



HERZOG

Klaus

AT GUNPOINT

September 2014

Klaus

AT GUNPOINT

Chris Garcia - Editors - Vanessa Applegate

Another summer has come and pretty much gone, and it's been a good one. Guardians of the Galaxy was pretty spectacular. I can't say enough good things about it. From great characters and strong performances, to the incredible visuals There were plenty of other great films, but for some reason, GotG stuck out at me. It might have been the talking Raccoon.

#TwitterSpeaks

SinCityADameToDieFor, Transcendence, Birdman

Short film Reviews

The Lord of Catan (<https://www.facebook.com/thelordofcatan>) by Ric Bretschneider

Butterfly Dust (<https://www.facebook.com/ButterflyDustFilm>) by Chris Garcia

Cover photo by Vanessa Applegate



#TWITTERSPEAKS

#SinCityADameToKillFor

Ray Subers @raysubers

I actually was 100% in to the entire middle section of SIN CITY 2 (the Brolin/Green sequence). It's the rest that's ... not so good.

Lexi Brown @LexiBrownOut

The second Sin City is def better than the first. Jessica Alba & Joseph Gordon-Levitt were amazing

Nikolai Garcia @HelloKommie

If you go see Sin City, make sure it's on a real big screen. Not much of story; more of a visual film. Get a good seat: middle, near the top

Those Damn Dudleys! @DanPhillips0

Im also going to watch the shit out of sin city 2. Ya know why? The 'lose your mind & do whatever the fuck you want' phase is my favorite

DeMarco @MDeMarcs

What the fuck am I watching both of these Sin City movies for?!

IG: CLUBGODZILLA @BEATKINGKONG

Sin City 2 kinda.....disappointed me :(I mean it was dope but.....ehh

ThePlaylist @ThePlaylist

In 3 weeks of release Sin City: A Dame to Kill For has made \$12 million domestically. Ouch.

Deepanjana Pal @dpanjana

Yeah, didn't enjoy Sin City 2: A Dame to Kill For.
<http://www.firstpost.com/bollywood/sin-city-2-review-a-senselessly-violent-misogynistic-and-migraine-inducing-film-1700239.html> ... There's only so much I can ignore because the visuals are stylish.

#TWITTERSPEAKS

Transcendence

Scott Weinberg @scottEweinberg

Warner Bros. to fire 1,000 people. I bet none of them are the people responsible for Transcendence.

Matt @Vanalli

Hey so I've seen that movie Transcendence and I'm pretty sure I know what the whole U2/Apple thing is all about now.

YUNG THOTH @UdayTheMessiah

GO WATCH TRANSCENDENT MAN THE DOCUMENTARY OR TRANSCENDENCE THE MOVIE WITH JOHNNY DEPP. THEY NOT PLAYIN'

Cat @CMCrazies

You all need to watch #Transcendence if you wanna hear @JOSHSTEWART do a great Johnny Depp accent ;)

PierreOlivier Carles @pocarles

It seems I'm one of the few who really liked "Transcendence". I don't understand why critics have been so bad.

Danny Sullivan @dannysullivan

Watched Transcendence. It could have been worse. If I were an AI, that 2 hours of boredom would have felt like 2000 years.

Pinboard @Pinboard

You know the post-Transcendence world is just going to be little avatars of Ray Kurzweil talking about why the Omega Point is coming

Simon Miraudo @simonmiraudo

Transcendence, maybe the year's dumbest film, is out on DVD this week. Did you see this thing?

#TWITTERSPEAKS

Birdman

STaj Aaron Gunn @taj_gunn

@BirdmanMovie is a movie where Michael Keaton plays the role of Val Kilmer.

john lichman @jlichman

@katerbland i'm just a caveman critic, unaware of your vulgar auteurism and zoetrope, but perhaps Birdman is more than a movie...

Bryan Rumsey @CritComposer

Birdman has a movie now? Does anyone else find it odd for HB superheroes to have blockbuster movies? What's next Space Ghost? Gloop & Gleep?

Dustin Kramer @DustyKramKram

BIRDMAN is my favorite movie of the year that I haven't seen yet.

Murphy @murphel

Incredibly disappointed that Michael Keaton's new movie "Birdman" isn't about Harvey Birdman, Attorney at Law.

Nikki Sewell @nikki_sewell

After #Birdman, whenever I see Edward Norton in a movie, I laugh out loud #toofunny #supportingoscarnomplease

Chris Cole @ChrisCole95

There's a really good joke to be made about Birdman (The Movie) and Birdman (Lil Wayne's father)...

Ciak News @zucchima

@ChristianJungen @THR Birdman is the perfect post-superhero movie

The Lord of Catan

A SHORT FILM REVIEW

By Ric Bretschneider



I was asked to write this review because I'm a notoriously avid gamer. One of those guys who might take a new set of game instructions to bed to read as much as a book. I'm someone who customizes the storage of components in the game box, and shares hints on the same with similarly afflicted gamers. I've spent extended weekends at gaming conventions, and regularly get invited to an invitational convention.

