

OPENING THIS WEEK

Water for Elephants (PG13)

Medea's Big Happy Family (PG13)

African Cats (G)

Win Win (R)

THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG13) — Matt Damon and Emily Blunt star in this screen adaptation of the Phillip K. Dick short story about a rising politician kept apart from the woman he loves by mysterious forces of fate.
CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40
 Fri.-Wed.: 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40

AFRICAN CATS (G) — This nature documentary looks at the lives of three cats — two lions and a cheetah — and their struggle for survival in an often harsh environment.
JEFFERSON POINT 18, FORT WAYNE
Starts Friday, April 22
 Fri.-Sun.: 10:35, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
 Mon.-Wed.: 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50

ARTHUR (PG13) — Russell Brand, Helen Mirren and Jennifer Garner star in this remake of the Dudley Moore classic about an alcoholic billionaire who risks losing his inheritance if he doesn't marry as he's told.
CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 1:10, 2:40, 3:40, 5:10, 6:10, 7:40, 8:45, 10:10
 Fri.-Wed.: 2:30, 5:00, 6:10, 7:30, 8:50, 10:00
COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 1:50, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45
 Fri.-Wed.: 2:25, 7:45
HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON
 Thurs.: 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:25
 Fri.-Sat.: 11:20, 1:45, 9:20, 11:45
 Sun.-Wed.: 11:20, 1:45, 9:20
JEFFERSON POINT 18, FORT WAYNE

Thurs.: 12:15, 4:00, 7:10, 8:10, 10:05
Fri.-Sat.: 11:55, 2:35, 5:20, 7:55, 10:50
Mon.-Wed.: 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50
NORTH POINT 9, WARSAW
 Thurs.: 4:30, 6:45
 Fri.: 5:45, 8:45
Sat.: 3:00, 5:45, 8:45
Sun.: 3:00, 5:45
Mon.-Wed.: 4:30, 6:45

ATLAS SHRUGGED (PG13) — Dagny Taggart struggles to save her family's steel company in this adaptation of the 1957 Ayn Rand novel about the "evils" of charity and the encroachment of "socialism" in America. Answers the question "Who is John Galt?"
COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 1:55, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05
 Fri.-Wed.: 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:15

BARNEY'S VERSION (R) — This look at the life of poor Paris denizen turned incredibly successful producer and accused murderer Barney Panofsky stars Paul Giamatti and Dustin Hoffman.
CINEMA CENTER @ INDIANA TECH, FORT WAYNE
Ends Thursday, April 21
 Thurs.: 6:00

BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (PG13) — Aaron Eckhart and Michelle Rodriguez star in this futuristic action flick about an alien for one of America's largest and flashiest metropolises.
CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Ends Thursday, April 21
 Thurs.: 6:30, 9:20
COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Starts Friday, April 22
 Fri.-Wed.: 12:55, 4:05, 6:55, 9:35

BEASTLY (PG13) — Alex Pettyfer and Vanessa Hudgens star in this take on Beauty and the Beast. With Mary-Kate Olsen as the witch who casts the spell.
COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE

Thurs.: 12:05, 2:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:15
Fri.-Wed.: 12:15, 2:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:25

BIG MOMMAS: LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON (PG13) — FBI agent Malcolm Turner is back, this time going undercover as Big Momma with his stepson to solve a murder at an all-girls performing arts academy.
COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 12:20, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55
 Fri.-Wed.: 7:35, 9:55

BIUTIFUL (R) — Javier Bardem stars in this drama about a father trying desperately to keep his family together.
CINEMA CENTER DOWNTOWN, FORT WAYNE
Sat.-Sun.: 4:00
Mon.: 6:00

BORN TO BE WILD 3D (G) — This documentary about wildlife workers and the animals they love and tend to features the voice of Morgan Freeman.
JEFFERSON POINT IMAX, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 12:00, 1:20, 2:50, 4:10, 5:30, 7:00
 Fri.-Sun.: 10:30, 11:45
Mon.-Wed.: 12:35, 3:45

