

Arts and Entertainment

The Hunger Games: did it meet the fans expectations?

By Madi Groves
Staff writer

The Hunger Games is a thrilling, fun, and an action-packed book series and movie. People were so excited for this movie that it was sold out in many theaters. There were fans just jumping with anticipation waiting to see who was cast for the roles of their favorite characters. So did this movie fill their expectations?

It all started out with a war in Panem when the people rise against the Capital because they didn't like the way they were doing things in all of the districts. By the end of the war, the Capital destroys District 13 and splits up the other twelve districts to help keep the peace. In order to deter future rebellions, the Capital creates the Hunger Games, a yearly reminder of what happens when someone tries to rise up against the government. On Reaping Day, one girl and one boy from each District is chosen to compete in the Hunger Games and fight to



Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

the death. Only one person comes out of the Games as winner.

Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) shocks the crowd when she volunteers to take the place of her younger sister Prim (Willow Shields), whose name is called as the District 12 Tribute. Katniss is joined by Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), when the baker's son is drawn as the male tribute.

Their mentor Haymitch Abernathy (Wood Harrelson) is the only Tribute from District 12 to ever survive the Hunger Games. After the Reaping Day is over, all the tributes from each District go to the Capital for the opening ceremony. After the ceremony, they train for three days; they then have time to train by themselves. After the training they have interviews. At the interviews, Peeta says that he has a crush on Katniss, but that's all for show, at least for Katniss it is, so they can get sponsors for the games. The next day, they get ready to start the games. At the beginning of the games, they have a bunch of things in

front of them that the tributes would have to fight for to get so they could survive. Peeta forms an alliance with the Career tributes (tributes from the highest ranking, and most trained districts).

Nobody is getting killed, so the gamemakers start a fire to get all the tributes together, so they can start killing each other. When Katniss is in a tree, she sees Rue, the girl from District 11. Rue tells Katniss that there is a wasp's nest above her head. Katniss then plans to cut down the nest, so it will land on the Careers' camp, and kill them. In the morning, she takes a risk to cut it down. But during cutting down the tree, Katniss is stung a few times, then she climbs out of the tree, so goes to hunt for food,

with the bow and arrows she pick up from one of the girls that died from the wasps. When she is cooking the food, she sees Rue and they decide to make an alliance. They make a plan to steal the food from the career camp because that is the only main thing that is keeping them alive. So Kat-

niss goes to the camp. As she leaves the camp, to look for Rue, she hears Rue scream. Katniss finds her and the boy from District 1 kills Rue, so Katniss kills him. After Katniss goes finds a tree to sleep on, an announcer comes on and says that the rules of the games, have changed.

Because the book had a lot of detail, it was difficult to put that same detail in the movie. It would be difficult to put all the details and events in the book into the movie. There were some things that were cut, and even some characters such as the three-day cave scene, and the true way Katniss got the mockingjay pin.

Katniss' friend, the mayor's daughter, was the person who gave her the pin and was her only friend in the

district besides Gale. These cuts will probably make it hard to explain things in the next movies.

What made me mad in the movie was that they changed the part about how Katniss got the pin of the mockingjay, and how they left out some important parts that made the book so



Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

Twigs, Spokane's destination for high-class food

By Olivia Nemeč
A&E Editor

Spokane is well-known throughout Washington as "Near nature, near perfect." Whether you're looking for fine foods, great shopping, or getting close to nature, Spokane is the perfect place to unwind and relax. There are boundless things to do in the summer, such as white water rafting, fishing, rides in River Park square, and the annual Hoop Fest basketball tournament. During the winter, there's ice-skating, sledding, skiing and snowboarding.

But when the day winds down and you're looking for some outstanding food that is good from date night to girl's night, Twigs is the place to go! Twigs Bistro

and Martini bar is very upscale. It can be expensive, but the food quality always delivers. This is not an extremely family-friendly place, they are not accommodating and the wait staff tends to be very impatient. This is not a place to take the kids.

The menu is perfect for an older crowd, with dishes like Five Cheese Chicken Cannelloni, Pepper Salmon, and Truffle Penne, this is a restaurant for a much more developed pallet. Also being a cocktail bar as well, this is a perfect place for social gatherings or business meetings.

All of the food is of amazing quality; you can't find a mediocre dish on the menu. One of the most

popular dishes is the garlic fries with gorgonzola sauce, which is popular for a reason. They are some of the best French fries you'll ever eat!

