

AT THE MOVIES

latimes.com/movies

SUSAN KING'S
FLICK
PICKSlatimes.com
24FramesCheck the 24 Frames
blog for complete film
listings.

Howard Hawks'
"Ball of Fire"
Aero Theatre, Santa
Monica
Thursday | 7:30 p.m. |
\$11
Barbara Stanwyck
and Gary Cooper
headline this
1941 comedy
masterpiece.

Jean-Luc Godard's
"Weekend"
Cinefamily at Silent
Movie Theatre, Los
Angeles
Thursday-Wednesday
various times | \$10
A new print of the
French auteur's 1967
satire.

J.J. Abrams'
"Super 8"
Aero Theatre,
Santa Monica
Saturday |
7:30 p.m. | \$11
Abrams will appear
in person at screening
of his 2011 hit.

Laurence Olivier's
"The Prince and
the Showgirl"
Egyptian Theatre,
Hollywood
Sunday | 7:30 p.m. | \$11
The 1957 film with
Marilyn Monroe and
Olivier depicted in "My
Week With Marilyn."

John Ford's
"Up the River"
Billy Wilder Theater,
Westwood
Spencer Tracy and
Humphrey Bogart
made their feature
debuts in this 1939
prison picture.

Alex Cox's
"Sid and Nancy"
ArcLight, Hollywood
Monday | 6:30 p.m. | free
The Gary Oldman
retrospective kicks off
with this 1986 biopic.

CRITIC'S PICK



HABIB MADJIDI, Sony Pictures Classics
KIMIA HOSSEINI, left, is Somayeh and Sareh Bayat is Razieh in the Iranian film set in Tehran.

A revealing drama
in 'A Separation'

Don't wait too long to see this exceptional film from Iran. If you care enough about foreign-language films to have heard about this particular gem, don't hold back until all your friends have told you how good it is and put a crimp in your pleasure. See it now and relish a thrilling domestic drama that offers acute insights into human motivations and behavior as well as a glimpse behind the curtain separating us from daily life in Tehran. Imagine Alfred Hitchcock's intricate attention to plot joined to the devastating emotional impact of Ingmar Bergman. The result is exhilarating enough to be the first foreign-language film ever to be named best screenplay by the L.A. Film Critics. Go to Laemmle's Royal in West Los Angeles and see exactly why.

—KENNETH TURAN

24 FRAMES

Seven story lines to
watch for in 2012

Last year was full of unexpected turns, from the ill-advised remarks of Lars von Trier to "Bridesmaids" sweeping the nation. The year ahead promises more juicy story lines. Here are seven to watch:

"Dark Knight" rising: Christopher Nolan's final film in his Batman trilogy hits theaters July 20.



ROBERT GAUTHIER / L.A. TIMES

DIRECTOR Christopher Nolan returns with "The Dark Knight Rises."

Allies, enemies and big effects will be in the offing when the Peter Berg movie comes out May 18. So will a reported \$200-million budget, as the Hollywood and its toy- and game-obsession gets a key test.

"Hunger" pangs: "The Twilight Saga" will come to an end in 2012, but another popular young adult series, "The Hunger Games," comes to the big screen March 23, with Jennifer Lawrence inhabiting Suzanne Collins' Katniss Everdeen. Fans will be watching the Gary Ross film carefully. So will Lionsgate, which is eager to fill the void "Summit's" "Twilight" is leaving behind.

"Prometheus" fire: Is "Alien" prequel, or no? Either way, Ridley Scott's futuristic film, due June 8, about extraterrestrials seeking life on Earth, is one of his most anticipated in years.

"Hobbit" habit: The backstory to Peter Jackson's two "Hobbit" films may be more compelling than many actual movie story lines, what with all sorts of financing drama and Jackson stepping in to direct after Guillermo del Toro spent years developing it. We get the first of Jackson's new pair of Tolkien adaptations — "An Unexpected Journey" — on Dec. 14.

Will "Battleship" float?

—STEVEN ZEITZKIN

deadly turf war between rival drug cartels in Mexico.

"It's About You" Follows musician Jeff Buckley on tour and in the studio recording the 2000 album "No Better Than This."

"Over Your Cities Grass Will Grow" Documentary about the German artist Anselm Kiefer.

—

THIS WEEKEND

"Beneath the Darkness" A group of teenagers tries to bring down a diabolical mortal.

