

## Movies playing this week and what critics think

### Thursday

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Extraterrestrial-visiting "Arrival" arrives, plus reviews and information on other movies at area venues.

By Compiled by Susan Eastman

**"The Accountant"**: (drama, R, 128 minutes, reviewed by Ann Hornaday, The Washington Post). This by turns engrossing and viscerally violent thriller has a lot going for it – including its originality – even when contrivances collapse in an unconvincing heap. Ben Affleck plays the title character who actually helps criminals, and he is soon in a cat-and-mouse game with Treasury Department official J.K. Simmons. The movie makes good on its intriguing premise with modest smarts, well-timed laughs and pummeling action. \*\* 1/2

**"Arrival"**: (sci-fi thriller, PG-13, 116 minutes, reviewed by Richard Roeper, Chicago Sun-Times). As confusing as it is enlightening, Denis Villeneuve's high-end alien invasion movie tells of a linguistics expert (Amy Adams) called upon to communicate with extraterrestrial visitors. Even most of the what-the-heck moments are beautiful and challenging and cool in a thought-provoking, intergalactic kind of way. \*\*\*1/2

**"Deepwater Horizon"**: (disaster action, PG-13, 97 minutes, reviewed by Roeper). Mark Wahlberg and Kurt Russell play the real-life good guys aboard the oil rig before and after the explosion and fire that created the largest offshore

oil spill in history. This is a well-made, sometimes horrifyingly realistic re-creation of events, but it often feels like a formulaic disaster film. \*\*\*

**"Denial"** (drama, PG-13, 110 minutes, reviewed by Roeper). A Holocaust denier sues one of his critics in a powerful but often stilted drama bolstered by great performances from Timothy Spall and Tom Wilkinson and nearly sunk by Rachel Weisz' shaky New York accent. Despite the drawbacks, the power of the story shines through. \*\*\*

**"Doctor Strange"**: (superhero action, PG-13, 130 minutes, reviewed by Rick Bentley, The Fresno Bee). One of the best films in the Marvel Comics film library, the story centers on egotistical surgeon Dr. Stephen Strange who seeks unorthodox healing for hands mangled in an accident, and unlocks mystical powers that turn him into a force to protect Earth from supernatural assaults. Cumberbatch is brilliant casting in a perfectly balanced script, and director Scott Derrickson creates Marvel magic in a film that moves from the intimate to the fantastical without pause. \*\*\*\*

**"€~The Girl on the Train"** (thriller, R, 112 minutes, reviewed by Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service). Paula Hawkins' murder mystery is ably wrestled to the screen, maintaining its disparate voices spread among the memories, inner monologues and subjectivities of three women. Emily Blunt is excellent as a broken, sad woman who watches a seemingly perfect couple from a commuter train and whose boozy blackout could hide what happened after she unwittingly spies a betrayal. \*\*\*

**"Hacksaw Ridge"**: (war action, R, 231 minutes, reviewed by Walsh). Director Mel Gibson ("Braveheart") excels at staging and shooting relentless violence, battles and heroes who are steadfastly committed to what they believe in. This effective and affecting film is based on the true story of Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield), the first conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor, a ridiculed outcast who is so committed to his beliefs that he becomes a hero and eventually inspires others to follow him. \*\*\*

**"Inferno"**: (thriller, PG-13, 121 minutes, reviewed by Walsh). Tom Hanks is back as symbology professor Robert Langdon from Dan Brown's mysteries, and this time he wakes up in a Florence hospital bed with visions, some amnesia and

a headache. He goes on the run with a doctor (Felicity Jones) to stop an eccentric bioengineer who wants to thin the population. The cast is great, but twists in the story and the action keep coming relentlessly, at the expense of the plot's structural integrity. \*\*

**“Jack Reacher: Never Go Back”** (action, PG-13, 118 minutes, reviewed by Walsh). This character from Lee Child's novels is an ideal vehicle for Tom Cruise's star strengths — his efficient physicality; laconic, twitchy charm; and dogged pursuit of righteousness. Reacher goes on the run from mercenaries with a military friend and his possible daughter in tow, and a simpler moral story sits on top of the larger, twistier, but essentially unimportant plot involving drugs.

