

Now Playing: Friday, January 23, through Thursday, January 29

Written by Mike Schulz

Wednesday, 21 January 2015 13:00

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For show schedule information, visit:

[Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX](#) , Davenport

[FilmScene](#) , Iowa City

[Putnam Museum](#) , Davenport

[Regal Moline Stadium 14](#) , Moline

(Hyperlinked titles take you to Mike Schulz's full reviews; the IMDb hyperlinks take you to the films' Internet Movie Database pages.)

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[American Sniper](#) (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) -

This meat-and-potatoes Iraq War drama is nourishing enough – if, for some of us, also pretty undercooked.

[IMDb listing](#)

[Annie](#) (PG, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - The choreography's a shambles and the mixing is poor and the original numbers are terrible, but if you can ignore the fact that it's a musical, which is surprisingly easy to do, you can still have an awfully good time.

[IMDb listing](#)

□

[Big Hero 6](#) (PG, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - Splendidly animated and filled with witty one-liners, with the enormous, adorable, poker-faced marshmallow Baymax frequently the funniest movie character of the year.

[IMDb](#)

[listing](#)

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[Birdman](#) (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - A comedy so exhilarating that it nearly leaves you dizzy imagining what director/co-writer Alejandro González Iñárritu could accomplish if his primary interest were always in giving audiences a good time.

[IMDb listing](#)

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[Blackhat](#) (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - Technically impressive, but Michael Mann's considerable skill isn't enough to disguise the asinine contrivances that force Chris Hemsworth's computer wonk to morph into a gun-toting action stu

[IMDb listing](#)

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[The Boxtrolls](#) (PG, FilmScene) - Thursday, January 29, 3 p.m. An animated comedy that's witty, weird, and a little bit wonderful, and its occasional blandness is suffused with brilliant visual and aural gags. [IMDb](#)

[listing](#) □

[The Boy Next Door](#) (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) -

A sub-sub-sub

-basement

Fatal Attraction

in which Jennifer Lopez enjoys a one-night-stand with a 19-year-old and spends the rest of the movie waiting for bunnies to boil on her stove.

[IMDb listing](#)

[Foxcatcher](#) (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, FilmScene) - Like a recurring nightmare that terrifies you, yet somehow also calms you, the minute you enter it, Bennett Miller's true-crime drama is an edgy, unsettling, and strangely satisfying experience.

[IMDb listing](#)

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[Galapagos: Nature's Wonderland](#) (not rated, Putnam Museum) - A visual marvel that's also a satisfying feast for the brain, the Putnam's latest is a kind of celluloid paradise.

[IMDb listing](#)

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The Girls from Thunder Strip (X, FilmScene) - Wednesday, January 28, 10 p.m. [IMDb listing](#)

[The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies](#) (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - Thank you, Peter Jackson, I suppose, for the roughly 18 collective screen hours of Middle Earth. Can you please come back to

real

Earth now?

[IMDb listing](#)

***How the West Was Won* (not rated, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - Wednesday, January 28, 2 & 7 p.m.**

[IMDb listing](#)

***The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part I* (PG-13, Regal Moline Stadium 14)** - Reasonably gripping and rarely dull, although its presentation – as was bound to happen – does make the movie feel less like a satisfying two-hour entertainment than the not-bad first half of a much better four-hour entertainment.

[IMDb listing](#)

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***The Imitation Game* (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14)** - A bureaucratic espionage tale so inherently gripping that it can handily withstand its rather blah visual treatment.

[IMDb](#)

[listing](#)

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***Into the Woods* (PG, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14)** - Incredibly faithful to the musical's stage roots, but so faithful that it's under-imagined and kind of suffocating, and sadly, it isn't much fun.

[IMDb listing](#)

***Jerusalem* (not rated, Putnam Museum)** - As a means of generating discussion among interfaith viewers, and perhaps especially as an introduction to the city for young audiences, Daniel Ferguson's work might prove unmissable.

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[Mdb listing](#)

***Mortdecai* (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14)** - This Clouseau-esque slapstick is weak, but thanks to star Johnny Depp, nowhere near as weak as it might've been.

[IMDb listing](#)

[Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb](#) (PG, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - I was depressed to no end by the bum jokes, lazy sentiment, and mostly stagnant staging, but Dan Stevens' Lancelot and a few fringe touches almost make it all worthwhile.

[IMDb listing](#)

[Paddington](#) (PG, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - Hilarious and clever and touching, and easily the finest outing of its type since 2006's *Charlotte's Web*

[IMDb listing](#)

[Prehistoric Planet: Walking with Dinosaurs 3D](#) (not rated, Putnam Museum) - [BBCEarth.com](#)

[Selma](#) (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - With David Oyelowo offering a subtle, measured Martin Luther King portrayal that doesn't ever slide into easy sanctimony, this extraordinary film is incredibly touching even when the reverend's thrillingly mellifluous sermons are raising the rafters.

[IMDb listing](#)

[Strange Magic](#) (PG, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - This Lucasfilm endeavor is to animated musicals what *Red, White, & Blaine*

is to

Les Mis

[IMDb listing](#)

[Taken 3](#) (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - If you're imagining car chases, shoot-outs, terse phone calls, Russian gangsters who just *vant*

their

mow-ney

, and the discomfiting sight of Liam Neeson continuing to treat his 31-year-old screen

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daughter either like she was eight or like his lover, you're on the right track.

[IMDb listing](#)

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[The Theory of Everything](#) (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - Exactly the banal, formulaic, desperately Oscar-bait-y domestic drama the previews suggested it might be, and perhaps even worse.

[IMDb listing](#)

[Unbroken](#) (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - Like a PG-13

Passion of the Christ

with a less divine, but equally sanctified, lead.

[IMDb listing](#)

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[The Wedding Ringer](#) (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14)

- If you saw the trailers and thought it looked hilarious, it probably will be. If you saw them and quietly wept thinking this is as good as it now gets for Kevin Hart and Josh Gad ... it's actually not that terrible. I

[IMDb listing](#)

[Whiplash](#) (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - Damien Chazelle's music-school drama is thrilling, funny, frightening, heartbreaking, and, despite what could be mistakenly perceived as "formula," almost stunningly unpredictable.

[IMDb listing](#)

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a sprightly, fast-moving, and visually breathtaking endeavor that's blessedly free of the traditional nature-doc corn – the narration, especially, is admirably straightforward – and that the we're-killing-the-planet-but-

don't-worry-kids-everything-will-be-fine moralizing is pretty much kept to a minimum.