"The Devil Inside" Twenty years after her mother confessed to three brutal murders, a woman travels to Italy and begins a grueling exorcism to find out what really happened and set things right.

"8 Murders a Day" Explores the



Kamoli Films
"BEYOND," starring Ola Rapace and Noomi Rapace, is Sweden's entry for the foreign-language Oscar.

Nordic lights

BY SARI HEIFETZ STRICKE >>> If Southern California's balmy winter has you dreaming of more northern latitudes but travel is not in your budget, perhaps a trip to the more frigid fringe of Europe. Starting this weekend and continuing Jan. 14 and 15, the noncompetitive festival boasts a "smorgasbord of Nordic cinema" with features, shorts and documentaries from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden — including each country's Academy Award submission for best foreign-language film. The region has a rich tradition of filmmaking, ranging from Ingmar Bergman's character dramas to Dogme 95, the avant-garde film movement of Lars von Trier and Thomas Vinterberg. "We sometimes joke that we're the festival that has Prozac instead of popcorn," says festival director Jim Koenig. "But this year is risible proof there are good laughs in Nordic film — along with the dark stuff we know and love." This is the 13th year of the festival, and screenings are held at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills. A gala will be held Saturday before the screening of "Beyond," Sweden's Oscar submission starring Noomi Rapace, known for her role in the Swedish film adaptation of "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" (2009) and currently on-screen in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows." Among the family-friendly, dramatic and comedic fare, a few cinematic selections stand out:

'Happy Happy'

Norway's Oscar submission by filmmaker Ane Sætterli, who won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival for this comedic directorial debut. The film follows the domestic life of eternal optimist Kaja, her uninterested boyfriend and their "perfect" new choir-singing neighbors.

'Beyond'

This Swedish Oscar submission is Pernilla August's directorial debut. Rapace stars as Lena, 34, who must return to her hometown on Christmas to face her estranged mother and memories of her dark childhood.

'Volcano'

Iceland's Academy Award submission premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and has been called "a mature and emotionally devastating film directed with extraordinary sensitivity." The dramatic love story, directed by Rúnar Rúnarsson, follows Hanne, a retired janitor who must resurrect his life and personal relationships.

'Le Havre'

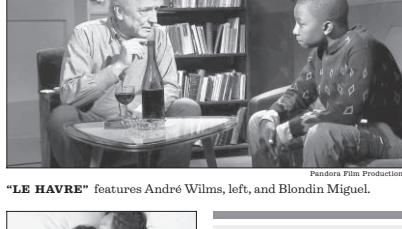
Aki Kaurismäki's warmhearted political fable, set in France, is the Academy Award submission from Finland and features the intertwining fates of Idrissa, a young African refugee, and Marcel Marx, a bohemian French shoe shiner who stands up to deportation officials on the boy's behalf.

'Hello W'

Finnish director Juha Wuolijoki's biopic depicts the eventful life of his great aunt Hella Wuolijoki, a politically ostracized entrepreneur, politician and writer whose plays are now regarded as modern classics.

'Superclásico'

The Danish Academy Award submission directed by actor Ole Christian Madsen is a madcap tale about a Danish wife and mother who runs



Pandora Film Production
"LE HAVRE" features André Wilms, left, and Blöndur Miguel.



Maipo Film
"HAPPY HAPPY," with Agnes Kitienssen and Henrik Rafaelsen.

off to Buenos Aires, becomes a sports agent and falls in love with one of Argentina's biggest soccer stars, all while pursued by her estranged husband, who is determined to win her back.

'The Good Son'

Finnish director Zaida Bergroth's dramatic tale follows an actress who takes refuge at her family's summer house with her two sons and forms a relationship with a weekend guest, a charismatic writer who causes a rift between the boys.

'Women With Cows'

Peter Gerdehag's Swedish documentary follows two adult sisters on their dairy farm in the director's

follow-up to his acclaimed 2006 movie "The Horseman."

Priest of Evil' This Finnish crime thriller from director Olli Saarela follows both a serial killer and his pursuer, a detective in the Helsinki violent crimes unit struggling to recover from the tragic loss of his daughter.

'Headhunters'

Norwegian director Morten Tyldum's crime thriller follows an accomplished headhunter who risks everything to obtain a valuable painting owned by a former mercenary.

calendar@latimes.com