CEDAR RAPIDS (R) — Ed Helms stars in this comedy about an insurance salesman who goes wild while at his company conference.
CINEMA CENTER DOWNTOWN, FORT WAYNE
Fri.: 8:30
Sat.: 9:00
Sun.: 7:00
Mon.: 8:45
Tues.: 8:15
Wed.: 6:30
CINEMA CENTER @ INDIANA TECH, FORT WAYNE
Ends Thursday, April 21
 Thurs.: 8:30

THE CONSPIRATOR (PG13) — This period drama about the lone woman accused in the plot to assassinate President Lincoln was directed by Robert Redford and stars

Robin Wright as the accused and James McAvoy as the lawyer determined to give her a fair defense.

COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 1:30, 4:15, 6:55, 9:35
Fri.-Wed.: 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05
JEFFERSON POINT 18, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 12:05, 3:25, 6:55, 9:55
Fri.-Sun.: 1:20, 4:25, 7:35, 10:25
Mon.-Wed.: 12:55, 4:05, 7:15, 10:10

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2: RODRICK RULES (PG) — Zachary Gordon is back as Greg Heffley, now beginning the 7th grade and trying to deal with his parents' attempt to get him to bond with his older brother, Rodrick.
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Fri.-Wed.: 1:45, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00
JEFFERSON POINT 18, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 12:05, 4:25, 7:35
Fri.-Sun.: 12:25 p.m.
Mon.-Wed.: 12:55 p.m.
NORTH POINT 9, WARSAW
 Thurs.: 5:00, 6:50
Fri.: 5:00, 6:50, 8:50
Sat.: 2:30, 5:00, 6:50, 8:50
Sun.: 2:30, 5:00, 6:50
Mon.-Wed.: 5:00, 6:50

GNOMEO & JULIET (G) — The voices of James McEvoy and Emily Blunt bring to animated life Shakespeare's classic about star-crossed lovers.
COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:40
Fri.-Wed.: 12:15, 2:15, 4:35, 7:05, 9:05

HALL PASS (R) — Two married guys (Owen Wilson and Jason Sudeikis) are given free reign to explore their libidos for a week in this comedy from the Farrelly brothers.
COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
Fri.-Wed.: 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

HANNA (PG13) — That creepy girl from *Atonement* plays a trained assassin

teenager on her first mission in this drama from the director of *The Soloist*. With Eric Bana and Cate Blanchett.

CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Fri.-Wed.: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
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Fri.: 1:55, 4:35, 7:25, 9:45
Sat.: 4:50, 7:25, 9:45
Sun.-Tues.: 1:55, 4:35, 7:25, 9:45
Wed.: 1:55, 10:30
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 Thurs.: 12:20, 3:50, 7:05, 10:10
Fri.-Sun.: 2:25, 7:50
Mon.-Wed.: 12:50, 7:10

HARRY POTTER & THE DEATHLY HALLOWS (PG13) — This is the second to last movie installment of the popular series about Harry Potter and his quest to end Voldemort's reign of terror.
COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Ends Thursday, April 21
 Thurs.: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

HOP (PG) — The Easter Bunny's son (voiced by Russell Brand) moves to Los Angeles to become a drummer in this animated comedy from the people behind *Despicable Me*.
CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 1:40, 2:50, 4:00, 5:15, 6:20, 7:30, 8:40, 9:50
Fri.-Wed.: 1:00, 2:00, 3:15, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 2:20, 5:00, 7:20, 10:00
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HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON
 Thurs.: 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10
Fri.-Sat.: 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20
Sun.-Wed.: 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10
JEFFERSON POINT 18, FORT WAYNE
 Thurs.: 12:25, 1:10, 3:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05
Fri.-Sun.: 11:10, 1:35, 4:20, 7:25
Mon.-Wed.: 1:15, 4:25, 7:35

The Illusionist is Proof That Magic Does Exist

Much of *The Illusionist*, one of this year's Oscar nominees for Best Animated Feature, takes place in Edinburgh, a city known for its lovely light and healthy doses of rain. The film is gorgeously drawn and beautifully realized in every scene, but the scenes of the characters walking in the rain are especially vivid. You can almost smell the rain and feel it hitting your back.

