedom, and respect for humanity?

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ABOUT DANIEL DERCKSEN

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