Also the Five Cheese Chicken Cannelloni is wonderfully prepared with amazing sauce and the perfect texture flavor, everything. It is one of the most amazing things you will ever eat.

Other favorites are things such as the Crab Mac and Cheese. This takes your love for mac and cheese as kid and makes it all grown up! With amazing sauces, a lightly toasted top, and premier crab, you could not possibly go wrong with this dish!

Whether it's a date or just casual, Twigs is the place to go to impress your guest. With three locations (South hill, downtown and in the valley), it's an easy choice. So next time you go out to eat put Twigs on the list!



Photo courtesy of spokane-dining.com

The Lorax portrays great message

By Grady Arzen
Sports Editor

Universal Theatres has added another Dr. Seuss-book-turned-animated-movie to its list. Already consisting of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *The Cat in the Hat*, Universal just released its newest addition, *The Lorax*. *The Lorax* is the first Dr. Seuss movie to be released in 3D.

"I haven't seen *Horton Hears a Who* so I can't really compare the two, but *The Lorax* is a great movie," freshman Devin Douglas said.

The Lorax focuses around a kid name Ted Wiggins (Zac Efron), who is named after Dr. Seuss's real name, Theodor Seuss Geisel. Ted lives in the town of Thneed-ville, where there are no trees and the air is so polluted that a company sells bottled air.

In the beginning, Ted is in love with a girl name Audrey (Taylor Swift), who's only wish is to see a real tree. Ted decides to make it his mission to find a real tree to win her affection. Ted's grandmother (Betty White) suggests that Ted go see the Once-ler (Ed Helms). The Once-ler is a hermit that lives outside the walls of Thneed-ville, and is the reason there are no trees remaining in Thneed-ville. When the Once-ler was younger, he came up with a revolutionary cloth-

ing invention that required the tufts of the Truffula Trees. When he came to the forest where Thneed-ville will eventually be, he began by chopping down a single Truffula Tree. The sky began to darken, and the Lorax (Danny DeVito) floated down in front of the Once-ler. He told the Once-ler that he was the one that speaks for the trees, and warned him not to chop down anymore trees. The Once-ler then promised he would not chop down anymore trees as long as he was there.

But as the Once-ler's invention became popular, more and more tufts were required to make the clothes, called Thneeds. The Once-ler's family was brought in, and they suggested that chopping down the trees would be a much easier way to make the Thneeds. Greed and laziness led to all the trees being chopped down, and the land being so polluted by the big company that all the animals left.

Back in present day Thneed-ville, a man named Mr. O'Hare (Rob Riggle) began selling bottled air to customers because the air was so unclean from pollution, and he soon became the most powerful man in Thneed-ville. O'Hare warned Ted not to leave Thneed-ville because he knew that bringing back trees would ruin his busi-

ness. But Ted persisted, and was able to plant the last Truffula Tree seed in the middle of the city, showing people what they were missing.

Once O'Hare is thrown out of the city, the Lorax comes down from the sky to visit the old Once-ler. He is pleased that the Once-ler is undoing the harm he caused the land, and they both return to the Once-ler's house.

The Lorax has a great plot focusing around conservation. Throughout the movie, characters constantly talk about the need for trees and a healthy environment. Sometimes, however, the characters talk too much about conservation and you almost forget you are watching a children's movie.

"I felt like sometimes it got a little too cheesy, like when they kept talking about saving the planet," said freshman Kyla Wright.

However, *The Lorax* book by Dr. Seuss is also heavily centered around conservation. The theme of conservation fits nicely into the plot of the movie as well as the book, and makes you want to take care of the earth. Even though the book was written more than 30 years ago, the theme of conservation still applies to the world today.

"I felt inspired to plant a tree afterwards," Douglas commented.

The Lorax is also a really funny movie. Even though he only appears twice in the movie (at the beginning and end), he says some of the funniest lines in the movie.

"The Lorax is the best! He is so funny," Wright said.

The movie has a laid-back feel to it, and is mostly a film to watch just for fun. You don't have to have to really focus or pay close attention, but instead just relax and enjoy the film. Whenever a scene becomes too intense, the characters either make a joke or break into song. Characters in *The Lorax* sing for about 45 minutes total, which is almost overwhelming even though some of the songs are actually pretty good.

"I actually started singing some of the songs after I watched it!" Wright exclaimed.

Overall, *The Lorax* is a hilarious film about friendship and conservation. It would be recommended for children of all ages because there is barely any language, and it has humor that anyone would find funny. Lastly, who doesn't like a good Dr. Seuss movie?

