



Forthcoming flicks

UPI Media



The Boxtrolls bring some old school stop motion animation (and beardage) to a cinema near you.

Magic in the Moonlight

It's time for another Woody Allen flick, as he continues his prestigious output of a film a year. In contrast to recent years spent as a critical darling, his latest arrives in a year that has seen his off-screen life once again grabbing headlines. A romantic comedy set in the 1920s French Riviera, a surprising series of events eventuate after a master magician attempts to expose a psychic as a fraud. Colin Firth and Emma Stone costar. Typical for an Allen film, the cast is packed with top shelf thespians, including the likes of Marcia Gay Harden and Jacki Weaver. After the financial and critical smash that was *Blue Valentine* last year, reviews have been somewhat tepid this time around. But have no fear, his next film is already well into production, offering another chance next year to witness his brilliance.

Premieres 29 August

Clouds of Sils Maria (K7)

Following its debut screening earlier this summer at the Midnight Sun Film festival, director Olivier Assayas' latest follows the goings-on of Juliette Binoche's successful actress in the later stages of her career. When a budding young actress is chosen to interpret one of the roles onstage that made the aging icon famous, Binoche's world begins to crumble. Asked to take the decidedly more mature role opposite the young thespian, the star retreats to the Swiss town of the film's title along with her assistant to rehearse, as she is haunted by her past life.

Premieres 5 September

As Above / So Below

Anyone who has visited the catacombs that weave their way underground beneath the streets of Paris can vouch for their undoubtedly eerie nature. Walls lined with skulls doth maketh a prime setting for illogical thoughts, deep down, surrounded by the remains of hundreds of souls. So, why not set a horror film there? Ka-ching! And so, two archaeologists set off in search of some lost treasure, and come up trumps with a little more that they had bargained for. However, just when it appears as if their journey can't possibly get any more nightmarish, their past demons resurface with a vengeance.

Premieres 12 September

The Boxtrolls

Given the saturation of computer animation these days, it's with genuine surprise and thrill to discover that the makers of *Coraline* and *Corpse Bride* are back to offer some classic stop-motion animation fun. Based on Alan Snow's novel *Here Be Monsters!*, the filmmakers have managed to scoop up a stellar voice cast to match their vision. Those stepping behind the mic include the likes of Isaac Hempstead-Wright, Ben Kingsley, Elle Fanning, Toni Collette, Jared Harris, Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Richard Ayoade and Tracy Morgan.

Premieres 19 September



Helsinki on film

HIFF



Guess who's coming for dinner? Icelandic offering *Metalhead* is one of the many noteworthy films that are on offer at this year's HIFF.

James O'Sullivan

LOVERS of cinema rejoice – *Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy* is on the horizon, being held from 18–28 September. Organised for the 27th occasion, this year sees more than 170 feature films and some 150 short films being screened.

Kicking off proceedings this year is opening film *Whiplash*. The debut film of **Damien Chazelle**, here **Miles Teller's** young and talented drummer is accepted to a prime American jazz conservatory. The legendary **J. K. Simmons** plays his bandleader, who, in a change of pace for the fine comedic actor, demands nothing less than blood, sweat and tears from his star apprentice.

A documentary on British band **Pulp** also can be found on the opening day, with a screening and DJ performance being held at the opening club. Director **Florian Habicht**, producer **Alex Boden** and **Pulp** drummer **Nick Banks** will be on hand.

Elsewhere, as the festival unfolds, the bill is packed with numerous note-worthy flicks. Local films take a bow, with the Finnish Film Gala selection arriving in the shape of **J-P Valkeapää's** road movie *They Have Escaped*, as two teenage outcasts head off on the run.

Excitingly, the latest from Belgian brothers **Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne's** *Two Days, One Night* is also screening. Following up their masterful *The Kid with a Bike*, here **Marion Cotillard** returns to work after sick leave only to find that her colleagues have all agreed to have her fired in order to secure their own bonuses. Advance word has been very positive.

The Love & Anarchy Gala film this year is **Alejandro Jodorowsky's** much-anticipated *The Dance of Reality*, the surrealist director's first film in 23 years.

Meanwhile, *The Skeleton Twins* offers some pitch-black comedy starring **Bill Hader** and **Kristen Wiig**, as twins who reunite after ten years in bleak circumstances. **Rebecca Zlotowski's** acclaimed *Grand Central* takes place in the surroundings of a nuclear plant as a

young, unschooled man lands a job, falling in love with the boss' wife in the process. HIFF frequenters of last year will recognise 2013's festival guest **Tahar Rahim** (*A Prophet, The Past*), starring alongside **Léa Seydoux** (*Blue is the Warmest Color*).

Premiering at Cannes this year to rave reviews, **Aberrahmane Sissoko's** *Timbuktu* follows events when fundamentalists take over a small Malian village and start interpreting sharia law in their own radical way.

Winner of the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, **Alejandro Fernández Almendra's** *To Kill a Man* can also be found on the bill, as the life of a man is turned upside down when local thugs start tormenting his family.

Fresh from the Midnight Sun Film Festival, Icelandic eccentricity is front and centre in **Benedikt Erlingsson's** *Of Horses and Men*.

The festival closes with one of the most anticipated films of the year: **Richard Linklater's** *Boyhood*. Following the life of a six-year old boy through his childhood until he turns eighteen, the movie was filmed over the course of 12 years. Utilising the same cast for each shoot, this process allows viewers to witness them aging in real time with their characters.

Following on from the likes of **Danny Boyle, John Woo, Gaspar Noé, Tilda Swinton, Jan Kounen, Aleksandr Sokurov, Baz Luhrmann, Philip Ridley, Nicolas Winding Refn** and **Jacques Audiard** in previous years, the festival once again promises a number of guests in attendance in 2014.

Much, much more is on offer. Check out the website.

Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy

18-28 September
www.hiff.fi

Solutions for crossword on page 5

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|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Filmata | 5. Näyttelijä |
| 2. Käsikirjoitus | 6. Komedia |
| 3. Ohjaaja | 7. Draama |
| 4. Animaatio | 8. Viihde |

Game review August 2014

Nick Barlow

Diablo 3: Ultimate Edition (PS4/Xbox One)

Much like buses, you wait ages for one and then three come along at once. With *Diablo 3: Ultimate Edition*, owners of the latest consoles have at their fingertips probably the best version of the game. For a start there's a lot of content: the original game of course – replete with enhanced graphics and smooth frame-rates – along with the *Reaper of Souls* expansion and all contained therein. Happily it's easy importing a character from last-gen consoles so you don't have to play over things you've already gone through once. As you might know, *Diablo* is all about killing monsters so you can get dropped loot from them that in turn enables you to go and kill bigger monsters, and a steady stream of upgrades means progress is easy to notice. With the visual upgrades and addictive core gameplay this ultimate edition comes