Director Sylvain Chomet's last film was the marvelous and wacky *Triples of Belleville*. He has made a more straightforward film this time around, but *The Illusionist* is one of the least conventional movie-going experiences of the year. This is animation for grown-ups. That's not to say younger people won't like the film, but in terms of story, tone and style, this is not a popcorn movie for the kiddies.

The script for *The Illusionist* was given to Chomet by Sophie Tatischeff, the daughter of the French actor and director, Jacques Tati. He wrote the screenplay in the late 1950s but did not succeed in making it into a film by the time of his death. Tati wrote *The Illusionist* as a gift to his daughter, a daughter with whom he had no contact with while she was growing up.

Perhaps this is why he never got around to turning it into a film. *The Illusionist* is a very different kind of story from the comic films Tati generally made. The magician at the heart of the story is a very different sort of character than Monsieur Hulot, the genial, oblivious bumbler in a trench coat whose socks were forever peeping out of his too-short pants. (If you don't know the films of Tati, they're gems worth exploring.)

The character of Tatischeff is an illusionist, traveling from venue to venue performing his tricks for increasingly smaller audiences. He's a quiet, dignified character who is somewhat aloof and removed from the world. He's also the frequent vic-



Flix
CATHERINE LEE

tim of unethical promoters and managers and is embarrassed by his rabbit. (Tatischeff's rabbit is a gloriously personable creation who likes to pop out of the hat when he shouldn't and sleep on Tatischeff's belly.)

In a little town in Scotland, Tatischeff meets Alice, a teenage girl who loves his show. She believes in his magic. She does him the kindness of washing his shirt, and he repays the favor by giving her a new pair of red shoes. They form a father and daughter style friendship so close that when Tatischeff leaves town for Edinburgh, Alice stows away and goes with him.

Alice is a lovely character, on the cusp between adolescence and womanhood with a childlike view of the world. She needs this adventure. In Edinburgh, the two rent a small suite in an old hotel populated by other vaudevillian types whom the world is passing by — acrobats, a clown, a ventriloquist and some very short gentlemen who probably shared an act in their younger years.

Alice cooks and cleans while Tatischeff works to provide for them, a job that only gets harder and harder. Unfortunately, Tatischeff is being forced off the stage by a bunch of preening rock stars.

We are grateful that these two are sharing this bit of friendship together, but we know it won't last forever. *The Illusionist* is a very bittersweet film. It is a film about loss, about the inevitability of change and the passing of time.

Tatischeff hides from Alice how hard he must work and how many odd jobs he takes to buy her the presents he brings home. As she wanders the city she begins to grow up. Eventually, she meets a young man. She and Tatischeff go their separate ways.

There is no way to deny the melancholy of the film, but it is mixed with wisdom and acceptance, and the way the story is presented is intoxicating. The animation is mostly hand-drawn, with the occasional computer-generated effect. The colors are beautiful. The landscapes and cityscapes are better than real. The characters have personality and are more expressive than most live actors. They have been so carefully conceived and realized that their every movement enriches the story.

You watch the screen extra greedily because there is almost no dialogue in *The Illusionist*. Tati's trademark with Monsieur Hulot was to have him speak a kind of unintelligible gibberish. Tatischeff speaks that way sometimes. Occasionally, a real sentence is spoken, but rarely. Alice's voice is plaintive, but her outloud expression is rare and rarely more than a syllable. Dialogue is unnecessary in the presence of such accomplished visual storytelling.

The Illusionist, however, is far from silent. Chomet has written a wonderful score for the film that catches every mood, including dance hall tunes and rock n' roll.

At one point in the film, Tatischeff tells Alice that there is no such thing as real magic. *The Illusionist* proves him wrong.

Catherine Lee is the executive director of Fort Wayne Cinema Center, the only independently operated movie theater in Fort Wayne, specializing in independent, foreign, documentary, specialty and classic films.