Photo Caption: *The Lorax* is the highest grossing Dr. Seuss book adapted to a movie.

Photo courtesy of imdb.com

Assassinations galore in 16th century Constantinople!

By Jake Dickinson
Staff writer

Released in November, Xbox 360's version of *Assassin's Creed: Revelations* (ACR) is the most recent installment into the *Assassin's Creed* story. The game has two main stories in it: the story involving one of The Assassins during the 1500's in the eyes of Ezio Auditore da Firenze, the mentor of The Assassins at that time; a background story with the modern Assassins and their enemies, known as Abstergo Industries. As an additional feature, the game has optional

missions that deal with the series' main protagonist, Desmond Miles. The Desmond's Journeys storyline has memories that only Desmond and a few characters that he talks about, that have not occurred in any of the previous *Assassin's Creed* games.

The main story is divided into sequences that contain the missions that you have to complete in order for you to get further in the story of Ezio. Ezio's story is that he is at Masyaf, where the Assassin Organization was reborn, looking for Altair's hidden library. In the first game,

you played as Altair, an assassin from the crusades that, according to this game, later became the leader of the Assassin Organization and spread it throughout Europe. After a few missions, it turns out that Ezio needs to get five artifacts known as Masyaf keys, and each key contains tidbits of memories from Altair's life and they each have some time between them.

After this discovery, Ezio heads to the original city of Assassin influence, Constantinople. Once Ezio has arrived, he is greeted by the head of the Assassins in the area, Yusuf Tazim, and

he gives Ezio a new type of hidden blade that allows him to travel through Constantinople by using zip lines that have been set up by The Assassins. Also, Yusuf teaches Ezio maneuvers with the hooked blade, but you don't really need to use them much.

Then, Ezio goes around Constantinople, completing missions to get the keys and then a major plot twist occurs. But, telling you this would spoil the game. So, let's look at the second part of the game that adds to the overall story of the series.

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Footloose - a timeless classic renewed

By Hannah Williamson
Staff Writer

Whether you've seen the original *Footloose* or not, the renewed version directed by Craig Brewer is definitely a need-to-see film. Released in late 2011, the movie grossed \$15.5 million its opening weekend. From newer faces like Kenny Wormald and Julianne Hough, to big names like Dennis Quaid, *Footloose* is filled with talent and heart.

In this movie, high school senior Ren McCormack (Kenny Wormald) moves to the small town of Bomont from Boston to live with his aunt and uncle after his mother dies from cancer. The story line is slightly different from the original because in the primary one, Ren is from Chicago and his mom is still alive.

Already having a hard time fitting in, Ren, who was a dancer and a gymnast in Boston, is shocked to find out that in Bomont County public dancing is prohibited by law—along with many other laws that don't really seem fair. The laws were enforced three years earlier by Reverend Moore (Dennis

Quaid) and the town council who brought these laws to order after Moore's son, Bobby, and four other kids were killed in a car accident after a night of dancing and drinking. He believed dancing was a spiritual corruption, so he outlawed it. Throughout the movie, Ren tries to show the town what dancing is really about, and how it should be allowed for teenagers if they are not corrupting themselves.

The first girl to catch Ren's eye in town is none other than the Reverend's rebellious daughter, Ariel (Julianne Hough), who's had a bit of a crazy side ever since her brother's death. Moore, not really seeing the full spectrum of how his daughter is acting out, thinks that Ren is a bad influence on Ariel. With the help of Ariel and the support of almost the

entire senior class at Bomont High, Ren decides to go before city council in asking them to grant the seniors a school dance.

