



## TRANSFORMERS REVENGE OF THE FALLEN

After a huge debut in 2007, the movie adaptation of this much loved TV cartoon series returns for the inevitable sequel this month. *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* is jam packed with the sort techno ultra violence that should keep action fans happy and Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox and Josh Duhamel all return from the first movie to lend *Revenge of the Fallen* a bit of pizzazz.

The film opens with Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) discovering information about the origins of the Transformers and their history on Earth. This leads him to the Great Pyramid of Giza and to the ancient temple located beneath it. The temple contains information revealing that long ago, Transformers visited the Earth before the pyramid was built. Witwicky is subsequently hunted by the evil Decepticons, who also have designs on the information. Meanwhile, Megatron has been successfully revived and is out for revenge. The Autobots, led by Optimus Prime have to once again defeat the Megatron led Decepticons in order to save the planet.

Michael Bay returns to direct this *Transformers* sequel and Steven Spielberg is the legend in the producer's chair once again. *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* is one of the most highly-anticipated movies of the summer and the featured new robots should be enough to keep the young and not so young alike pinned to their seats!

### MORE MOVIES TO SEE!

#### LAND OF THE LOST

After the hilarious heights of *Anchorman* and *Talladega Nights*, recent Will Ferrell outings have hinted that he may be going off the boil. *Land of the Lost* sees Ferrell attempt to revive his flagging career with the old 70's TV series adaptation trick.

The movie centres on Dr. Rick Marshall (Ferrell), a park ranger who is sucked into a space-time vortex along with his research assistant (Anna Friel) and a redneck survivalist (Danny McBride). The unlikely trio eventually find themselves in an alternate universe in which dinosaurs and other fantastic creatures exist. The threesome then attempt to find their way back home with the help of a



primate named Chaka (Jorma Taccone).

*Land of the Lost* was a TV hit back in 1970's however does the cinema going public have the stomach for yet another small screen remake? *Land of the Lost* was directed by Brad Silberling, who also brought us the holiday flick, *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* in 2004.

#### YEAR ONE

Jack Black, everybody's favourite tubby American funny man, returns to the silver screen with *Year One*. Black here teams up with relative newcomer, Michael Cera, who you may have seen in *Superbad* (2007) and *Juno* (2007), in a movie about pre-historic humans.

*Year One* depicts a couple of lazy hunter-gatherers, Zed (Jack Black) and Oh (Michael Cera) who,



after being banished from their primitive village, set off on an epic journey through prehistoric times. Humour is never far away as the pair enjoy experiences that are new not just to them, but to the whole human race.

*Year One* was directed by Harold Ramis and produced by Judd Apatow, who also brought us the hilarious *40-Year-Old Virgin* in 2005.

#### AWAY WE GO

Not in fact a remake of the late 60's television series of the same title, *Away We Go* concerns the journey undertaken by expectant couple Burt (John Krasinski) and Verona (Maya Rudolph) as they travel the U.S. in search of the perfect place to put down roots and raise a family.

On their travels, Burt and Verona have plenty of misadventures and make fresh connections with an assortment of relatives and old friends. The couple may just discover 'home' on their own terms for the first time. *Away We Go* was directed by Academy Award winning director and Mr. Kate Winslet himself, Sam Mendes.





inspiration. Try taking in some of the following flicks and we guarantee that you'll soon find yourself packing your bags and heading for the door!

Back in 1983, John Hughes brought us the now legendary *National Lampoon's Vacation* (which is rated 'R' by the way, parents beware). The film hilariously satirises the road movie genre and depicts one Clark Wilhelm Griswold's family vacation to the fictional Disney-esque theme park, Wally World. Unfortunately, the road trip to Wally World doesn't go particularly smoothly and the family is forced to confront many problems along the way. Nevertheless, the Griswold family ultimately triumphs and *National Lampoon's Vacation* may inspire those who generally tend to dread family vacations. This famous comedy grossed over 61 million dollars in US after an estimated production budget of only 15 million dollars, so it must have been doing something right. The family vacation plot has subsequently become a Hollywood staple, the most notable example probably being the award winning *Little Miss Sunshine* (2007) which is every bit the equal of NLV.

