

## For show schedule information, visit:

Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX , Davenport

Nova 6 Cinemas, Moline

Putnam Museum, Davenport

Regal Moline Stadium 14, Moline

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<u>12 Years a Slave</u> (R, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - Time and again in this remarkable slavery drama, director Steve McQueen and his on- and off-screen collaborators offer sights, sounds, and actions that you feel might be burnished in your memory forever.

<u>The Book Thief</u> (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - This child's-eye view of the Holocaust is a flop, but not, thankfully, a fiasco.

The Christmas Candle (PG, Nova 6 Cinemas)

A Christmas Story (PG, Nova 6 Cinemas)

<u>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2</u> (**PG**, **Nova 6 Cinemas**) - A visually enticing but narratively empty sequel featuring labored gags, wheezy puns, generic action scenes, an underwhelming nemesis, and the depressing vanilla-zation of formerly hilarious figures voiced by the likes of Bill Hader, Anna Faris, James Caan, and Neil Patrick Harris.

<u>Delivery Man</u> (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - A bort! Abort!

<u>Ender's Game</u> (PG-13, Nova 6 Cinemas) - Stilted at times and oddly humorless throughout, yet still a fast-moving, engaging piece of work with a strong, tough-minded performance by Asa Butterfield and some really lovely zero-gravity visuals – even if their effectiveness is dulled a bit by the recent release of <u>Gravity</u>.

<u>Free Birds</u> (**PG**, **CNova 6 Cinemas**) - At my screening, I heard a little girl ask "*Why?*" about practically every plot specific over the film's entire running length. She also asked, " *What just happened?* 

" on at least three separate occasions. I was stumped too, kid.

П

<u>Frozen</u> (PG, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - While much of the film follows the standard Disney-in-its-prime formula to the letter – big-eyed ingénue heroine, check; wacky animal sidekick, check; rafter-shaking power ballad destined to win an Oscar, check – there is one aspect to

Frozen

that separates it from the herd: The movie is kind of bonkers.

П

<u>Gravity</u> (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - See this sci-fi thriller as soon as you can, and marvel in Alfonso Cuarón's sublime direction and Sandra Bullock's achingly emotional performance and the sort of technical prowess and savvy that may, now, currently be without peer.

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14)

<u>Homefront</u> (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - Thuddingly obvious, yes, but this Louisiana-set revenge thriller still has just enough going for it to hold your interest and keep you from wanting to hurl perishables at the screen.

## <u>The Hunger Games: Catching Fire</u> (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14)

- Despite diverting-enough attacks by poisonous fog and crazed baboons and birds whose chirping sounds just like the tortured shrieks of the contestants' loved ones, *Catching Fire* 

's setting, and the means by which the game reaches its conclusion, feel too much like business as usual.

It's a Wonderful Life (PG, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - Sunday, December 15, 2 p.m.; Wednesday, December 18, 2 & 7 p.m. (Putnam Museum) - Friday, December 13, 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 14, 4:20 p.m.

<u>Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa</u> (R, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - This <u>Jackass</u> presentation is nowhere near as hilarious as you want it to be, yet in the end, it's a rather sweet sociological experiment reminiscent of

Borat

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Borat

without the mean-spiritedness.

Jerusalem (not rated, Putnam Museum) - A spectacularly shot edu-tainment, and as a means of generating discussion among interfaith viewers, and perhaps especially as an introduction to the city for young audiences, a potentially unmissable one. 

<u>Last Vegas</u> (PG-13, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - Like *The Bucket List* with Jack Nicholson played by Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, and Kevin Kline. Take that as you will. П

The Met Opera: Falstaff (not rated, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - Saturday, December 14, 11:55 a.m.; Wednesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (Putnam Museum) - Tuesday, December 17, 7 p.m.; Wednesday, December 18, 7 p.m.

Out of the Furnace (R, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAXII, Regal Moline Stadium 14) - Mostly beautifully acted, but beginning with the depressing, mid-film contrivance of an accidentally dropped cell phone that accidentally dials exactly the right number, what began as a seemingly truthful account of the rural underprivileged begins to grow falser and falser. 

Philomena (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - In Stephen Frears' well-produced but hollow and obvious endeavor, screenwriters Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope routinely score easy, unearned sitcom points by making us laugh at poor, dotty Philomena ("Look at her giggling at Big

Momma's House

!") only to immediately judge us for our laughter ("But look at Judi Dench cry

!").

П

<u>The Polar Express</u> (PG, Putnam Museum) - Saturday, December 14, 7 p.m.; Sunday, December 15, 4:20 p.m. - The prelude to this holiday perennial is beautiful, but the 90 minutes that follow are a grating blend of the hyperactive and the maudlin, and any sweetness inherent in the Chris Van Allsburg children's book the movie is based on is totally lost.

<u>Prisoners</u> (**R**, **Nova 6 Cinemas**) - The most exciting and emotional cop thriller we've been treated to since last fall's

End of Watch.

The Royal Ballet: *The Nutcracker* (PG, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX) - Tuesday, December 17, 7 p.m.

<u>Thor: The Dark World</u> (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX□, Regal Moline Stadium 14)

Hiddleston's Loki is great, as usual, but with more

Thor

and

**Avengers** 

movies on the horizon, the filmmakers obviously aren't allowed to tinker with the leading character or his franchise in any truly significant ways, which gives this sequel an inherently unsatisfying, going-through-the-motions vibe.

*Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas* (PG-13, Cinemark Davenport 53rd 18 + IMAX, Regal Moline Stadium 14)

## Now Playing: Friday, December 13, through Thursday, December 19

Written by Mike Schulz Wednesday, 11 December 2013 10:10

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.