Though the plotline of

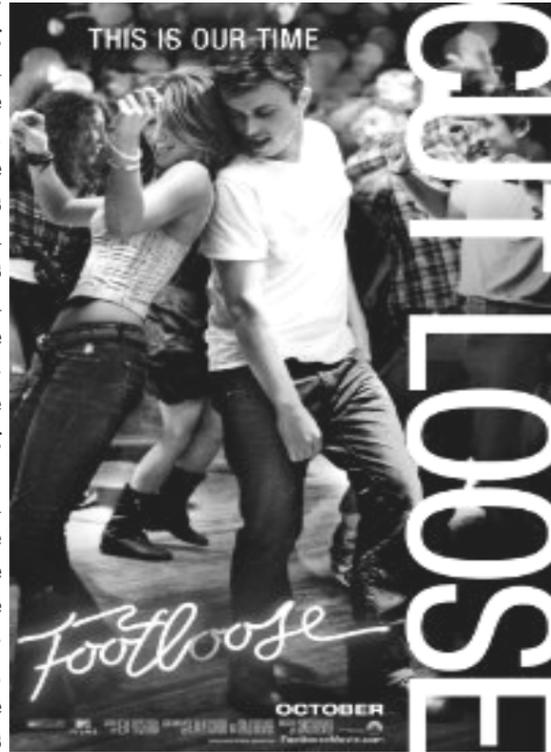


Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

Footloose is about wanting to make public dancing legal in a small town, it goes deeper than that. It's about not living fearfully because of what can or has happened and enjoying life.

The teenagers in this movie actually give a valuable lesson to older generations by showing them how important it is to participate in the good things in life and to make the most out of it while you can. The renewed version of *Footloose* is an extremely well-done modernization of the original. It even gives more background than the first so the plot is easier to understand the whole way through. This remake is the perfect example of how to modernize a classic and still keep its charm.

"There are happy and sad times in the movie, so it makes it exciting for everyone the whole way through," freshman Matea Ped said.

Footloose is definitely a movie for people of all ages, teenagers and up, to appreciate. It's the kind of movie that has every theatrical aspect in it, whether it's humor, emotion, sadness, or joy. It's already released on DVD, so make sure to rent or buy it! Besides, who doesn't want to be part of the renewal of a classic and watch a movie that's been big for years?

Local Italian restaurant worth 5 stars

By Ruby Falciani
Opinion Editor

Ferraro's Italian Restaurant is a small, family-owned restaurant. Unlike most large corporation restaurant chains, Ferraro's has a section in their menus to tell the story of how Ferraro's started in America. The setting of the restaurant's feel is very homey and welcoming.

"The light background music wasn't overwhelming, and it's was perfect for a quiet casual conversation," said Freeman parent Casey Little-Falciani.

The waitresses and waiters are very kind, and get the orders perfectly. They answer any and all questions asked by picky 50 year-olds and curious 6 year-olds. They know how to make sure that you get the

exact order you wanted, and in perfect time.

As appetizer choices, mozzarella sticks, fried ravioli, and Bruschetta can either be ordered as full appetizers separately, or as a sampler plate with three of each option. In the center of the plate, there is a bowl of perfectly warmed marinara sauce. The mozzarella sticks have a breaded shell, containing warm, stringy cheese. Fried ravioli sounds weird, but is actually really good. The fried outer shell is not bland, not too salty, and not bitter, which really goes well with the warm cheese and beef inside. Bruschetta is fresh diced tomatoes, onions, and green peppers on fresh slices of bread. When all of these delicious appetizers are dipped into the heavenly marinara sauce,

they become twice as amazing as before.

Soup and salad is brought out after the appetizers. A soup offered is minestrone; it is a type of Italian vegetable soups with freshly cut carrots, peas, tomatoes, green beans, noodles, celery, potatoes, and red and white beans. The soup part isn't too spicy, salty, or watery. It is perfect. The salad is served on a chilled glass plate with fresh lettuce, olives, and Italian dressing.

The main courses offer a large variety. There are many chicken entrees with alfredo and marinara sauce.

There are a lot of lasagna-type foods like manicotti. Manicotti is lasagna noodles with ricotta and mozzarella cheese melted inside, all rolled up with marinara sauce poured on

top. The chicken fettuccine alfredo has noodles mixed with alfredo sauce and chicken on top.

"The noodles were cooked to perfection, and the sauce was tasty and creamy, mild, not bland," Little-Falciani added. "The only thing was that the chicken was a little dry. Other than that, it was awesome."

After the main-course is done, you get one scoop per person of spumoni ice cream served in a clear plastic bowl. The spumoni is thick, soft, and really smooth, and is not too frozen or melted. It is a great desert for after the main course. This restaurant is a great place for dinner on family night, a lunch date, or even parents' date night

Looking for the best salsa? Azteca

By Anna Lee
Staff Writer

Whether you're looking for a fancy restaurant or a quiet sit down, Spokane Valley Mall's Azteca is a place that you should consider going to!

The service is exceptional. From the moment you walk in, you are greeted with smiles and quickly shown to a table after being taken to your seat, the waiter/waitress orders your drink and in only a few minutes your drinks are served along with endless chips and salsa. From tea to soda, you have an endless number of drinks from which to choose, no matter what your age. I got a strawberry lemonade; it was served with

enough ice that my drink did not go warm mid-meal. Just like their chips and salsa, the lemonade came with free refills!