In other words, I'm a game geek.

So when I watched the opening credits to *The Lord of Catan* I was watching for authenticity, for someone who had done their homework. Because the source game *Settlers of Catan* isn't your father's *Monopoly*. It's the iconic *Gateway Game*, the one that newbies are introduced to such that down the road they can be lead to *Puerto Rico*, *Agricola*, or even the legendarily massively dense *Die Macher!*

It was important to me that the writer, ignorant of the depth of the game, wouldn't just be making up funny sounding rules like Jim Kirk in the hands of lotian gangsters. Sure, it was only a short film, who would notice?

Who? I would. And I would take offense if not properly represented.

Good news. The writer, *Stuart C. Paul*, is a geek.

Credits and theme roll in like a melding of *Lord of the Rings* and *The Matrix*, a *close enough* representation of the hexagons of the Catan board building and flipping in while the drums of war pound. A calm counterpoint, the fairly innocuous master bedroom, with Sugar Monkey, a pink elephant pajamas clad Amy Acker, curled up on the bed with her iPad. Penis (not his real name), a fresh from a game of Dodge Ball Fran Kranz, strides in and is immediately distracted by her new game - the iPad version of *Settlers of Catan*.

THE LORD OF CATAN



DIRECTOR
Stuart C. Paul

What follows is a series of progressive vignettes where Sugar Monkey tries to teach Penis (OK, they're only referred to by their nicknames) to play the game. She recites the exact rules from the game, impressive, and he reacts like so many people in this situation; anguish and scorn over the *stupid game concept*. We're given small suggestions as to their personalities, she's drinking wine with the bottle on the bed stand. He's never shown lighting up any marijuana, but does caress the plastic baggie with thoughtless familiarity, and does seem to be taking a hit from a huge plastic baggie bong. Is there a message here? Maybe. You might apply that to the ending if you like.

It's fun to watch the role reversal here. Most gaming couples have an alpha male who learns the rules and teaches the female. (Note I said *most* ladies. I know this is entirely possible, but you must admit it is not likely.) Amy Acker turns her well-trod geek up to 11 here, reciting the rules quickly and without compassion. Fran Kranz is a bit of a dick, er... penis? And his patience runs out quickly and repeatedly.

Eventually they settle in for the epic game, which is punctuated by taunting, a slow-motion gangsta-rap backed fighting montage, a fair amount of name calling, and more than a few "wood" and "sheep" inuendo-based jokes. Things get progressively more tense, loud, and... well, we'll stop there because it would be telling.

The Lord of Catan almost feels like a Josh Whedon effort. An impression helped along by the familiar Whedonverse denizen main actors, and a tight script that feels entirely possible while taking us into some pretty extreme situations. It falls slightly short of giving us the full Whedon-quip-whip quotables, and at times it looks like the actors should have been given another take to drop things down just a notch. It's probably unfair to do a deep comparison here, the fact that I was reminded several times of Whedon effort should be taken as praise.

While the ending does ring true given the situations slowly set up and built through the conflict and rising rivalry, I do somehow wish it had been a little more clever in its final resolution. It's hard to tip over a game played on an iPad, which might be unfortunate as that does relieve a lot of stress (I imagine, I've never done it) that otherwise has no where to go but to build.

Hey Chris, do you think anyone will realize I ended that review with a "build" joke?



Butterfly Dust

A SHORT FILM REVIEW

by Christopher J Garcia

Zombie movies are played, right? We've had a decade of the Undead rising up in the cinema, and we've seen every situation, right? Right?

Maybe not.

Butterfly Dust is one of the most original films I've ever seen as it takes a concept that has been done to death, that of the scientist who has decided to try her serum on herself. She traps herself in with her colleagues as the rest of those she experimented on turn into killing machines. The scientists are torn about what to do with their friend who is turning into one of those killing machines. The description of "Twelve Angry Men meets 28 Days Later" is apt, but it's much more. It's a character study, at times, that considers the different ways in which rational people may consider the threats to themselves and their friends. At other times, it's an action thriller. Did it remind me of *World War Z* (The movie, not the book)? Yes, a bit, but it went beyond that level by working with its material so wisely. It didn't rely on complex cinematography (though it's far better than competent) or dazzling effects (though there's some nice make-up work!) but the script takes centre stage in this fine short.

There are a couple of small issues, as there are in any film. The entire production might take a little too long to set up, leaving the audience waiting for the action to start. The first two minutes gives off an impression of solo Jekyll and Hyde, only to swing around and become an ensemble piece about the choices we're faced with in disasters. That doesn't lessen the impact we get from the actual meat of the story, or the ending.

And that's where I'm betting others will have problems.

You see, it's not a traditional ending, but in a way, it is. It's a John Sayles ending in the way that it is ballsy and not at all spoon-feeding an audience. There is an outcome, we know that, but what is that outcome? That isn't given to us, and in my eyes, it makes for a better film.



DIRECTOR

*Anthony
Bushman*