\*\* 1/2

**"Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children":** (fantasy, PG-13, 122 minutes, reviewed by Roeper). Tim Burton's adaptation of the popular children's book about a school for freakishly gifted children is a messy, confusing, uninvolved mishmash of old-school practical effects and CGI battles. It's like watching a master musician play a piano he somehow doesn't realize is out of tune. \*1/2

**"Queen of Katwe":** (sports drama, PG, 124 minutes, reviewed by Roeper). This uplifting story of a poor Ugandan girl with a knack for chess follows the formula of Disney sports movies, but works because of Mira Nair's energetic direction and an endearing cast led by Lupita Nyong'o and newcomer Madina Nalwanga.

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**"Sully":** (biography-Drama, PG-13, 96 minutes, reviewed by Roeper). Director Clint Eastwood gives us an electrifying thriller, a wonderful in-depth character study and a fascinating airline safety procedural, while Tom Hanks delivers another in a long line of memorable performances, playing the pilot who made an emergency crash-landing on the Hudson River. An absolute triumph. \*\*\*\*

**“Trolls”:** (animated, PG, 92 minutes, reviewed by Walsh). The wild-haired troll dolls become highly excitable party monsters with a penchant for pop music in this film, trying to escape the monsters who feed on their joy. Relentlessly upbeat Poppy (Anna Kendrick) and maudlin Branch (Justin Timberlake) must

meet in the middle of their personalities when they team up to save their friends. While the joy outbursts can be grating, there's something bizarrely infectious about the movie's neon-tinted, sugar-smacked highs. \*\* ½

### **ALSO SHOWING**

**Cape Cinema:** 35 Hope Lane, Dennis: "Coming Through the Rye" and "Aquarius," Friday through Thursday; Warren Miller's "Here, There & Everywhere," 7 p.m. Wednesday. 508-385-2503.

**Chatham Orpheum Theater:** 637 Main St.: "Hacksaw Ridge," "Inferno" and "The Queen of Katwe" Friday through Thursday; Show times: 508-945-4900. Box office: 508-945-0874.

**Waters Edge Cinema:** 237 Commercial St., Provincetown: "Gimme Danger" and "The Dress Maker," Friday through Thursday; PAAM Film Art Series: "Tangerine (2015)," 7 p.m. Wednesday. 508-413-9369.

**Martha's Vineyard Film Society:** 79 Beach Road, Vineyard Haven: "A Man Called Ove," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Thursday; "Denial," 4 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 p.m. Sunday; "Seed: The Untold Story," 4 p.m. Sunday; Mumford & Sons live from South Africa: "Dust and Thunder," 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; [www.mvfilmsociety.com](http://www.mvfilmsociety.com). 508-696-9369.

**Nature Screen presents "My Life as a Turkey":** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Main St., Brewster. Showings continuous every 50 minutes. Free with admission. 508-896-3867, ext.133.

**"Requiem For My Mother":** 7 p.m. Saturday, Falmouth Academy, 7 Highfield Drive. Part of Film Falmouth Winter Film Series. \$14, \$25 for two, \$10 students and veterans. Tickets: [www.woodsholefilmfestival.org](http://www.woodsholefilmfestival.org) or at door. 508-495-3456.

**"Hunger Hits Home":** 7:30 p.m. Friday, Falmouth Jewish Congregation, 7 Hatchville Road, East Falmouth. Begins with short Shabbat service. Documentary 8 p.m., followed by discussion led by Brenda Swain, executive

director of Falmouth Service Center. Refreshments.

**www.falmouthjewish.org** or 508 540-0602.

**"Hail, Caesar! (2016)":** PG-13, 2 p.m. Tuesday, Osterville Village Library, 43 Wianno Ave. 508.428.5757. FREE!

**"Three Colors: Blue":** 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Cape Cod Community College, 2240 Iyannough Road, West Barnstable. Lecture Hall A. 508-362-2131, ext. 4453. FREE!

**Nature Screen presents "The Pilgrims":** 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, Nov. 16-Dec. 3, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Main St., Brewster. No showings Nov. 25 and 26. 508-896-3867, ext. 133.

**"The Nun's Story":** 6 p.m. Wednesday, Provincetown Public Library, 356 Commercial St. Refreshments. 508-487-7094. FREE!