*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* (2005) might not have been a box office smash but this tale of four best friends travelling separately on different summer vacations is a movie not to be missed. Tibby Rollins' (Amber Tamblyn) and Bridget Vreeland's (Blake Lively) vacation in Greece and Baja is surely the most inspiring in the film and the pair travel through beautiful scenery and landscapes on their adventures. Unfortunately, an enjoyable holiday seems to elude Rowan Atkinson in *Mr. Bean's Holiday* (2007). In this rib tickling comedy, TV's Mr. Bean hits the big screen and embarks on a holiday in Cannes. The lunacy begins almost immediately upon Bean's arrival in Paris. Atkinson's Bean character sometimes falls a little flat however Mr. Bean's Holiday is a comic masterpiece.

*The Darjeeling Limited* (2007) is an outstanding recent road movie (although railways, as opposed to roads, are its primary setting). Three American brothers who have not spoken to each other in a year set off on a train voyage across India with the intention of finding themselves, bonding with each other and

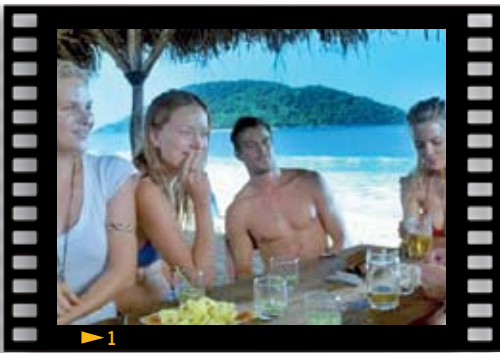
## BACKPACK, BY YOHANES SANDY CAMERA, ACTION!!



**T**rapped in our endless round of daily routines, the lives we lead are often severely lacking in a few spare moments in which to simply exhale and unwind. The unceasing demands of office, housework and children all seem to conspire to push one's stress levels through the roof. Everyone

needs to escape the pressures of modern life once in a while, unfortunately though, wangling some leave time from work is not necessarily an easy process and you may even just give up and shelve your holiday plans altogether. Fear not though dear reader, for Hollywood is on hand to offer





▶ 1



▶ 2



▶ 3



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### On The Road

1. Turistas
2. Mr. Bean's Holiday
3. Little Miss Sunshine
4. The Darjeeling Limited
5. National Lampoon's Vacation

rekindling their family connection. Riding a train called the Darjeeling Limited the three brothers traverse India, encounter the local culture and, ultimately, affirm their common humanity.

Nine years before scoring an unlikely Academy Award for best picture with the recent

*Slumdog Millionaire* (2009) and sparking Indian fever across America, Danny Boyle was responsible for sparking backpacker fever. *The Beach* (2000) was a critical success despite the controversy that it stirred with the Thai government. Box-office wise however, the movie was pretty much beached itself. In the movie, Leonardo

DiCaprio escapes his humdrum life, dons his backpack and heads to Thailand in order to explore its beautiful islands. Unfortunately, his short journey ends in conflict and trouble. Since the release of the movie, the carefree backpacking life has continued to gain in popularity among the young and travellers

are no longer afraid to venture to the world's most exotic locations on a limited budget.

In the wake of *The Beach*, many movie makers subsequently produced flicks about tourists and backpackers. Many of these efforts have been horror movies however! *Hostel*, which was directed by Eli Roth, made a scary splash upon its release in 2005. In the film, three backpackers head to a

Slovakian city in search of experiences and hedonistic thrills. Alas, two are gruesomely killed while the third barely escapes with his life. A year after the success of *Hostel* came *Turistas* (2006). *Turistas* is the story of a group of young backpackers whose vacation takes a nasty turn when a bus accident leaves them marooned in remote, rural Brazil. The area holds an ominous secret and once again it's the poor backpackers who cop it in the neck. Despite not achieving the success that *Hostel* did, *Turistas* features some beautiful Brazilian scenery and fantastic cinematography.

So, are you ready to don a backpack and hit the road? Don't worry about the murder thing...they're just movies after all!