The menu starts with appetizers the range from \$1.50 to \$13.75 depending on what you; they have Malibu Coconut Prawns, to Chicken Taquitos. In their soup section you get a choice to either have it in a bowl or a cup. The bowl prices range from \$5.95 to \$8.95 and the cup prices range from \$3.95 to \$5.25. Their dinner menu consists of things like a southwest burrito, Tostadas, and Seafood Chimichangas, all of which are under the price of \$13.75.

For my main meal, I ordered the Carmrones a la

Diabla, which is large shrimp cooked with mushrooms and onions with a choice of hot or mild sauce. I chose the mild sauce, and the sauce and the shrimp melded together perfectly. The food on the plate was laid out beautifully, with no extra sauce dripping over the edges. When the shrimp was served, you could tell that it was recently cooked because the mushrooms, shrimp and onions were all still very hot.

Once you walk into the restaurant, you don't even realize that you are still in Spokane. The paintings on the walls really contribute to the feel of being in Mexico. The way that the walls are colored and the art on the walls and ceiling, really



Photo courtesy of dayinspokane.com

make you forget that you are just at the mall.

On one side of Azteca is a bar, where adults can go and grab of a few drinks with their friends and relax. Also by the bar, there are three or four flat-screens that all play different sports games continuously. If you're a parent that just wants to get away from the kids, this could be a few hours getaway for you!

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When you are Ezio in Constantinople, you will come across Animus Data Fragments. If you collect the data fragments, you will unlock a level on Animus Island and there are five levels total on the island that you can go into and complete. Each level has Desmond talk about his life before and during the series' story and each level has new hazards. To unlock all of the levels, you need to get 30 data fragments total and each level is increasingly difficult as you run right through them.

Now, *ACR* is somewhat different than its predecessor *Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood*. *ACR* has more customization capabilities for you can make your own bombs. The bombs are made up of the ordinance, gunpowder, and the casings, while *Brotherhood* allowed you to purchase only smoke bombs. Also, *ACR* allows you to purchase parachutes at the beginning of the game, while *Brotherhood* has you complete frustrating missions in order to get the ability to purchase and use parachutes.

The irony between both of the games is that they both are short games that you can finish in about three to seven hours and that Desmond's face drastically changes between both of the games. Also, you have to collect items in both games and you have to remove the enemy's influence to build and repair the area's shops to use them. But, once you commit too many crimes, the Templars will attack one of your areas and then you will have to re-conquer it, then you will have to do a terribly hard job of defending the area with your assassins, and yourself in order for you to keep the area under your control and you are being searched for by guards. But, you can just fail at the defense and then get the new owner out of the picture to recapture it. This isn't like in *Brotherhood* where if you commit too many crimes that you are instantly pursued by only the guards.

Now, the game play of *ACR* is the same as *Brotherhood's*, which was generally smooth until you tried to turn the character too quickly for that will cause him to jump backwards. Also, the game has certain parts when you can't control the camera as much as the rest of the game. These points generally have you complete an easy task like climbing walls.

Brotherhood's graphics are about the same as *ACR's* graphics, including the armors and the people that aren't assassins or key people to the story. Also, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) is about the same as the last game's AI. After testing all of the reactions of you doing crimes and you attacking them, the AI seems the same as *Brotherhood's* AI. Also, the game's physics are still the same as the last.

The game play is about the same as the last game, but the added features to it really gave the game a new videogame sort of feel. The graphics were about the same as the last game, not needing any improvement. Finally, the plot was absolutely terrific, it added to the game's pacing and the multiple choices to complete a goal that can be completed in more than one way.

So, *ACR* is basically the same game as the last one except with a fresh coat of textures, new enemies, features, and additions to the plot and game play. The game is generally best suited for those that want to play a game that involves plenty of running around and then completing missions. Finally, the game is rated "M" for mature due to violence, blood, mild sexual content, and language. I personally would recommend this game to those that want to play a game that requires some stealth, know-how, and generally people that want to play a game based in the 1500's. But, if you don't like small amounts of foreign languages, free running games, or games that require you to be good most of the time, then this game isn't for you.



Photo courtesy of geeky-gadgets.com

The series gets a fresh coat of new abilities and customizations for you to play with. Ezio can now climb up minarets and then base jump from them with great ease.